

HOUSE BILL NO. 1523

Introduced by

Representative Henderson

Senator Weston

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 16.1-03-01, 16.1-03-07, 16.1-03-08, and
2 16.1-03-11 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to political committee organizations; and
3 to repeal sections 16.1-03-03, 16.1-03-05, and 16.1-03-17 of the North Dakota Century Code,
4 relating to committeemen and political party reorganization after redistricting.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 16.1-03-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is
7 amended and reenacted as follows:

8 **16.1-03-01. Party caucus - Time and manner of holding - Caucus call - Notice.**

- 9 1. Each legislative district party shall organize in conformance with the state legislative
10 district boundaries as established by the legislative assembly and as set forth under
11 chapter 54-03.
- 12 2. On or before May fifteenth following the last preceding general election, and after
13 redistricting of the legislative assembly becomes effective, a party caucus must be
14 held by every legislative district party. ~~The legislative district party may organize the~~
15 ~~caucus by precinct or on an at-large basis for the entire district.~~
- 16 3. The legislative district chairman of each party shall set the date and time for the party
17 caucus. If there is not a duly elected district chairman in a legislative district, the state
18 ~~party executive committee~~ may issue the call for the caucus and appoint a temporary
19 chairman to chair the meeting. The call must contain the following:
- 20 a. Name of party.
- 21 b. Legislative district number.
- 22 c. Date of caucus.
- 23 d. Place of caucus.
- 24 e. Hours of caucus.

1 f. A statement of the business to be conducted, including the party organization,
2 and participation requirements established by state party and district bylaws or
3 rules.

4 g. The name of the district chairman or, if there is not a duly elected district
5 chairman, the ~~member~~name of the state party executive committee issuing the
6 call. The chairman or a representative of the state committee shall provide their
7 contact information.

8 4. The district chairman or, if there is not a duly elected district chairman, the ~~state party~~
9 ~~executive~~district committee shall provide ~~ten~~thirty days' published notice in the official
10 newspaper in circulation in the district. The notices must contain ~~that~~the information
11 set forth in subsection 3.

12 5. After redistricting of the legislative assembly becomes effective, in any newly
13 established district, the state committee may issue a call for a party caucus. The
14 caucus must occur before primary election filing deadlines.

15 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 16.1-03-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is
16 amended and reenacted as follows:

17 **16.1-03-07. Meeting of district ~~District~~ committee - Organization.**

18 1. ~~If a legislative district chooses to organize by precinct in every odd-numbered year, the~~
19 ~~district committee of each party shall meet within fifteen days after the caucus~~
20 ~~provided for in section 16.1-03-01. The day, hour, and site must be set by the existing~~
21 ~~district committee chairman. Any incumbent members of the legislative assembly from~~
22 ~~the party and any other individual provided for by the district committee's bylaws~~
23 ~~constitute the district committee of the party. The~~At each party caucus, the district
24 committee of a party must be organized to coincide with the geographical boundary
25 lines of state legislative districts. Each member of any committee provided for in this
26 chapter must be a qualified elector.

27 2. The district committee shall ~~select~~elect the officers of the district committee and
28 forward to the state committee the name and contact information of the district
29 committee chairman. The district committee ~~may appoint an executive committee~~
30 ~~consistent with the bylaws of the district committee~~shall adopt bylaws or rules of
31 procedure which may not conflict with bylaws or rules of the state party. That party's

1 nominees for and members of the legislative assembly shall serve as members of the
2 executive committee.

3 3. If the office of chairman becomes vacant, the vacancy ~~may~~must be filled as provided
4 by the district party bylaws or rules.

5 4. The bylaws of the state committee or state party may not include any requirement
6 providing directives or procedures for the method of the organization of district
7 committees nor may the state committee or state party take any action or impose any
8 requirement regarding district party organization unless a district lacks a district
9 committee that is able to carry out the responsibilities under this chapter. A state party
10 may not take any action that is inconsistent with this chapter.

11 ~~5. After redistricting of the legislative assembly becomes effective, the state party chair
12 may appoint a temporary district party organization chair in any newly established
13 district or a district that lacks a district committee able to carry out the responsibilities
14 of this chapter. The temporary district party organization chair shall organize the
15 district political party as closely as possible in conformance with this chapter to assure
16 compliance with primary election filing deadlines.~~

17 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 16.1-03-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is
18 amended and reenacted as follows:

19 **16.1-03-08. State committee - Membership.**

20 The state committee of each party consists of the chairman of each of the district
21 committees of the party and any individual provided for in the state party bylaws ~~of the state-~~
22 ~~committee~~ or rules adopted under section 16.1-03-14.

23 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 16.1-03-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is
24 amended and reenacted as follows:

25 **16.1-03-11. State committee - Meetings - Organization.**

26 The ~~stated~~district committee chairmen shall meet on or before July first of each
27 odd-numbered year. ~~The committee~~ and shall organize a state committee by selecting~~electing~~
28 ~~officers as provided for by the state committee~~ party bylaws ~~and by adopting rules and modes of~~
29 ~~procedure, including rules and procedures regarding the selection of state convention delegates~~
30 or rules. Within thirty days following the state committee's organization, the newly elected

1 chairman shall notify the secretary of state, and, if applicable, the affiliated national party of the
2 names of the party officers selected.

3 **SECTION 5. REPEAL.** Sections 16.1-03-03, 16.1-03-05, and 16.1-03-17 of the North
4 Dakota Century Code are repealed.