

1999 SENATE TRANSPORTATION

SCR 4019

1999 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SCR4019

Senate Transportation Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date February 4, 1999

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	x		1-751
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Bob A. Schaeffer</i>			

Minutes:

SENATOR B. STENEHJEM opened the hearing on SCR 4019. Committee members present included: Sens. Bob Stenehjem, R. Schobinger, D. Mutch, D. Cook, D. O'Connell, V.

Thompson, and D. Bercier.

SENATOR BOWMAN, DISTRICT 39 testified in support of SCR 4019. The treasurers in rural communities would like to expand some of their duties. If it would be implemented, we would set up a pilot project for the counties and look at the cost effectiveness and then report back on the success of this idea. There is merit behind it and they have looked at the way South Dakota has done it.

BOBBI KUKLA, ND TREASURER'S ASSOCIATION testified in support of SCR 4019 (see testimony).

SENATOR O'CONNELL Where are you from?

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Senate Transportation Committee

Bill/Resolution Number Scr 4019

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BOBBI KUKLA Dunn County.

SENATOR O'CONNELL How much money do you expect to generate?

BOBBI KUKLA From the information we have received, we're estimating \$20,000. We are all linked to the state and we're ready.

SENATOR B. STENEHJEM passed out a letter from the ND Register of Deeds (included in minutes).

SENATOR O'CONNELL I vote for a Do Pass.

SENATOR SCHOBINGER I second the motion.

Roll call was taken (7 Yeas, 0 Nays, and 0 Absent and Not Voting).

Senator O'Connell will carry SCR 4019.

Date:  
Roll Call Vote #: 2/4/99

1999 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 4019

Senate Transportation Committee

Subcommittee on \_\_\_\_\_  
or  
 Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken No Pass

Motion Made By Sen. O'Connell Seconded By Sen. Schobinger

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Sen. B. Stenehjem-Chairman	X				
Sen. R. Schobinger-V. Chair	X				
Sen. Duane Mutch	X				
Sen. Dwight Cook	X				
Sen. David O'Connell	X				
Sen. Vern Thompson	X				
Sen. Dennis Bercier	X				

Total (Yes) 7 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Senator O'Connell

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)  
February 5, 1999 11:58 a.m.

Module No: SR-24-2057  
Carrier: O'Connell  
Insert LC: . Title: .

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SCR 4019: Transportation Committee (Sen. B. Stenehjem, Chairman) recommends DO PASS (7 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SCR 4019 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.**

1999 HOUSE TRANSPORTATION

SCR 4019

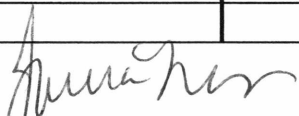
1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 4019

House Transportation Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date March 12, 1999

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1		x	17.1-24.0
Committee Clerk Signature 			

Minutes:

CHAIRMAN KEISER OPENED THE HEARING ON SCR 4019; A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO STUDY THE PLACEMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE, REGISTRATION, TITLE, AND EXCISE TAX COLLECTION SERVICES IN THE TREASURER'S OFFICE OF EACH COUNTY IN THIS STATE.

SENATOR BILL BOWMAN, Dist. 39, introduced SCR 4019. He noted that there is a problem and we can hopefully address it through this resolution.

BOBBI KUKLA, Treasurer, Dunn County, testified in support of SCR 4019. (See written testimony).

REP. MICKELSON asked Bobbi how many people are in Dunn County and where do they go for services.

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House Transportation Committee

Bill/Resolution Number Scr 4019

Hearing Date March 13, 1999

BOBBI replied that there are approximately 4200 residents in Dunn County and that they drive to Dickinson for services.

CHAIRMAN KEISER asked what is the maximum distance that someone has to drive to get to the courthouse.

BOBBI said that it is Rep. Meyer, and that she drives 70 miles. This resolution would make it 50 miles.

COOKIE SEPTUM, Bowman County, testified in support of SCR 4019. She said that they have many very frustrated people come into their office that are sent away to Dickinson to get certain papers and documents. This resolution could alleviate the problem.

CHAIRMAN KEISER CLOSED THE HEARING ON SCR 4019.

COMMITTEE WORK

REP. SVEEN moved a DO PASS on SCR 4019. REP. MEYER seconded the motion. The motion carried.

ROLL CALL - 12 YEA, 0 NAE, 3 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING.

FLOOR ASSIGNMENT - REP. SVEEN



Date: 3/12  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 4019

House Transportation Committee

Subcommittee on \_\_\_\_\_  
or  
 Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken DO PASS

Motion Made By Rep Green Seconded By Rep Meyer

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Representative Keiser, Chair	✓		Representative Thorpe	✓	
Representative Mickelson, V. Ch.	✓				
Representative Belter	✓				
Representative Jensen	✓				
Representative Kelsch	✓				
Representative Kempenich					
Representative Price	✓				
Representative Sveen	✓				
Representative Weisz					
Representative Grumbo	✓				
Representative Lemieux	✓				
Representative Mahoney	✓				
Representative Meyer	✓				
Representative Schmidt					

Total (Yes) 12 No 0

Absent 3

Floor Assignment Rep Green

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)  
March 12, 1999 1:16 p.m.

Module No: HR-45-4671  
Carrier: Sveen  
Insert LC: . Title: .

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SCR 4019: Transportation Committee (Rep. Keiser, Chairman) recommends DO PASS and BE PLACED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR (12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 3 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SCR 4019 was placed on the Tenth order on the calendar.**

1999 TESTIMONY

SCR 4019

Testimony Prepared For The  
Senate Transportation Committee  
February 4<sup>th</sup>, 1999  
Bobbi Kukla, Dunn Co. Treas.

RE: SCR 4019

My name is Bobbi Kukla and I am here on behalf of the North Dakota Treasurers Association and rural North Dakota, to ask you to support this study resolution. Our goals are to bring services to rural North Dakota and stop out migration.


Governor Schaefer has traveled to many of our rural communities asking for us to "Build" our towns and to promote rural North Dakota. In order to build, we must first have the materials to do so. Bringing outside services to our communities will act as the building blocks.

Members of our Association have done informal studies to compare the function of county government in some of the surrounding states pertaining to the Treasurers office. We have found that 4 surrounding states have DOT/DMV duties already in place at the County level. After contacting each state, we have also found that the counties benefit from having these services financially as well as providing services and jobs. Many of the people who reside in rural counties have to travel more than 60 miles to obtain these services. We feel rural citizens deserve to be able to come to the hub of their county to take care of any service that is provided by the state. Technology today allows us to communicate and transfer the information required to do these duties. This can now be done in even the most remote areas of our state.

Under North Dakota Century Code Section 39-02-03, the director of the DOT with the approval of the Governor may name agents of the department for the registration of motor vehicles. Enclosed, you will see the findings from the North Dakota Legislative Council on our behalf, as well as resolutions from several economic development groups, farm groups, and the South Dakota and North Dakota Assoc. Of Counties. We have legislation in place and the support of the people. One thing we could not obtain, is any information from the DOT/DMV to carry out our study. We now ask for your help.

It is not our intent to disrupt services that are already provided and running well in rural communities, but to provide an option to every county to obtain these services at a local vicinity for the people. The following is a list of responsibilities and services we are hoping to obtain.



1. Renew licenses and registrations on motor vehicles.
2. Renew licenses on recreational vehicles.
3. Handle titles for new vehicles.
4. Transfer titles and registration on used vehicles.
5. Distribute license plates.
6. Renew drivers license.
7. Issue new drivers license.
8. Collect the sales tax on motor vehicles.



Our objective is to bring these services to the rural counties that wish to obtain them. We understand larger counties already have these services in place at an office operated by private entities or City Chambers. This study would provide the rest of us with the opportunity to provide these services.

As a County Treasurer and a rural citizen, I ask you to pass this study resolution.  
Thank you for your time.

Bobbi Kukla, Dunn Co. Treas.



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# SDACO

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## South Dakota Association of County Officials

207 East Capitol, Suite 203  
Pierre, SD 57501

605/224-4554  
FAX 605/224-4833  
E-mail: sdaco@aol.com

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1 February, 1999

Stacy Miller  
PO Box 11  
Amidon, ND 58620

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of legislation that would allow county treasurers in North Dakota to assist in registering and licensing motor vehicles for the state. My reason for supporting such legislation is that it is a practice that has worked very well in South Dakota. In South Dakota, much like in North Dakota we have a combination of urban and rural citizens, both of whom require services that are conveniently located. In South Dakota, our 64 treasuries provide a valuable convenient service to both our rural and urban citizens by aiding our Division of Motor Vehicles in the registration and licensing of motor vehicles. I urge you to review the advantages of localizing your licensing and registration process and ask you to support such legislation.

Sincerely,



Richard L. Sattgast  
Executive Director



MARK A. JOHNSON  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

November 20, 1998

Marsha Lembke, Director  
Motor Vehicle Division  
ND Dept. of Transportation  
608 E. Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Marsha:

The North Dakota Association of Counties, at their annual convention, discussed at length the benefits of automation in maintaining and restoring local access to governmental services. This discussion led to the passage of a resolution supporting local service delivery. It reads:

- 98-5 Local Service Delivery.** There appears to be a trend towards mandating that county services be consolidated into larger communities, forcing residents in lesser populated counties to travel to the population centers to obtain services that have traditionally been available in their local communities.
- a. This association opposes any mandated consolidation of services, and supports maintaining county control in determining when and how cooperation and sharing of services should be implemented.
  - b. This association further recognizes that improvements in automation and the increased service expectations of county residents suggest that some administrative services currently delivered at a state or regional level could be cost-effectively and efficiently delivered at the county level. This Association therefore supports legislation and pilot programs to redirect administrative responsibilities and the supporting revenues to the local level.

As you may know, efforts have been made to examine the possibility of expanding the network of motor vehicle registration sites by utilizing those courthouses in counties without a current registration vendor. This letter has been prepared to document NDACo's interest in this examination, and based upon our resolution, our strong support of such a proposal.

We hope to be involved in a meeting in the near future to discuss this concept, and look forward to your thoughts and comments.

Sincerely,



Mark A. Johnson,  
NDACo Executive Director

CC: Senator Bill Bowman

Recently, I did an informal survey of 5 surrounding states. My goal was to compare the responsibilities of County Treasurers from other states. Below are the findings of that survey. 4 of the 5 states have DMV in their offices. The only state not having these services, has other responsibilities that are different from the rest.

### **SOUTH DAKOTA**

PROPERTY TAX COLLECTION  
MOTOR VEHICLE TITLES, LICENSES, REGISTRATION  
GAME FISH AND PARKS.  
COUNTY INVESTMENTS.  
DRIVERS LICENSING.

### **IOWA**

PROPERTY TAX COLLECTION  
MOTOR VEHICLE TITLES, LICENSES, REGISTRATION AND USE TAX  
COUNTY INVESTMENTS

### **MONTANA**

PROPERTY TAX COLLECTION  
MOTOR VEHICLE TITLES, LICENSES, REGISTRATION  
DRIVERS LICENSE RENEWAL  
COUNTY INVESTMENTS

### **MINNESOTA**

PROPERTY TAX COLLECTION  
COUNTY INVESTMENTS  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER  
SOME-VITAL STATISTICS  
NO DMV.

### **NEBRASKA**

PROPERTY TAX COLLECTION  
COUNTY INVESTMENTS  
MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSES, REGISTRATION AND ASSESSING.  
DRIVERS LICENSING





Government Relations Office  
4023 State Street  
PO Box 2793  
Bismarck, ND 58501

In-State-Watts: 1-800-932-8869  
Office: (701) 224-0330  
Fax: (701) 224-9485

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## North Dakota Farm Bureau

North Dakota Farm Bureau Testimony  
on  
Senate Concurrent Resolution 4019

Good morning members of the Senate Transportation Committee. North Dakota Farm Bureau supports SCR 4019. We believe that a study of placing the motor vehicle licensing services in each county of this state is warranted.

We feel that by delegating this service to the counties that rural residents will be better served. Currently, many rural folks must travel long distances to take care of vehicle licensing, registration and title work. With the technological advances we now have, it should be relatively easy for counties to provide this service quickly and efficiently.

We are certain that the increased economic activity stimulated by having this service available locally is a positive for those rural communities. Not only would the service itself be an economic advantage, but local businesses could see benefits from increased customer traffic as well.

We hope you will give thoughtful consideration to this matter and give SCR 4019 a "do pass" recommendation. Thank you.

# Rural Economic Area Partnership

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## Southwest REAP Zone

c/o Roosevelt-Custer Regional Council, Pulver Hall  
Dickinson ND 58601  
701-227-1241  
Fax: 701-227-1243

November 30, 1998

Bobby Kukla  
ND Treasurer's Association  
PO Box 135  
Manning, ND 58642

Bobby,

At their November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Southwest REAP board voted by unanimous decision to provide a resolution of support to your association's efforts to return vehicle registration to the county level. Please let this letter serve as evidence of that support.

We are deeply concerned that few have challenged the assumption that consolidation of governmental services is good. Consolidation of services has come to mean the rural resident pays more of his personal resources (either time or money, often both) to access services. In addition, the efforts to consolidate never mean more rural jobs (even though technology makes this possible). It usually means rural people loose jobs or rural areas loose people. Urban jobs are secured and to our dismay, it seems we hear of more and more people being hired in urban areas without thought to government outsourcing to our rural areas.

As we understand, the efforts of your association would provide for willing counties to assume the task and not make all counties participate. Good luck in your efforts to bring motor vehicle registration back to county sites.

Sincerely,



Roberta Hanson  
SW REAP Chairperson

# ND Legislative Assembly

ND Legislative Assembly  
HC-03, Box 78  
Watford City  
North Dakota 58854

Phone: 701 759-3466  
FAX: 701 759-3466  
email: notes.smeyer@state.nd.us.

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Saturday, December 19, 1998

Department of Transportation  
608 E Blvd Ave.  
Bismarck, ND 588501

Dear Mr. Moore,

Yesterday, at the Dunn County Commissioners meeting, the issue of having a license renewal site, and a site in Dunn County for motor vehicle registration was discussed. I'm very much in favor of seeing this idea pursued. Our rural areas have to start retaining some of these basic services.

The county treasurer's office seems to be a logical place for this site to be placed. Please let me know what further course of action we would need to pursue this idea. The concept of having this service provided locally seems to be very acceptable to the residents of Dunn County.

Any information concerning this issue would be greatly appreciated.

Thank-you for your time,

Shirley Meyer  
Representative Dist. 36



cc/ Bobbi Kukla, Dunn Co. Treasurer  
Dunn. Co. Commissioners

North Dakota



Register of Deeds Association

Dwayne J. Oster  
McLean County  
President

Vicki Kubat  
Cavalier County  
1st Vice President

Karen Samek  
Stutsman County  
2nd Vice President

Ann Johnsrud  
McKenzie County  
Secretary-Treasurer

TO: Chairman Bob Stenehjem and Members of the Transportation Committee

FR: Dwayne "Dewey" Oster, McLean County ROD and ND ROD Assoc. President

RE: SCR #4019 - Relating to a study to placement of motor vehicle registration to the treasurer's office in each county

In lieu of being present at the committee hearing slated for 9:00 AM on 04FEB99, I'd like to submit some comments and observations on above captioned.

1) The ND ROD Assn. applauds the efforts of the county treasurers to bring motor vehicle licensing to the local county level.

2) As each of the 53 counties may have different personnel situations, it may not necessarily be the treasurer who should be assigned the licensing duties.

3) And while the county treasurer's office might well be the logical place for the vehicle registration service, it might be argued that as a recording office, the register of deeds office might also "fit the bill". Maybe a certain county auditor's office has the personnel available to do the work.

4) Presently the RODs have an established computer link with the state through the UCC/Ag Lien system and the Sec/State's office. This could assist in the implementation of the licensing proposal. The computer highway is in place to assist with any cost factor.

5) As a suggested amendment to the study proposal I would like to offer changing line 16 of the bill: delete the words...."in the treasurer's office of" and replace with "by a designated county official in".

6) Also as long as we are doing a study involving state functions becoming decentralized and going back to the county level. Perhaps one could expand on this bill and include other areas of state government.

Thanks for listening.

*Tacey Miller*



# North Dakota Legislative Council

STATE CAPITOL 600 EAST BOULLYARD BISMARCK ND 58505-0300 (701) 328-2910 TTY: 1-800-300-6888

- GARY J. NELSON  
State Senator  
Chairman
- JOHN D. CLSRUD  
Director
- JAY E. BURINGRUD  
Assistant Director
- CHESTER E. NELSON, Jr.  
Legislative Budget  
Analyst & Auditor
- JOHN WALSTAD  
Code Revisor

November 9, 1998

Honorable Bill L. Bowman  
State Senator  
Route 2, Box 227  
Bowman, ND 58623-9753

Dear Senator Bowman:

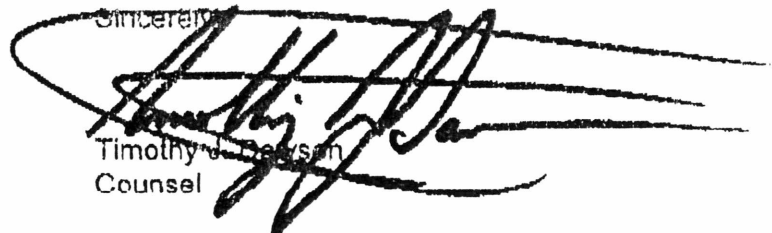
This letter is in response to your request for information on the county treasurer selling motor vehicle license plates.

In South Dakota, the 64 county treasurers each issue license plates. The county that issues the plate receives the registration fees. In addition, the county treasurer accepts applications for a change in title. These applications are sent to the Department of Revenue. Title fees go to the Department of Revenue, and the motor vehicle excise tax goes to the Department of Transportation.

Under North Dakota Century Code Section 39-02-03, the director of the Department of Transportation with the approval of the Governor may name agents of the department for the registration of motor vehicles. Presently, there are 13 branch offices that may register a motor vehicle in this state. These branch offices operate under a two-year contract with a maximum fee schedule. Seven of these branch offices are chambers of commerce, and six are private individuals or businesses. Approximately 25 to 30 percent of the Department of Transportation's business begins in branch offices. These branch offices could be the county treasurers if designated by the department.

Please contact this office with any questions.

Sincerely,



Timothy J. Dawson  
Counsel

TJD/DS