

**2021 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**HB 1447**

# 2021 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1447  
2/18/2021

Relating to higher ed. student id cards; relating to acceptable forms of id for purposes of voting

**Chairman Kasper** opened the hearing at 8:57 a.m.

Representatives	Roll Call
Representative Jim Kasper	P
Representative Ben Koppelman	P
Representative Pamela Anderson	P
Representative Jeff A. Hoverson	P
Representative Karen Karls	P
Representative Scott Louser	P
Representative Jeffery J. Magrum	P
Representative Mitch Ostlie	P
Representative Karen M. Rohr	P
Representative Austen Schauer	P
Representative Mary Schneider	P
Representative Vicky Steiner	P
Representative Greg Stemen	P
Representative Steve Vetter	P

### Discussion Topics:

- Student voting

**Rep. Cory** introduced and testified in favor, #6889.

**Rep. Alex Anderson, Director of Governmental Affairs, UND Student Government,** testified in favor, #6879, #6880.

**Thomas Chapin, Chairman, University of Jamestown College Republicans,** testified in favor, #6876.

**Don Morrison, Volunteer, ND Voters First,** testified in favor, #6888.

**Lisa Johnson, Vice Chancellor for Academic & Student Affairs, ND University System,** testified in a neutral position, #6894, #6895, #6896.

**Clara Counts, Executive Commissioner of External Affairs, NDSU Student Government,** testified in a neutral position, #6884.

**Chairman Kasper** closed the hearing at 10:07 a.m. and recessed.

**Chairman Kasper** came back to order at 10:27 a.m.

**Vice Chair B. Koppelman** discussed some minor changes to Lisa Johnson's proposed amendment (#6895, #6896) provided earlier.

**Vice Chair B. Koppelman** moved to adopt Lisa Johnson's amendment to replace "student identification cards-address required" with "student voting documents." **Rep. Schauer** seconded the motion. **Voice vote. Motion carries.**

**Rep. Schauer** moved **Do Pass as amended.** **Rep. Ostlie** seconded the motion.

<b>Representatives</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Representative Jim Kasper	Y
Representative Ben Koppelman	Y
Representative Pamela Anderson	Y
Representative Jeff A. Hoverson	Y
Representative Karen Karls	N
Representative Scott Louser	Y
Representative Jeffery J. Magrum	N
Representative Mitch Ostlie	Y
Representative Karen M. Rohr	N
Representative Austen Schauer	Y
Representative Mary Schneider	Y
Representative Vicky Steiner	N
Representative Greg Stemen	Y
Representative Steve Vetter	A

**Motion passes. 9-4-1. Vice Chair B. Koppelman** is the carrier.

**Additional written testimony:** #6689, #6784

**Chairman Kasper** ended at 10:50 a.m.

*Carmen Hart, Committee Clerk*

February 18, 2021

DP 2/18/21  
1 of 1

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1447

Page 1, line 2, replace "identification cards" with "voting documents"

Page 1, line 8, replace "**Student identification cards - Address required**" with "**Student voting documents**"

Page 1, remove lines 9 and 10

Page 1, line 11, replace "of birth and residential address of the student to whom the card is issued" with "An institution of higher education under the control of the state board of higher education may issue students enrolled at the institution a printable document containing the institution's letterhead or seal using a self-service process. The document must contain the student's legal name, current residential address in the state, the date the residential address was established, and date of birth"

Page 1, line 12, replace "identification cards" with "the document"

Page 2, line 2, remove the overstrike over "or"

Page 2, line 4, remove "or"

Page 2, remove line 5

Page 2, line 6, remove "education"

Page 2, line 14, overstrike "or"

Page 2, line 15, after "government" insert "or"

- (6) A printed document containing all of the information required by subsection 2 issued by an institution of higher education for an enrolled student residing in the state and containing the institution's letterhead or seal, along with a student photo identification card issued by the institution and containing the student's photograph and legal name

Renumber accordingly

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1447: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Kasper, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (9 YEAS, 4 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1447 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 2, replace "identification cards" with "voting documents"

Page 1, line 8, replace "**Student identification cards - Address required**" with "**Student voting documents**"

Page 1, remove lines 9 and 10

Page 1, line 11, replace "of birth and residential address of the student to whom the card is issued" with "An institution of higher education under the control of the state board of higher education may issue students enrolled at the institution a printable document containing the institution's letterhead or seal using a self-service process. The document must contain the student's legal name, current residential address in the state, the date the residential address was established, and date of birth"

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Page 2, line 2, remove the overstrike over "or"

Page 2, line 4, remove ";or"

Page 2, remove line 5

Page 2, line 6, remove "education"

Page 2, line 14, overstrike "or"

Page 2, line 15, after "government" insert ";or

- (6) A printed document containing all of the information required by subsection 2 issued by an institution of higher education for an enrolled student residing in the state and containing the institution's letterhead or seal, along with a student photo identification card issued by the institution and containing the student's photograph and legal name"

Renumber accordingly

**1. PROOF OF IDENTIFICATION IS REQUIRED.**

All applicants must present proof of current name, date of birth, and legal presence in the United States. **Acceptable forms of identification** are:

- U.S birth certificate (state certified; Government issued)
- Valid, unexpired U.S. passport or valid, unexpired U.S. passport card
- Report of Birth Abroad issued by the U.S. Department of State
- Certificate of Naturalization
- Certificate of Citizenship
- Valid, unexpired Permanent Resident Card
- Valid, unexpired Employment Authorization Card (Temporary Status)
- Valid, unexpired Foreign Passport with I-94 (Temporary Status)  
*NOTE: I-20 or DS-2019 required if applicable*
- I-94 Card stamped Refugee or Asylee (Temporary Status)

*No photocopies. No hospital certificates. All documents must be original or certified copies only.*

If your current name is different than the name on your identity document, you will need to bring additional proof of your legal name. Acceptable documents for **proof of name change** are a certified marriage certificate, a certified adoption document, or a certified court order authorizing a name change (*no photocopies, court seal required*).

**You will not be allowed to test or obtain a North Dakota permit, license, or non-driver Identification card without proper identification.** (*continued on next page*)

Applicants born in North Dakota may obtain a copy of their certified birth certificate by contacting Vital Records at the North Dakota Department of Health (visit [www.ndhealth.gov/vital](http://www.ndhealth.gov/vital) for details).

Applicants born in another state may access vital record offices through the National Center for Health Statistics at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.htm>

## 2. PROOF OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

As authorized by NDCC 39-06-07 and 39-06-03.1, all applications for permit, license, or identification card must contain the individual's social security number. Proof may be required by presenting **one** of the following documents:

- Social Security Card (actual blue and white card)
- W-2 Form
- SSA 1099 Form
- Non-SSA 1099 Form
- Pay stub (must contain name and social security number)

*(continued on next page)*

### 3. PROOF OF NORTH DAKOTA RESIDENCE ADDRESS

Proof of North Dakota residence address (place of domicile) may be required by presenting **one** of the most CURRENT document from List A and **one** of the most CURRENT document from List B **OR** **two** of the most CURRENT documents from List A:

#### List A

- A government issued property tax form
- Mortgage/Lease/Rental document
- Homeowners/renter's insurance policy
- Utility bill (electricity, gas, water, sewer, cable, recycle)
- Non-cellular Phone bill
- Parent's proof of address for a minor child

#### List B

- North Dakota Drivers License, ID Card, or Permit
- Valid North Dakota Vehicle Registration or Vehicle Title
- Transcript or report card from accredited school
- Statement from a financial institution (bank, credit union, or other financial institution)
- Credit, debit, or charge card statement
- Pay stub or statement from employer

*All documents must contain your **name** and **current physical** residence address. Post Office boxes are NOT acceptable for residence address. **NOTE:** Only original documents accepted. No virtual images are accepted.*



Good morning Chairman Kasper, members of the committee. My name is Alex Anderson, and I am the Director of Governmental Affairs for the University of North Dakota's Student Government. As you may recall, last week I spoke before you in opposition of a bill that would restrict student's rights to vote where they attend college. Today I come before you once again as a representative of the Student Government to support a bill that would enable students to more easily vote where they reside for school.

HB1447 not only provides students with another valid form of ID for voting, but also requires the issuing institution to provide each student with information regarding voter eligibility requirements. This is such a vital thing that is so commonly misunderstood among college students. Ensuring that every student is aware of their voting eligibility, how, and where to vote is fundamentally important to our democracy. This bill opens yet another opportunity to bridge some of the gaps among college students and voting.

Given feedback from our constituents at the University of North Dakota, the UND Student Government Resolution's support is contingent on an amendment that we wish to see. This Resolution can be viewed in the written testimony. This ask is consistent with the resolution passed recently by the North Dakota Student Association.

Given some concern for security risks involved in carrying another form of ID with a student's personal information, we ask that an amendment is made to make this optional for students. Student IDs are more commonly exchanged for transactions, door entry, and access to dining centers. We heard from our fellow students that, given the high exchange rate of their student ID's, some worry about various individual security risks. In addition, not every student may need this if they intend to vote in their home district or have a driver's license that would already make them eligible to vote in their campus's district.

Therefore, the UND Student Government would support HB1447 with an amendment, making this optional for students to choose if they want the student ID that is recognized for voting, or a traditional student ID without their personal information.

SR 2021-16

**UND Student Senate**

# Senate Resolution

**To:** The Student Senate of the University of North Dakota

**Authors:** Alex Anderson – Director of Governmental Affairs, Matthew Ternus – Student Body President

**Sponsors:** Faith Wahl – Off Campus Senator, Kale Stroup – Off Campus Senator, Lydia Kennelly – Residence Halls Senator

**CC:** Matthew Ternus - Student Body President, Kaelan Reedy - Student Body Vice President, Cassie Gerhardt - Student Government Advisor, Andrew Frelich - Student Organization Funding Agency Advisor, Dr. Cara Halgren - Vice President for Student Affairs and Diversity,

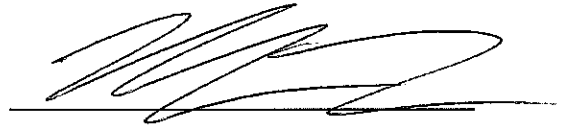
**Date:** 02/03/2021

**Re:** Support of HB 1447

- 2 Whereas, if passed, HB 1447 would require NDUS institutions to place students' birth date and residential address on their student identification cards, and
- 4 Whereas, if passed, HB 1447 would allow NDUS students to use their new university photo identification card as a valid form of ID when verifying elector eligibility, and
- 6 Whereas, North Dakota voting requirements state an individual has a valid form of identification that contains the individual's legal name, date of birth, and address, and
- 8 Whereas, North Dakota's current policy regarding identification notes if a student's identification - which must be issued by the state of North Dakota - does not list their current residential address, they can supplement it with utility bill, bank statement, a check, a document issued by a federal, state, local, or tribal government, or a paycheck, and
- 10
- 12 Whereas, many first year students in on-campus housing may find difficulties acquiring proof of residency, such as a utility bill, and
- Whereas, UND Student Government has long promoted students and their right to vote, and
- 14 Whereas, UND Student Government has, in the past, supported the idea of making student IDs a valid form of identification for verifying elector eligibility, and
- 16 Whereas, UND Student Government also acknowledges concerns about the usage of a student's address on their student ID, and
- 18 Whereas, UND Student Government would seek an amendment to HB 1447 that would give students the option to choose whether or not their address and date of birth are listed on their student ID;

20 Therefore, be it moved that UND Student Government supports HB 1447, which seeks to add students'  
22 date of birth and address to their NDUS student ID, given an amendment is passed providing students  
the choice to have that information listed on their student ID.

24

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping loops and strokes, positioned above a horizontal line.

Matthew Ternus, Student Body President

**Chairman Kasper and members of the House Government and Veteran affairs Committee:**

The University of Jamestown College Republicans wish to voice our support and request yours for **HB 1447**. This bill will enable students of higher institutions of education in North Dakota to use their school issued ID to vote in the state of North Dakota.

Not only does HB 1447 enable and encourage students to vote, but it also gives students like me who are from out of state the opportunity to be active and engaged in the governing process of the state North Dakota, the state which they have chosen to call home while they pursue the next step of their life, **so long as they establish residency**. The ability to be involved in this process will give students the chance to feel as if they have some degree of impact on the policies they will live under.

The University of Jamestown College Republicans encountered this exact scenario in the months leading up to the **November Election of 2020**. While some of the members chose to vote in their home state there were some who inquired about the possibility of voting in North Dakota, and two members who wanted to vote in North Dakota rather than in their home state. We also had members that were residents of North Dakota but gave thought to the possibility of voting in the Jamestown precinct instead of the one their residency was listed in. We as a group began to look into the requirements to vote in the state or in a different precinct and if there were specific requirements pertaining to college students. After conversations with Representative Ostlie and Representative Satrom, and our own research we came to the conclusion that students who had kept their residency in their home state were unable to vote in North Dakota. We also reasoned that both non-resident students and resident students had in a sense “resided” in Jamestown for thirty **(30)** days prior to the **Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> Election** (being that classes started on August 24<sup>th</sup>, seventy-two **(72)** days prior to Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>). Those who are residents and wanted to vote in a Jamestown precinct met all the requirements to vote in that precinct, the only roadblock in the way was that their residency was not listed as their Jamestown address. This bill changes that by allowing a student to use their school issued ID that list the students Jamestown address to vote in that precinct.

The University of Jamestown College Republicans do want it to be known by the committee that we do not have any issues with the requirements to vote in the State of North Dakota, nor that we have any issues with how the state defines residency as it is stated in North Dakota Century Code, Section 54.01.26

HB 1447 also gives an incentive to District 12. That incentive being more eligible voters and the potential for a higher voter turnout. There are **1,136** students currently enrolled at **UJ**, all of whom would be eligible to vote so long as they meet the requirements set forth by the state of North Dakota. We can make an educated guess that at least two-fifths, or around four-hundred **(400)** of the students at the university are already

residents of North Dakota. It would not be out of the realm of possibility that one-fourth of the **400** were already residents within Jamestown prior to attending the university. This adds just over one-thousand **(1,000)** potential voters within **District 12, 400** of which we can assume are already North Dakota residents. It is our belief that through permitting students to vote with their school issued ID would lead to more investment by University of Jamestown students in the community of Jamestown, one that has the potential to foster a lasting commitment into the Jamestown community and the state of North Dakota, that extends past their time as a student.

The University of Jamestown College Republicans also believe that this bill will increase the overall interest and turnout of students in the vote. This was something we **attempted to encourage** on the Jamestown campus in the months prior to the election. We attempted an initiative to encourage to get students out to vote; whether it was in their home state, in their residential precinct if they were from North Dakota, or if it was in one of the Jamestown precincts. A problem we encountered with our initiative to push students to be actively engaged was **“how do I vote in Jamestown?”** Our answer was that you needed to be a resident of North Dakota and that they would need an ID such as a driver’s license that listed their Jamestown address as their residential address. Many students were turned away by this because they felt it was too complicated of a process for them to do. It is our belief that this bill **simplifies** that process and would make it easier for those who wish to be involved in the Jamestown political process to do so, which in turn would lead to a greater number of people participating in their civic duty in Jamestown precincts and the state of North Dakota as a whole.

The ability to use a school issued ID that list a person’s legal name, address, and date of birth; to vote in the state of North Dakota is something that we have recognized as beneficial to all parties. Allowing a new wave of young voters to be engaged in the process will lead to a greater investment by those voters into the state of North Dakota, with potential to keep those students in the state as they begin their professional careers. The state and communities will see benefits in the form of a more diverse voter base and a greater number of people who are interested in the growth and change within the community they have chosen to call home.

This bill gives students who have taken the steps and made the decision to be an involved member of the political process of North Dakota with greater ease than previous methods. The University of Jamestown College Republicans believe that HB 1447 will only lead to further progress for both the students and the state of North Dakota.

University of Jamestown College Republicans would feel honored to have your support on this bill. I will stand for any questions.

Thank you,

Thomas Chapin  
Chairman, UJ College Republicans  
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775-835-1660

Justin Six  
Vice Chair, UJ College Republicans  
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**Testimony HB 1447**  
**House Government and Veteran Affairs Committee**  
February 18, 2021

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Government and Veterans Committee, my name is Don Morrison. I live in Bismarck and am providing testimony as a volunteer for North Dakota Voters First. We are a non-partisan group of North Dakotans working to strengthen our democracy, help make our elections and public policy more open, ethical, and accountable to the people of our state.

HB 1447 is needed to make sure college students in our state can have the type of identification that is now required to cast their ballot in North Dakota.

North Dakota's recent law change to require strict forms of photo-ID to vote has caused great difficulties for those who do not have those forms of identification. For example, many Native Americans' addresses are not recognized and the state refused to accept tribal IDs. It has taken court action and a lot of hard work to mitigate the suppression of Native American voters.

As for student voters, according to the Campus Vote Project, North Dakota is one of 7 states which have strict voter ID requirements while also not accepting student IDs. Neighboring Montana and South Dakota have in-person ID requirements, but accept alternative ID including student IDs. Minnesota uses voter registration cards and does not require an additional ID unless the voter needs to register or has changed addresses in the past 21 days.

We want people in our communities to vote so we should work to eliminate barriers and roadblocks to voting. College and university students are members of our communities. This is a good bill because it removes a roadblock for our neighbors who are college students to exercise their right to vote.

North Dakota Voters First requests that the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee give HB 1447 a DO PASS recommendation. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today.

**HB1447**

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

February 18, 2021

Lisa A. Johnson, Vice Chancellor of Academic & Student Affairs, NDUS  
701.328.4143 | [lisa.a.johnson@ndus.edu](mailto:lisa.a.johnson@ndus.edu)

Chair Kasper and members of the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee. My name is Lisa Johnson, and I serve as the Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs for the North Dakota University System. I am here today on behalf of the University System (but not the State Board of Higher Education, which has not taken a position on this legislation) to provide neutral testimony related to HB1447 and to present proposed amendments to HB1447.

The North Dakota University System understands and supports the intent of sponsors of HB1447 to facilitate college student participation in the election process. We recognize that participation in the voting process is a significant and positive step towards increased civic engagement.

At present, the campus-issued student identification card contains a student's name, photo, and student identification number. The magnetic strip on the back of the card serves a variety of purposes and is used to track dining services, printing services, provides access to restricted spaces and residence halls, and as a student pass to access campus events and activities.

Students were most concerned with the bill's original requirement to print a local address on the campus-issued identification card. Lost campus identification cards would now readily provide not only the local address of the student, but also access to the student's room in their residence hall and even control of the student's dining and printing services accounts. Printing the address on a student's identification card would also result in a substantial increase in costs and staff time, as students move regularly, usually at least once a year, and would require a new identification card to be issued with each move – compared to now, where cards only need to be replaced if lost or in the event of a name change, such as after a marriage.

The proposed amendments are presented for the Committee's consideration and incorporate a possible solution that addresses not only the concerns articulated by students, but also those reported by campus staff who work more closely with the admission of students, the maintenance of student records and the issuance of student identification cards.

The first and most substantial proposed amendment to Section 1 of the bill, which is located on Page 1 of the Christmas Tree version at lines 8-13, replaces the requirements of the bill of a "student identification card" with that of a "voting document." The voting document would be a printable PDF that could be generated through a self-service process containing all of the information detailed in Century Code Section 16.1-01-04.1 Subsection 2, including legal name, current residential address in North Dakota, and date of birth, along with the institution's letterhead or seal, which would help election officials verify the document's validity. This is the same type of document that



was previously and successfully provided during the 2016 election to permit students to verify their addresses in North Dakota for voting purposes.

The amendment to Section 2 of the Bill, which is located at Page 2, lines 9-14 of the Christmas Tree version, requires that the voting document reiterates those requirements, and requires that the voting document must be used in tandem with a student's photographic student identification card, which combined would permit election workers to verify that the student is eligible to vote in the precinct, and that the student is who they claim to be. The current campus-issued student identification card would meets this requirement and would not endanger student safety or result in unpredictable or increased costs to the institutions.

Again, the North Dakota University System is supportive of the intended goals outlined in HB1447, but cannot support the bill in its current form. The NDUS asks that the Committee adopt these proposed amendments as a means of maintaining the safety of our students while supporting civic engagement through the voting process, which NDUS fully supports.

This concludes my testimony related to HB1447, and I stand for questions from Committee members.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1447

Page 1, line 2, replace “identification cards” with “voting documents”

Page 1, line 8, replace “**Student identification cards – Address required.**” with:  
“**Student voting documents.**”

Page 1, line 9, replace “A student identification card issued after December 31, 2021, by an institution of” with “An institution of higher education under the control of the state board of higher education may issue students enrolled at that institution a printable document bearing the institution’s letterhead or seal using a self-service process. The document must contain the student’s legal name, current residential street address in North Dakota, and date of birth.”

Delete line 10-11.

Page 1, line 12, replace “identification cards” with “When issuing this document”

Page 2, line 5, replace “A student photo identification card” with “A printed document bearing all the information required by subsection 2”

Page 2, line 6, before the period, insert “and bearing the institution’s letterhead or seal, along with a student photo identification card issued by the institution and bearing the student’s photograph and legal name.”

Renumber accordingly

21.0967.01000

Sixty-seventh  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1447**

Introduced by

Representatives Cory, O'Brien, Pyle, Sanford

Senators Holmberg, Kreun, Meyer, Sorvaag

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15-10 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to higher education student ~~identification cards~~ voting documents; and to amend and reenact section 16.1-01-04.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to acceptable forms of identification for purposes of voting.

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

**SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

~~Student identification cards -- Address required~~ Student voting documents.

~~A student photo identification card issued after December 31, 2021, by an institution of~~ An institution of higher education under the control of the state board of higher education may issue students enrolled at that institution a printable document bearing the institution's letterhead or seal using a self-service process. The document must contain the student's legal name, current residential address in North Dakota, and date of birth. ~~higher education under the control of the state board of higher education must include the date of birth and residential address of the student to whom the card is issued.~~ When issuing ~~identification cards~~ this document to students, an institution of higher education under the control of the state board of higher education shall provide each student with information regarding voter eligibility requirements.

**SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 16.1-01-04.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**16.1-01-04.1. Identification verifying eligibility as an elector.**

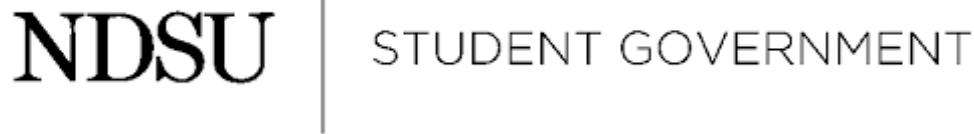
1. A qualified elector shall provide a valid form of identification to the proper election official before receiving a ballot for voting.

2. The identification must provide the following information regarding the elector:

- 1 a. Legal name;
- 2 b. Current residential street address in North Dakota; and
- 3 c. Date of birth.
- 4 3. a. A valid form of identification is:
  - 5 (1) A driver's license or nondriver's identification card issued by
  - 6 the North Dakota department of transportation; ~~or~~
  - 7 (2) An official form of identification issued by a tribal government
  - 8 to a tribal member residing in this state; or
  - 9 (3) ~~A student photo identification card~~ A printed document bearing
  - 10 all the information required by subsection 2 issued by an
  - 11 institution of higher education and bearing the institution's
  - 12 letterhead or seal, along with a student photo identification card
  - 13 issued by the institution and bearing the student's photograph
  - 14 and legal name.
- 15 b. If an individual's valid form of identification does not include all the
- 16 information required under subsection 2 or the information on the
- 17 identification is not current, the identification must be supplemented
- 18 by presenting any of the following issued to the individual which
- 19 provides the missing or outdated information:
  - 20 (1) A current utility bill;
  - 21 (2) A current bank statement;
  - 22 (3) A check issued by a federal, state, or local government;
  - 23 (4) A paycheck; or
  - 24 (5) A document issued by a federal, state, or local government.
- 25 4. The following forms of identification are valid for the specified individuals
- 26 living under special circumstances who do not possess a valid form of
- 27 identification under subsection 3.
  - 28 a. For an individual living in a long-term care facility, a long-term care
  - 29 certificate prescribed by the secretary of state and issued by a long-
  - 30 term care facility in this state;

- 1                   b.     For a uniformed service member or immediate family member  
2                   temporarily stationed away from the individual's residence in this  
3                   state, or a resident of the state temporarily living outside the country,  
4                   a current military identification card or passport; and  
5                   c.     For an individual living with a disability that prevents the individual  
6                   from traveling away from the individual's home, the signature on an  
7                   absentee or mail ballot application from another qualified elector who,  
8                   by signing, certifies the applicant is a qualified elector.
- 9           5.     If an individual is not able to show a valid form of identification but asserts  
10           qualifications as an elector in the precinct in which the individual desires to  
11           vote, the individual may mark a ballot that must be securely set aside in a  
12           sealed envelope designed by the secretary of state. After the ballot is set  
13           aside, the individual may show a valid form of identification to either a polling  
14           place election board member if the individual returns to the polling place  
15           before the polls close, or to an employee of the office of the election official  
16           responsible for the administration of the election before the meeting of the  
17           canvassing board occurring on the sixth day after the election. Each ballot  
18           set aside under this subsection must be presented to the members of the  
19           canvassing board for proper inclusion or exclusion from the tally.
- 20           6.     The secretary of state shall develop uniform procedures for the requirements  
21           of subsection 5 which must be followed by the election official responsible for  
22           the administration of the election.

# NDSU STUDENT GOVERNMENT



Good Morning my name is Clara Counts, I am the External Affairs Commissioner with NDSU Student Government. This morning I am testifying on behalf of the approximately thirteen thousand students attending NDSU, that compose nearly one third of the college students in the state.

Many thanks to the representatives and senators who introduced HB 1447, this bill has opened a new opportunity to discuss greater voting involvement amongst students across the state, and I am grateful to play a part in that.

Students at NDSU specifically, migrate from different parts of the state and from Minnesota to Fargo, and for the first time, live in a residence away from home. Many students have never lived in a different community, let alone took part in voting on community leaders. HB 1447 would give students a more concise plan of action in exercising their right to vote. Civil engagement ought to be promoted, especially among younger voters to ensure future involvement from educated, law-abiding citizens.

However, as discussed with my commission, HB 1447 possess a security threat to students, whereas student identification cards also serve as residence access cards. In addition, the average college student moves within the area multiple times throughout their college experience; every new identification card incurring a twenty-dollar fine.

It is the resolve of the Students of NDSU to seek an amendment to HB 1447, whereas students may receive a form from their university, identifying their address in the system that confirms they are a resident of the district in which they will vote. This amendment allows for expanded voting access for students and keeps them safe from any potential risks associated with essentially having their address on their keychain.

Sincerely,

Clara M. Counts

Executive Commissioner of External Affairs

**Chairman Kasper and members of the House Government and Veteran Affairs Committee:**

The four (4) Republican District Chairs in Grand Forks as well as the leadership of the Grand Forks United Republicans and Grand Forks Republican Women respectfully request your support for **HB 1447** – a bill to allow college students to utilize their student IDs to vote.

HB 1447 is sponsored by 8 legislators from Grand Forks and Fargo. The bill will enable college students to vote using their university-issued ID. Engaging students to vote will help retain them in our state's workforce. HB 1447 <https://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/67-2021/documents/21-0967-01000.pdf>

This bill enables college students to vote - who are U.S. citizens, over 18, and were residents for over 30 days - and often first-time voters with their first driver's license listing their parent's address. This bill provides a path for students to vote by utilizing *another government-issued ID*, their university ID which does utilize their college address. At least ten other states allow use of student IDs for voting.

In the **Nov. 2020 election**, 364,251 North Dakotans cast their ballots or **62.65% of eligible voters** - a record high turnout. That beats the record turnout in the 2016 General Election of 349,945 voters — an increase of 14,306 voters - or 4%.

<https://vip.sos.nd.gov/PortalListDetails.aspx?ptlhPKID=133&ptlPKID=4>

One county did not have record turnout - **Grand Forks County!** With 9% of the total eligible state voters, Grand Forks should have seen an increase of 1200 voters. We did not, as only **55%** of our eligible residents did vote, compared to statewide of 62.6%, or 7.6% less voter participation. Here are vote totals for Grand Forks County from the last five presidential elections.

2020 – 31,142 Ballots Cast (55%)

2016 – 30,709 Ballots Cast (54%)

2012 – 30,177 Ballots Cast

2008 – **31,464** Ballots Cast - record vote for Grand Forks County.

2004 – 30,650 Ballots Cast

**District 42**, which surrounds UND, only cast **3,641 votes** - the very lowest voter total in the state - as the 47 districts in the state averaged 7,750 votes cast, and some over 10,000 votes. Who did **NOT** vote and why? **First-time voters** - UND students - did not vote in large numbers as they are often first time voters unfamiliar with voting and are handicapped with driver's licenses that have their parents address on them. They are eligible voters - residents for more than 30 days, over the age of 18, and US Citizens – but not having a driver's license with their university address prevents them from voting where they live.

Going through the 47 Districts in North Dakota to determine which ones have the lowest vote totals for US President is enlightening, as the bottom seven (7) districts all host a university or an air base - good American residents to be sure – people we want to encourage to vote.

District 42 Grand Forks 3,641

District 40 Minot 5,103

District 21 Fargo 5,592

District 18 Grand Forks 5,659

District 12 Jamestown 5,982  
District 19, Grand Forks 6,018  
District 43 Grand Forks 6,176

Who and how many eligible voters does this impact?

**UND** had 13,615 students this fall (about 20% of city population); 8,918 are enrolled full time; 33.6% are from North Dakota (4571), 30% from Minnesota (4113). 93% are American citizens. I could not find a number of those who reside in Grand Forks, but we can estimate that 10,000 live in our community, and 33.6% (3,363) of those students have a North Dakota Driver's License from somewhere. **6,000** do not but who are American citizens from other states. With about 2,000 freshmen and 2,000 sophomores, there may be as many as **4,000 first-time voters**...who were discouraged from voting. We want them to be engaged residents for the long haul, and be North Dakota voters and residents long-term.

Another vital population that is impacted is at **Grand Forks AFB** which has 1,800 Airmen. 55-60% of those are married - another 1000 adults – a total voting population **of 2,800 voters**. Some of those may have a North Dakota Driver's License, but a small percentage. They all should be allowed to vote in North Dakota if based here in our community, serving our country. Many are first time voters, too, as 40% of the airmen have their first assignment at the Grand Forks AFB - ages 18 to 22.

All together there are about **8,800** residents of Grand Forks who are - in effect - disenfranchised because of a North Dakota Driver's License requirement, a requirement that not there a few years ago. Some of them probably voted by absentee where their parents reside, but many tried to vote and were turned away because they did not have a ND Driver's License – a sad situation. This is why Grand Forks voting totals are much lower than they should be, and why voting percentages are 7.6% lower than they should be.

HB 1447 allows university students to utilize another government-issued ID to be able to vote, using their University ID which does provide their college address and date of birth. We have no concern if there was a requirement they sign an affidavit swearing they did not vote anywhere else in that election which leaves a voter audit trail, a requirement that may also be needed for any parent or grandparent who has more than one residence in North Dakota or another state. This would leave an audit trail for county auditors and the Secretary of State.

Allowing legal residents to vote legally, is a good thing to do. Getting first time voters engaged and involved will help retain them in our state, becoming residents for their professional career – meeting our workforce needs.

We would greatly appreciate your support! Let us know if you have any questions!

Respectfully,

Bruce Gjovig,  
Chair, District 18 GOP  
[Bruce@gjovig.net](mailto:Bruce@gjovig.net)  
701-739-3132

Sadie Hanson  
Chair, District 42 GOP



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Kim Meyer-Efta  
President, Grand Forks Republican Women  
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Carma Hanson  
Second Vice Chairman, North Dakota GOP  
[randicarma@gra.midco.net](mailto:randicarma@gra.midco.net)  
701-739-1591

Written Testimony To  
THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
February 16, 2021  
By Michael Montplaisir, Cass County Finance Director  
Cass County Government

REGARDING HOUSE BILL 1447

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony to your committee on HB 1447. I am Michael Montplaisir, Cass County Finance Director and I oversee elections for Cass County. House Bill 1447 adds a new form of State Issued Identification that students could use as identification when voting in the county in which they are attending school.

In every General Election there are students who wish to vote in Cass County who are not originally from Cass County. These students may be from another county in North Dakota or from another state. If they are a North Dakota resident who has a North Dakota drivers license or non-drivers identification card, they can go on-line and update their address in order to vote in Cass County if they are currently residing here while attending school. If they have updated their address a few days prior to the election, our e-poll books would have the updated information on Election Day.

I like the added opportunity that would allow students to vote using their institution of higher education identification. However, I hope provisions are made so that the state's Central Data Base would also have the updated address information that would be on the student's identification.

The Central Voter Data Base currently uses the driver's license number as the identifying number and the address provided by the Department of Transportation as their residential address. The Central Voter Data Base not only qualifies voters by having their birthdate, ID number, and residential address, it also streamlines the check in process for the poll workers with the use of e-pollbooks that can scan the barcode on the license.

House Bill 1447 could be a benefit to our student population, and if done right would not adversely affect the administration of elections.

I respectfully urge you to support HB 1447.

**2021 SENATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**HB 1447**

# 2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Room JW216, State Capitol

HB 1447  
3/25/2021  
9:30 AM

**Relating to higher education student voting documents; relating to acceptable forms of identification for purposes of voting.**

**Chair Vedaa** opened the hearing at 9:30 AM with Sen Vedaa, Meyer, Elkin, K Roers, Weber, Wobbema, and Marcellais present.

### **Discussion Topics:**

- Student ID's
- Safety
- Easy access to ballot

**Rep Claire Cory** introduced the bill #10741

**Carl Ludewig – ND Student Association** - in favor - #10712

**Jim Silrum – Deputy ND Sec of State** – testified neutral

**Katie Fitzsimmons – NDUS** – testified neutral

### **Additional written testimony:**

**Don Morrison – in favor - #10714**

**Bruce Gjovig – in favor - #10651**

Adjourned at 10:29 AM

*Pam Dever, Committee Clerk*

**Testimony — HB 1447**  
**March 25, 2021 — Senate GVA Committee**

Chairman Vedaa and members of the Senate Government and Veteran Affairs Committee,

I am Representative Claire Cory, from District 42, Grand Forks. District 42 encompasses the University of North Dakota and surrounding areas and as a result of that lots of my constituents are college students. I am introducing this bill to benefit those university student constituents in district 42 and throughout North Dakota.

House bill 1447 **as amended** would help university students to vote in elections. The university ID card would act as a subplimination document just as a utility bill does. This bill was amended in the house GVA committee to limit to only students who are already North Dakota residents, which means that they already have a state issued North Dakota ID. (The original goal of the bill however was to allow a university ID to be the sole identification card.)

North Dakota voting requirements (one of the following):

- North Dakota Driver's license
- North Dakota Nondriver's identification card
- Tribal government issued identification (including those issued by BIA for a tribe located in North Dakota, any other tribal agency or entity, or any other document that sets forth the tribal member's name, date of birth, and current North Dakota residential address)
- Long term care identification certificate (provided by North Dakota facility)
  - the individual may supplement the identification with a current utility bill; a current bank statement; a check or a document issued by a federal, state, local, or tribal government (including those issued by BIA for a tribe located in North Dakota, any other tribal agency or entity, or any other document that sets forth the tribal member's name, date of birth, and current North Dakota residential address); or a paycheck.
    - **It becomes difficult to obtain supplemental documentation while living in the residence halls or on campus student housing.**

At the end of the day this would benefit North Dakota residents who are attending a university that's not in their hometown. Passing this bill would guarantee students easier access to a ballot and allow them to vote in local elections.

Please give this bill a DO PASS recommendation. I am happy to answer any questions.

-Representative Claire Cory

March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

#10712

Chair Vedaa and Members of the Committee,

My name is Carl Ludewig, and I am the current Vice President of Governmental Affairs for the North Dakota Student Association. The NDSA is an organization that is directly funded through a small student fee paid by all students attending North Dakota University System (NDUS) institutions, and our organization is tasked with representing and advocating for students across all eleven of North Dakota's public institutions.

This testimony is **submitted in Support of HB 1447 as written** on the behalf of the NDSA. At our January General Assembly meeting, on January 29<sup>th</sup>, the NDSA delegation voted overwhelmingly to support the then current wording of the bill with "NDSA-11-2021: A Resolution in Support to HB 1447 as Written."

Our organization supports and encourages all students of higher education to do their civic duty by voting in both state and federal elections. Therefore, the accessibility for students to vote in the state in which they live in and have a voice their voices heard is crucial in the student experience and student life. We voted to support HB 1447 as it stood within the house as it allowed student identification cards to be utilized for students to vote and more specifically gave students that were unable to present a document stating their current address, the ability to vote. We had concerns with the first bill along with the safety aspect of having addresses on student ID's. While this version wont help as many students vote, as the printable PDF wont be considered a valid form of Identification, it will help the students that live in on campus housing provide a valid proof of residency to use to vote. Therefore, the NDSA respectfully ask for a do pass recommendation as this bill would increase access to voting for North Dakota Students wo are residents of the state.

Sincerely,

Carl Ludewig

Vice President of Governmental Affairs

North Dakota Student Association



**Testimony HB 1447**  
**Senate Government and Veteran Affairs Committee**  
Don Morrison, North Dakota Voters First • March 25, 2021

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Government and Veterans Committee, my name is Don Morrison. I live in Bismarck and am providing testimony as a volunteer for North Dakota Voters First. We are a non-partisan group of North Dakotans working to strengthen our democracy and to help make our elections and public policy more open, ethical, and accountable to the people and values of our state.

HB 1447 is needed to make sure resident college students in our state can have the type of identification that is currently required to cast their ballots in North Dakota.

North Dakota's recent law change to require strict forms of photo-ID to vote has caused great difficulties for those who do not have those forms of identification. For example, many Native Americans' addresses are not recognized and the state refused to accept tribal IDs. It has taken court action and a lot of hard work to mitigate that suppression of Native American voters.

The new voter requirements also have created confusion and roadblocks for student voters to vote in the community where they live. That is unnecessary. According to the Campus Vote Project, North Dakota is one of only 7 states which have strict voter ID requirements while also not accepting student IDs. Neighboring Montana and South Dakota have in-person ID requirements, but accept alternative ID including student IDs. Minnesota uses voter registration cards and does not require an additional ID unless the voter needs to register or has changed addresses in the past 21 days.

People in our communities should be able to vote without a lot of hurdles and roadblocks to overcome. We are pleased to support efforts such as HB 1447 that eliminate barriers and roadblocks to voting. College and university students are members of our communities. This is a good bill because it removes a roadblock for our neighbors who are college students and residents of North Dakota to exercise their right to vote.

North Dakota Voters First requests that the Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee give HB 1447 a DO PASS recommendation. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today.

**Chairman Kasper and members of the House Government and Veteran Affairs Committee:**

The four (4) Republican District Chairs in Grand Forks as well as the leadership of the Grand Forks United Republicans and Grand Forks Republican Women respectfully request your support for **HB 1447** – a bill to allow college students to utilize their student IDs to vote.

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We would greatly appreciate your support! Let us know if you have any questions!

Respectfully,

Bruce Gjovig,  
Chair, District 18 GOP  
[Bruce@gjovig.net](mailto:Bruce@gjovig.net)  
701-739-3132

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Second Vice Chairman, North Dakota GOP  
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701-739-1591

# 2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Room JW216, State Capitol

HB 1447  
3/25/2021

**Relating to higher ed student voting documents; relating to acceptable forms of identification for purposes of voting.**

**Chair Vedaa** called to order at 11:39 AM with Sen Vedaa, Meyer, Elkin, K Roers, Weber, Wobbema, and Marcellais present.

### Discussion Topics:

- Committee Work

**Sen K Roers** moved a **Do Pass**

**Sen Elkin** seconded

**Roll Call Vote: 7 -- YES 0 -- NO -0-ab Motion Passed**

Senators	Vote
Senator Shawn Vedaa	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Jay R. Elkin	Y
Senator Richard Marcellais	Y
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Mark F. Webber	Y
Senator Michael A. Wobbema	Y

**Sen Elkin will carry the bill**

Adjourned at 11:42 AM

*Pam Dever, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1447**, as engrossed: **Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Vedaa, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (7 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HB 1447 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.