

**2021 SENATE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS**

**SB 2153**

# 2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Political Subdivisions Committee Sakakawea, State Capitol

SB 2153  
1/21/2021

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 5-02-05 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to prohibiting the dispensing of alcoholic beverages on certain days.

**Chairman Burckhard** opened the hearing at 9:44 a.m. All members present: Senators Burckhard, Anderson, Oban, Kannianen, Heitkamp, Lee, D. Larson.

### Discussion Topics:

- Fiscal note explanation for increase in general funds
- Broader ease of limitations on sale of alcohol during holidays
- Intention of specific establishments (restaurants, bars, etc.)

**[9:44] Senator Piepkorn, District 44.** Introduced SB 2153.

**[9:55] Jean Schafer, District 8.** Provided testimony #1876 in favor.

**[10:01] Trudy Eide, North Dakota Citizen.** Provided testimony #2070 in favor.

**Senator D. Larson** moves **DO NOT PASS**

**Senator Heitkamp** seconded  
The motion failed 2-5-0

Senators	Vote
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	N
Senator Howard C. Anderson, Jr.	N
Senator Jason G. Heitkamp	Y
Senator Jordan Kannianen	N
Senator Diane Larson	Y
Senator Judy Lee	N
Senator Erin Oban	N

**Senator Oban** moves **DO PASS**

**Senator Lee** seconded  
The motion passed- 4-3-0  
**Senator Oban** will carry SB 2153.

Senators	Vote
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	N
Senator Howard C. Anderson, Jr.	Y
Senator Jason G. Heitkamp	N
Senator Jordan Kannianen	Y
Senator Diane Larson	N
Senator Judy Lee	Y
Senator Erin Oban	Y

### Additional written testimony:

**Allyn Sveen, Auditor, City of Stanley.** Provided testimony #1343 in opposition.

**Chairman Burckhard** closed the hearing on SB 2153 at 10:05 a.m.

*Patricia Lahr, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2153: Political Subdivisions Committee (Sen. Burckhard, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (4 YEAS, 3 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2153 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

Bill Number	Name	Lobbyist #	Support	Oppose	Neutral
SB 2153	Jean Schafer, District 8 constituent		X		

My name is Trudy Eide and I am writing in support of ND Senate Bill 2153

Twenty-five years ago, my family began a tradition of going to a restaurant for dinner on Christmas Eve. Our family regularly attends a 3:30 Christmas Eve church service and we enjoy going out to eat so that we have time to open presents before I need to return to participate in a 10:00 p.m. service. Initially, we only found one restaurant open—Red Lobster. Since then, more and more restaurants have opened up.

Even though we eat early, it still means that very often we can only enjoy one alcoholic beverage with our meal, because of the law which prohibits alcohol to be served after 6:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Having to rush to dinner before 5:00 just to have a couple of glasses of wine seems a bit ridiculous and not relaxing. Our experience a year ago where our drinks were late in being served was very frustrating, because the waiter removed all alcohol from the table at 6:00 even though some glasses were still more than half full. This prompted me to mention to Senator Merrill Piepkorn that I thought this law was outdated and needed to be changed.

As I mentioned earlier, there are now many places open for dinner on Christmas Eve; traditions and celebrations have changed. Families may no longer live close by and get-togethers are not always on the 24<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup>. Perhaps a meal out is a good alternative to being alone. It is important to also keep in mind that we live in a society where not everyone celebrates Christmas.

This law was previously amended so that alcohol could be served starting at 11:00 instead of noon on Sundays. Just as that accommodation was made, I feel that the Christmas Eve portion should also be amended. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Trudy Eide



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January 18, 2021

SB # 2153 (1/21/2021 Hearing – 10:00 A.M.)

Dear Chair Buckhard and Honorable Members of the Senate Political Subdivisions Committee:

I am respectfully requesting you to support a **“DO NOT PASS”** on Senate Bill #2153 relating to prohibiting the dispensing of alcoholic beverages on certain days.

SB #2153 proposes to remove the dispensing of alcohol after six p.m. on Christmas Eve. In many cities, police departments operate on a limited staff, especially during the holiday. This propose change in law will not only have an adverse effect on local law enforcement, but on individuals that will be required to work should a bar owner decide to stay open on Christmas Eve.

Your support for a **“DO NOT PASS”** on Senate Bill #2153 is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Allyn Sveen  
Stanley City Auditor

E-mail: District #2 & #4 Senate Representatives  
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