

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT
with House Amendments**

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2180

Introduced by

Senators Paulson, Luick, Weston

Representatives Louser, D. Ruby, D. Johnston

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 44-04 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to the opportunity to provide public comment at a meeting of a public
3 entity.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 44-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
6 and enacted as follows:

7 **Public comment - Regular meetings of a public entity.**

8 1. Every regular meeting of a governing body of a city, county, township, school district,
9 park district, or water resource district must include an opportunity for an individual to
10 provide public comment.

11 2. An individual providing comment at a meeting shall provide to the governing body in
12 writing the individual's name and address. The individual's address is an exempt
13 record as defined in subsection 5 of section 44-04-17.1.

14 3. A governing body of a city, county, township, school district, park district, or water
15 resource district:

16 a. May limit a public comment by time per speaker, total time for public comment, or
17 both.

18 b. Shall develop a policy regarding public comment rules for regular meetings. The
19 policy may provide a public comment:

20 (1) Must be pertinent to the public entity.

21 (2) May not interfere with the orderly conduct of the regular meeting.

22 (3) May not be defamatory, abusive, harassing, or unlawful.

- 1 (4) May be prohibited if an alternative procedure exists to bring that particular
- 2 type of public comment before the public entity, the public comment includes
- 3 confidential or exempt information, or the public comment is otherwise
- 4 prohibited by law.