

**SENATE BILL NO. 2256  
with House Amendments  
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Sixty-sixth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

Introduced by

Senators Unruh, Myrdal, Poolman

Representatives Mock, Roers Jones, Schmidt

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 16.1-06-09 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
2 relating to the required form for measures to amend the constitution and the manner of placing  
3 the measures on ballots.

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

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 16.1-06-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **16.1-06-09. Constitutional amendments and other initiated and referred measures -**  
8 **Manner of stating question - Explanation of effect of vote - Order of listing.**

9 ~~Constitutional amendments or measures,~~

10 1. A measure for a constitutional amendment must be divided into clearly identifiable  
11 sections, and each section of the measure may include proposed changes to only one  
12 section of the constitution. The entire text of each section of the constitution to be  
13 amended must be included in the measure. Language to be removed from the  
14 constitution must be overstruck and language to be added to the constitution must be  
15 underlined. The remaining text in the measure may not be overstruck or underlined.  
16 The entirety of a measure for a constitutional amendment must be printed on the ballot  
17 unless the amendment is more than five hundred words, in which case the election  
18 board at each polling place shall provide a copy of the amendment complying with this  
19 subsection to any voter upon request, and a summary up to five hundred words in  
20 length which is as detailed as possible and fairly represents the substance of the  
21 amendment must be printed on the ballot in place of the full text of the measure.

22 2. Other initiated measures, and referred measures, duly certified to the county auditor  
23 by the secretary of state, or any other question or measure to be voted on, except the  
24 election of public officers at any primary, general, or special election including officers

1 subject to a recall petition, must, ~~unless otherwise determined by the secretary of~~  
2 ~~state,~~ be stated in full in a legible manner on the ballot. ~~If~~ However, if the secretary of  
3 state concludes ~~the amendment or a~~ measure other than a measure for a constitutional  
4 amendment is too long to make it practicable to print in full, the secretary of state in  
5 consultation with the attorney general shall cause to be printed a short, concise  
6 summary, which must fairly represent the substance of the ~~constitutional amendment~~  
7 ~~or initiated or referred~~ measure.

8 3. ~~After the foregoing statement~~ each measure, statement, or question, the secretary of  
9 state shall cause to be printed another short, concise statement of the effect of an  
10 affirmative or negative vote on the ~~constitutional amendment or initiated or referred~~  
11 ~~measure, or question.~~ This explanatory statement must be drafted by the secretary of  
12 state in consultation with the attorney general. The words "Yes" and "No" must be  
13 printed on the ballot at the close of the statement regarding the effect of an affirmative  
14 or negative vote, in separate lines with an oval before each statement in which the  
15 voter is to indicate how the voter desires to vote on the question by darkening the oval.  
16 If two or more ~~amendments~~ measures, or questions are to be voted on, they must be  
17 printed on the same ballot.

18 4. The measures to be submitted to the electors must be grouped and classified as  
19 constitutional measures, initiated statutes, or referred statutes and must be placed  
20 within ~~such~~ the groups or classifications by the secretary of state in the order received,  
21 for the purpose of placing them on the ballot. Measures submitted by the legislative  
22 assembly must be placed first on the ballot within their classification in the order  
23 approved by the legislative assembly. ~~Constitutional measures shall~~ Measures for  
24 constitutional amendments must be placed first on the ballot, initiated statutes second,  
25 and referred statutes third. After all the measures have been placed within the  
26 appropriate group or classification, all measures must be numbered consecutively,  
27 without regard to the various groups or classifications.