

**Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Thursday, January 3, 2019**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1501
(Representatives Roers Jones, Heinert, M. Johnson, Pyle)
(Senator Rust)

AN ACT to create and enact a new section to chapter 15.1-09 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to suspension of a member of a school board; to amend and reenact section 54-10-15 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to audits and suspension of school board members; and to declare an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. A new section to chapter 15.1-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

School board membership - Suspension.

Upon the filing of a petition under chapter 44-11 for removal by the governor, the governor, in consultation with the superintendent of public instruction, may suspend a member of a school board pending the results of an audit in accordance with section 54-10-15.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 54-10-15 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-10-15. Audits of political subdivisions by order of governor or the legislative audit and fiscal review committee, upon petition, or upon request of the state court administrator.

1. The state auditor, by duly appointed deputy auditors or other authorized agents, shall audit or review the books, records, and financial accounts of any political subdivision when ordered by the governor or the legislative audit and fiscal review committee, requested by the governing board, or upon petition of at least thirty-five percent of the qualified electors of any political subdivision enumerated in section 54-10-14 voting for the office of governor at the preceding general election or, in the case of school districts, upon petition of at least thirty-five percent of the qualified electors voting at the preceding school board election, or upon the request of the state court administrator with respect to clerk of district court services provided by a county in accordance with chapter 27-05.2. Fees for the audits must be paid in accordance with the provisions of section 54-10-14.
2. If an audit is ordered due to financial irregularities or allegations of embezzlement, the governor may suspend an elected or appointed school board member from the individual's duties if the governor determines suspension is in the best interest of the state pending the results of the audit. If the governor suspends an elected or appointed school board member, the governor immediately shall provide notice to the school board with which the suspended member serves. Within five days of receiving notice, the school board shall appoint an individual to replace the suspended member to serve during the pendency of the audit. The governor shall consult with the superintendent of public instruction in determining whether suspension of a member of a school board is in the best interest of the state.

SECTION 3. EMERGENCY. This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1501 and that two-thirds of the members-elect of the House of Representatives voted in favor of said law.

Vote: Yeas 71 Nays 20 Absent 3

Speaker of the House

Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that two-thirds of the members-elect of the Senate voted in favor of said law.

Vote: Yeas 45 Nays 0 Absent 2

President of the Senate

Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2019.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2019.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2019,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State