

2023 SENATE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

SB 2280

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

State and Local Government Committee
Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

SB 2280
1/26/2023

Relating to the form of the primary election ballot.

9:45 AM Chair Roers opened the hearing. Present: Chair Roers, Vice Chair Barta, Sen Cleary, Sen Estenson, Sen J Lee, and Sen Braunberger.

Discussion Topics:

- Party endorsement
- Petition
- Informed voter

Sen Bob Paulson, Dist 3, bill sponsor and testified in support #17090.

Sen Estenson, Dist 15, testified in support with no written testimony.

Lee Ann Oliver, Secretary State Office, testified in neutral position with no written testimony.

10:21 AM Chair Roers closed the hearing.

Pam Dever, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

State and Local Government Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

SB 2280
2/2/2023

Relating to the form of the primary election ballot.

10:26 AM Chair Roers opened committee work. Present: Chair Roers, Vice Chair Barta, Sen Cleary, Sen Estenson, Sen J Lee, and Sen Braunberger.

Discussion Topics:

- Bill review

Chair Roers reviewed bill and progress of bill. No written testimony.

10:27 AM Chair Roers closed meeting.

Pam Dever, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

State and Local Government Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

SB 2280
2/9/2023

Relating to the form of the primary election ballot.

10:25 AM Chair Roers opened the meeting. Present: Chair Roers, Vice Chair Barta, Sen Cleary, Sen Estenson, Sen J Lee, and Sen Braunberger.

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

Sen Cleary moved a DO NOT PASS.

Sen Barta seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Jeff Barta	Y
Senator Ryan Braunberger	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	Y
Senator Judy Estenson	N
Senator Judy Lee	Y

VOTE: YES – 5 NO – 1 Absent – 0 Motion PASSED

Sen Braunberger will carry the bill.

10:29 AM Chair Roers closed the meeting.

Pam Dever, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2280: State and Local Government Committee (Sen. K. Roers, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** (5 YEAS, 1 NAY, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2280 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

TESTIMONY

SB 2280

Good morning Madam Chair and members of the State and Local Government Committee. For the record, my name is Bob Paulson, and I am a State Senator from District 3 in Minot.

SB 2280 is a simple bill. It simply seeks to identify on a primary ballot, whether a candidate for office was placed on the ballot as a result of being endorsed by a political party or by petition.

Century code provides two methods to attain ballot access, and they are: a party endorsement or by petition (gathering signatures to gain access).

The purpose of the bill is to ensure we have an electorate that is as informed as possible. When both methods are utilized and multiple candidates appear on the primary ballot representing the same party there is no ballot distinction between the party-endorsed candidate and the candidate(s) who petitioned to appear on the ballot under the party heading of his or her choice. This can result in confusion for the voter.

I see no compelling reason why we shouldn't provide the voter with that information. This indication does not show favor to one candidate over the other, it merely identifies which candidate was endorsed by the party under whose heading they appear, and which candidate took to the streets and gathered the requisite signatures to compete for the seat he or she aspires to win. In the end, the voter deserves to know which is which.

Madam Chair, that is the bill and I would respectfully request a Do Pass, and I will stand for any questions.