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TESTIMONY OF THE  
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
ON SENATE BILL NO. 217, SD 1  
RELATING TO ARRANGEMENT OF CANDIDATE NAMES ON BALLOTS

March 12, 2020

Chair Lee and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill No. 217, SD 1. This bill requires candidate names to be randomized on individual ballots.

We would accomplish the purpose of this measure by randomly selecting a letter of the alphabet for each district/precinct (ballot type) to be the first letter to organize the candidate names. For example, if the letter "L" was randomly selected by lot, candidates whose last name started with an "L" would be listed first and subsequent names will follow alphabetically (e.g., "L", "M", "N"). We would also note that the randomly selected letter would only be applied to the first letter of the last name and not modify additional alphabetizing.

We use the alphabetical organization to proof the ballots ensuring all candidates are properly listed. This also corresponds to the voting position to be counted by the voting and vote counting system.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 217, SD 1.