

NORTH DAKOTA SENATE

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Good morning Chairman Klein and members of the Industry, Business and Labor Committee. I'm Senator Merrill Piepkorn, representing north Fargo's District 44. I'm here today to introduce Senate Bill 2300 which addresses the topic of transitioning temporary full-time state employees to full-time permanent employees.

Whether it's here in this building, on the greater capital campus, or in the many offices across the state, we are blessed in this state to be served by top quality, friendly and professional state employees. And whether I am conducting my own personal business or inquiring on behalf of a constituent, I have had overwhelmingly positive experiences with our state employees.

Many of these employees are temporary. According to the office of Management and Budget, as of December of 2020 the state employed 2218 temps, 1565 of which were full time. It is the view of the proponents of this bill that after a qualifying period of time, these temporary employees should at least be offered a permanent position with the accompanying benefits of permanent employment.

From the bill

Section 1, number 1

And

Section 1, number 2

Others will follow with personal stories and more statistics on the status of temporary full-time employees. Thank you for your time this morning. I'm returning to my committee meeting next door, but I do urge you to carefully consider the value of all our state employees and consider the benefits of advancing our full-time temporary workers to full-time permanent employees. Even as we invest in them, they in turn are more able to invest and participate in their communities. I respectfully ask you consider a DO PASS vote on Senate Bill 2300.