

HB 1231
69th Legislative Assembly
Senate Judiciary Committee
March 10, 2025
Testimony of Travis W. Finck, Executive Director, NDCLCI

Madam Chair Larson, members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Travis Finck and I am the Executive Director for the North Dakota Commission on Legal Counsel for Indigents. The Commission is the state agency responsible for the delivery of indigent defense services in North Dakota. I rise today on behalf of the Commission to provide testimony in support of House Bill 1231.

HB 1231 allows a mechanism for a Petition to be brought to the court to reduce the registration. It requires meeting benchmarks in treatment and rehabilitation. Further, the law only provides for a petition to be brought, the Court still has the ultimate say on penalty and punishment. HB 1231 would allow those individuals who no longer need monitoring to be removed from the sex offender registry. This would allow those supervising offenders to focus on the more high risk offenders.

HB 1231 is not a second guessing of the Courts judgement, as sex offender registration is an administrative process in North Dakota in which individuals are not entitled to counsel. The bill simply gives the court the opportunity to reduce an administrative penalty imposed as a result of a criminal conviction. This registration level is not determined by the Court, but an administrative penalty assessed by the Attorney Generals SORAC committee. Further, HB 1231 is not without victim input. Anyone familiar with the criminal legal system and the implications of Article I, Section 25 knows victims will have a say. Further, the bill specifically requires the state's attorney to be served a copy of the petition and the petition to be sent to the victim.

For the reasons stated herein, the Commission requests a DO PASS on HB 1231.

Respectfully Submitted:



Travis W. Finck
Executive Director, NDCLCI