

**HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
REPRESENTATIVE LAWRENCE KLEMIN, CHAIRMAN
JANUARY 6, 2021**

**STEVEN D. HALL, DIRECTOR TRANSITIONAL PLANNING SERVICES,
NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS & REHABILITATION
PRESENTING TESTIMONY HOUSE BILL 1069**

Chairman Klemin and members of the House Judiciary Committee, for the record, I am Steve Hall, Director of Transitional Planning Services with the North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DOCR). I am here today to provide testimony in support of House Bill 1069.

North Dakota Century Code Section 12-47-31 currently limits the DOCR's authority to provide transportation for an indigent individual being released from prison to a location *within* the state of North Dakota. House Bill 1069 expands this authority to include out-of-state locations as well, if reasonable and specified by DOCR staff in an individual's case plan.

It is generally releasing individuals' responsibility to pay for costs associated with their release, including the cost of transportation. However, there are situations when they are not able to secure enough money for transportation prior to their release. In these situations, the DOCR purchases a bus ticket, train ticket, or other economical method of transportation to a point within North Dakota for the individual, as required by Section 12-47-31.

While the majority of individuals incarcerated at the DOCR release to North Dakota addresses, there are some cases where releasing individuals have no family or community support in North Dakota. To remain in North Dakota, these individuals often

require significant government or non-profit support and resources. However, they may have family or social supports in other states and be able to transfer to those states, if provided resources for transportation.

House Bill 1069 allows DOCR to spend a small amount for transportation to send these individuals to a reasonable location approved in their case plan, including out-of-state locations. This ensures individuals releasing from prison are able to safely return to a supportive environment, which reduces the cost of supporting individuals without a support system in North Dakota. It also enhances public safety by increasing the likelihood of successful reentry and, thereby, reducing their chance of reoffending.

Chairman Klemin and members of the committee, I ask that you support House Bill 1069.