

Senate Bill 2062  
Government and Veterans Affairs  
Senate Standing Committee  
January 8, 2021

Testimony by Erica Houn, Business Manager  
State Historical Society of North Dakota

Good morning, Chairman Veda and members of the committee, my name is Erica Houn and I am the Business Manager for the State Historical Society. I am here today to present testimony regarding Senate Bill 2062 that would provide the State Historical Society with the authority to conduct nationwide criminal history record checks.

We currently have authority to pull nationwide criminal record checks under North Dakota Century Code 12-60-24 for a select few employees; such as those working in security, finance, and HR software systems.

However, the majority of our employees and volunteers are in the possession of irreplaceable collection items every day, many of which are valuable. The State Historical Society has close to 80,000 objects in our museum collections, of which over 600 are firearms. Also, in the State Archives there are over 2.5 million photographs, 121,000 publications, and 26,000 linear feet of manuscript and state and local government records. Of this, 4,000 linear feet of records are restricted, meaning they have personally identifiable information on them.

In addition, to the previously mentioned collection items, we also have many positions in public and children facing positions at the Heritage Center and our state historic sites.

For the safety of the public, and the numerous valuable items in our collections the State Historical Society would like the authority to conduct nationwide background checks at the discretion of the director and in compliance with NDCC 12-60-24.

Thank you for your time and consideration.