

HOUSE BILL NO. 1062

Presented by: **John Arnold**
 Deputy Commissioner
 North Dakota Insurance Department

Before: **Senate Industry, Business and Labor Committee**
 Senator Jerry Klein, Chairman

Date: **February 16, 2021**

TESTIMONY

Good Morning, Chairman Klein and members of the committee. My name is John Arnold and I am the Deputy Insurance Commissioner for the North Dakota Insurance Department. I appear before you this morning in support of House Bill 1062, which was introduced at that request of Commissioner Godfread, and deals with certain records from insurance companies licensed in this state.

Section one would expand access to the abstracts of the annual statements that are filed with the Department. Currently, this abstract must be published three times in a newspaper of general circulation in each judicial district in which the company conducts business. The Department is suggesting that this abstract also be made available on its website. We believe that this increases access to public as paging through legal notices in hopes of finding this information will no longer be the only method available.

Sections two and three extend the confidentiality granted to the work papers of the Department's statutory financial examinations to those of the quarterly financial analysis and of market conduct examinations. The Department has found that the confidentiality of work papers in financial examinations leads to an increase in communication and collaboration through the free flow of information between insurers and examination staff. It is important to note that these amendments only deal with the working papers and does not apply to the final report, which remains a public document.

Finally, section four would exempt rate and form filings from open records laws until the they have been approved by the Department. This includes filings that insurers have withdrawn from consideration or the Department has disapproved.

I respectfully request a “do pass” recommendation from the committee on House Bill 1062. I am happy to take any questions.