



BURLEIGH COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

KELLY LEBEN
SHERIFF

Testimony Prepared for the
House Judiciary Committee

January 27th, 2025

By: Trent Wangen, Major

RE: Supportive Testimony for House Bill 1344- The use of local jails or correctional facilities for inmates sentenced to the physical custody of the department of corrections and rehabilitation.

House Judiciary Chairman Klemin and Committee Members,

My name is Trent Wangen and I currently serve as a Major with the Burleigh County Sheriff's Department. My primary duty is to serve as the Assistant Jail Administrator of the Burleigh Morton Detention Center, a 555 bed facility located in Bismarck. I am also the Vice President of the North Dakota Correctional Center Administrators Association.

I am testifying in support of HB1344, A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-23.3 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to use of local jails or correctional facilities for inmates sentenced to the physical custody of the department of corrections and rehabilitation.

I would support amending line 10 and changing the first word from "shall" to "may". This amendment would allow the Department of Correction to house inmates in other states if necessary.

As everyone is aware the Department of Corrections is operating over capacity for both male and female inmates. This has an impact on most local jails or correctional facilities. Burleigh County has work closely with DOCR to aid in addressing these challenges. Currently DOCR does pay for male inmates to remain in county jails as DOCR is operating under their prioritization/deferred admissions plan for male inmates. Burleigh County and DOCR have also reached an agreement for compensation for female inmates that have been sentenced to DOCR but remain at the Burleigh Morton Detention Center.

HB1344 would standardize and clarify when NDDOCR pays counties for inmates housed in county facilities.

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Thank you for your time and consideration and please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Trent Wangen, Major

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