

Testimony
House Bill No. 1588
House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Representative Todd Porter, Chairman
February 6, 2025

Chairman Porter, and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I am Jonathan Alm, an attorney with the Department of Health and Human Services (Department). I appear before you to present an amendment on behalf of the Department.

House Bill No. 1588 removes the general prohibition on possessing a firearm or dangerous weapon at a publicly owned or operated building. In its current form, House Bill No. 1588 would allow firearms or dangerous weapons at the North Dakota State Hospital, Life Skills and Transition Center, and at the State's Human Service Centers and satellite locations (Behavioral Health Clinics) as these locations do not have metal detectors or armed security.

The Department is requesting this committee adopt the amendment attached to my testimony to mitigate the risk of violence and injury between clients, employees, and the general public. The proposed amendment would prohibit the possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon at the portion of buildings occupied, owned, or leased by the North Dakota State Hospital, Life Skills and Transition Center, and Human Service Centers and satellite locations.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to try to answer any questions the committee may have. Thank you.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1588

Page 2, lines 24 through 29:

62.1-02-05. Possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon at a public gathering - Penalty - Application.

1. An individual may not possess a firearm or dangerous weapon at:
 - a. A school or school-sponsored event on school property; ~~or~~
 - b. A church or other place of worship; ~~or~~
 - c. ~~A publicly owned or operated building~~ The portion of buildings occupied, owned, or leased by the state hospital, life skills and transition center, and human service centers and satellite locations.