



STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
GOVERNOR DOUG BURGUM

NORTH DAKOTA STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Bill No 2308 Boards Review Task Force
Senate State and Local Government Committee
2:00 PM - Thursday – February 6, 2025

Madam Chair Roers and members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee, for the record I am Mark Hardy, Executive Director of the North Dakota State Board of Pharmacy. I appreciate the opportunity to be here to testify on Senate Bill 2308.

I appreciate the sponsor's approach to this bill to take a targeted approach to streamlining and removing various entities that are creatures of the ND Century Code which are no longer necessary. Respectfully, I have two suggestions for your consideration.

First, Section 7 (page 6) is enacting language for the Labor Commissioner to engage in a study of boards during the last interim. The study was completed with a report being issued in late 2024. Given the conclusion of the study, I would suggest that that section just be stricken to remove the ambiguity in which the changes are meant to address.

The review task force proposed in Section 8 of the bill (starting on page 6) is a worthy idea to identify other areas to streamline government. I would respectfully request the considerations of the committee to add representation of the licensing boards to the task force. I would suggest board representation be in place, potentially, as a replacement for the representation identified for cities and counties, unless there is interest from those groups in participating.

Speaking from our experience during the numerous studies on licensing boards over the last few years, we feel strongly that this inclusion of boards in any review will bring intimate understanding for considerations in which this task force is charged to drive meaningful policy solutions. As an example, during the Labor Commissioner's study, the former Commissioner utilized board expertise to meaningfully look at licensing boards. That led to the policy solutions being looked at in another piece of legislation (SB2395). Without this representation and perspective, there may be misunderstandings about the implications of their decisions. I'd be happy to work on an amendment for the consideration of the committee to add this representation if desired.

We appreciate the bill sponsors bringing this legislation forward. Licensing boards serve a very important purpose for the health and safety of our citizens, helping with workforce, and functioning as some of the most accessible extensions of our government. I appreciate you hearing our testimony and I would be happy to address any questions.