

Senate Bill 2308
Sen. Kristin Roers
Senate State and Local Government
Sen. Kristin Roers, Chair
Thursday, February 6, 2025
Room 216, State Capitol

Good afternoon, Chair Roers and members of the State and Local Government Committee. One priority for our administration is to refocus our efforts in state government to be consumer driven. Senate Bill 2308 sets out to review all occupational or professional boards, along with any other statutorily created board, commission, or council. The goal of this task force will be to understand which boards can be combined or dissolved, and which ones are essential to the core functions of government.

To give background on the “why” behind this legislation - today the Governor’s Office oversees more than 150 boards and commissions in state government. That’s too many. Approximately 1,500 individuals make up these boards, with the governor appointing over two-thirds of the members.

As currently proposed, Senate Bill 2308 dissolves 18 boards. In some cases, state agencies will absorb the duties and scope of the board’s work. When government stays in silos, it leads to duplicative work. Our goal for the task force is to create efficiencies and make sure each board’s mission is still relevant today.

One amendment we would like to propose to Section 5-7 of the bill is to house the task force in the Governor’s office. Our team will carry out the administrative duties of the task force. They will work with Senator Roers on the amendment before it comes before the committee for a vote. Following my testimony, Reed Johnson with our office will be providing a section-by-section overview of the bill as introduced, then Allyson Hicks with the Attorney General’s Office will introduce a friendly amendment that we encourage the committee to pass.

This legislation aligns with a national trend of finding ways to shrink government. Every one of these boards comes with a cost - even those with volunteer members. It takes considerable staff time and resources to ensure all boards are fully staffed and functioning as required by law.

I look forward to continuing to work on this bill with all of you to reduce the footprint of government and save North Dakota taxpayers money.