

MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

1243

2005 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

HB 1243

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1243

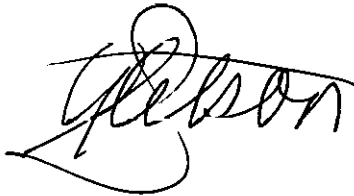
House Human Services Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date January 17, 2005

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
#1	x		#3014 - 4997
#2	x		#1190-1315

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Chairman Price opened the hearing on HB 1243.

Rep. Uglem: HB 1243 directs the state health council to adopt rules for minimum standards for emergency medical services training and to provide for licensing emergency services training institutions. Sometimes there are people who do not pass the EMT testing.

Rep. Potter: Can you described the process of becoming an EMT.

Rep. Uglem: Once you enlist someone to taking EMT training, in the rural areas, it is a winter course running 3 months one night a week for 3-4 hours or Sat. for 8 hrs. After completing the training, the student takes a written exam, which is national certification, and after taking/passing the exam. They come to Bismarck for a practical exam. Once in awhile, a class will come through, and you have a 50-60% failure, not due to the students, but because their training wasn't adequate. Purpose of this bill is to give those that are having trouble getting students

through the opportunity education, to get themselves better training. Providing some benefits to do the testing locally.

Rep. Potter: Test is taken locally is a national certification test, and the test they take in Bismarck is a state test?

Rep. Uglem: It is a state practical test.

Tim Meyer, Director of the Division of Emergency Medical Services, ND Dept. Health.

See Attached Testimony.

Rep. Porter: You talked about the 250 EMT instructors now working and Rep. Uglem sighted some 60% failure rate, What remedial training is done to the instructors when you have situations such as that.

T. Meyer: To become a state certified instructor, there is a 16 hour course and a refresher course is offered every other year that is mandatory. We don't have any structure in place to do quality control for the instructors right now, so if there is a bad instructor, they just keep producing bad students, unless the students choose to go a different instructor.

Rep. Porter: Will this bill assist in setting this up.

T. Meyer: As is sits now, we don't have anything in place. We could look at it and see how we could accomplish this.

Rep. Potter: Does this bill rectify the problems.

T. Meyer: It is an optional licensing process, most of the training is given through training institutions, but there could still be some bad instructors.

Rep. Kaldor: Would you apply some standards to those other trainers, as you going to redefine those standards, are you going to apply them to the other trainers also.

T. Meyer: If feel the licensed training institutions need to meet a benchmark. They would have to have the certified equipment to be able to mirror the testing that our state association does.

Rep. Nelson: If I wanted to enroll in one of these courses, do you publish success ratings per instructors or programs in the state so I knew where I could get the best instructions.

T. Meyer: We don't have that at this time, but it would be a good idea for the consumer. I would like to track that, and after a time, we hopefully find that the licensed training institutions would find that helpful.

Rep. Nelson: How long would it take to compile that information.

T. Meyer: At least a year, to study that, and get institutions licensed, set up guidelines and then have them in process for a year to competently track that.

Derrick Hanson, Past President, Leg. Chair for the NDEMS Assoc.

I would like to address the question of poor quality of the instructors, we are hoping that this bill will help rectify some of the problem. One of the reason that we are reluctant to make this mandatory, as we have had some come and argue their case that to have some EMS education, is better than no education due to the recruitment issue that we have in our rural areas. The last thing is the current Century Code, we are not sure if it qualifies or not, but there is quality review area under the current training certification/testing and if we can get the AG's opinion, we may be able to deal with the trainers in question right now.

Rep. Weisz: If I took training from a local instructor, would I still be able to test at a local sight?

D. Hanson: If there is a local test sight, that may be available.

Close hearing. MR#4997 .

Page 4
House Human Services Committee
Bill/Resolution Number HB 1243
Hearing Date January 17, 2005

Chairman Price: Opened discussion on HB 1243.

Rep. Porter: Presented the amendment, moved to accept the amendment.

Rep. Devlin: Second

Voice Vote: 12-0-0.

Rep. Uglem: Do Pass as amended.

Rep. Kaldor: Second

Vote: 12-0-0.

Carrier: Rep. Uglem.

58251.0101
Title.0200

Adopted by the Human Services Committee
January 17, 2005

VK
1/17/05

HOUSE . . . AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1243 H.S. 1-18-05

Page 1, line 9, after "personnel" insert ", instructors." and remove "emergency medical
services"

Renumber accordingly

Date: 1/17/05

1 - amd
VV - 12-0-0

Roll Call Vote #: 2

DP as Amnd
12-0-0

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1243

House

Human Services

Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number

Action Taken *Do Pass as Amnd*

Motion Made By *Rep Uglem*

Seconded By *Rep Kaldor*

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman C.S. Price	\		Rep.L. Kaldor	\	
V Chrm.G. Kreidt	\		Rep.L. Potter	\	
Rep. V. Pietsch	\		Rep.S. Sandvig	\	
Rep.J.O. Nelson	\				
Rep.W.R. Devlin	\				
Rep.T. Porter	\				
Rep.G. Uglem	\				
Rep C. Damschen	\				
Rep.R. Weisz	\				

Total (yes) 12 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment *Rep Uglem*

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
January 18, 2005 2:16 p.m.

Module No: HR-11-0649
Carrier: Uglem
Insert LC: 58251.0101 Title: .0200

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1243: Human Services Committee (Rep. Price, Chairman) recommends AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1243 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 9, after "personnel" insert ", instructors." and remove "emergency medical services"

Renumber accordingly

2005 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

HB 1243

2005 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1243.

Senate Human Services Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date March 7, 2005

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1		X	31.8 - 44.1

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Senator Judy Lee, Chairman of the Senate Human Services Committee opened the hearing on HB 1243 relating to emergency medical services personnel training.

All members of the committee were present.

Representative Gerry Uglem of District 19 cosponsor of HB 1243 introduced the bill. See written testimony (attachment #1).

Tim Meyer, Director of the Division of Emergency Medical Services for the North Dakota Department of Health testified in support of HB 1243. See written testimony (attachment #2).

Senator John Warner asked if the centralized testing site would still be available to administer the testing.

Tim Meyer confirmed this to be true that the Bismarck central site would still be available as well as the licensed training centers, giving the students more options.

Senator Dick Dever asked if there were any concerns with any of the federal regulations for EMTs.

Tim Meyer stated this was a separate issue and is not addressed in this bill.

Senator Lee explained the amendment that was adopted by the House to the committee. (See attachment #3).

Derek Hanson, the Past President of the North Dakota EMS Association testified in support of HB 1243. See written testimony (attachment #4).

Senator Warner asked if there was any concern regarding the standards of the regional testing sites.

Derek Hanson answered that they are hoping that as time goes on, more and more will realize the importance of licensing verses optional licenser. Tests results of students are increasing and the retakes of testing is lower. This local testing should help increase the number of EMTs in rural areas.

Senator Lee asked for neutral and opposing testimony of HB 1243 and hearing non closed the public hearing on HB 1243.

Senator Stanley Lyson made a motion for a Do Pass of HB 1243.

Senator Warner second the motion.

Roll call vote for a Do Pass of HB 1243 was taken indicating 5 YEAS, 0 NAYS AND 0 ABSENT OR NOT VOTING.

Senator Warner will carry HB 1243.

Date: 3-7-05
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2005 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1243

Senate Human Services

Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number

Action Taken

Do Pass

Motion Made By

Sen Lyson

Seconded By

Sen Warner

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Sen. Judy Lee - Chairman	✓		Sen. John Warner	✓	
Sen. Dick Dever - Vice Chairman	✓				
Sen. Richard Brown	✓				
Sen. Stanley Lyson	✓				

Total (Yes)

5

No

0

Absent

0

Floor Assignment

Sen. Warner

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
March 7, 2005 4:06 p.m.

Module No: SR-41-4319
Carrier: Warner
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1243, as engrossed: Human Services Committee (Sen. J. Lee, Chairman)
recommends **DO PASS** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
Engrossed HB 1243 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2005 TESTIMONY

HB 1243

Testimony on HB 1243

Chairman Price, Committee members

I am Representative Gerry Uglem from District 19 (Rural Grand Forks County).

HB 1243 directs the state health council to adapt rules for, define minimum standards for, and provide for licensing of emergency medical services training institutions.

Training of Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) is open for anyone interested. And a large percentage of the time they produce well trained EMT's. However, once in a while a class comes through testing that is not well prepared. When a student fails testing, he or she can always try again, but it is very discouraging, and we loose some of these valuable volunteers.

This bill will provide the tools necessary to improve instruction by providing advantages to a training institution that chooses to become licensed, such as on site testing instead of testing in Bismarck. Licensing will be optional.

Dean Lampe with the ND Emergency Medical Services Association is here to give you more details and answer questions.

Testimony

House Bill 1243

House Human Services Committee

Monday, January 17, 2005; 9:15 a.m.

North Dakota Department of Health

Good morning, Madam Chair and members of the House Human Services Committee. My name is Tim Meyer, and I am director of the Division of Emergency Medical Services for the North Dakota Department of Health. I am here today to testify in support of House Bill 1243.

House Bill 1243 would give the Department of Health the authority to license emergency medical services training institutions. Currently, we certify more than 250 emergency medical services instructors across the state. Each one of these instructors may teach classes up to the level of his or her training. After a class has been completed, the students must travel to Bismarck or to a testing site in another state to take the National Registry test for certification or licensure. Most students from the Red River Valley take their tests at training institutions in Minnesota because it is more convenient for them.

If the Department of Health had the authority to license training institutions, those licensed institutions would be able to administer their own National Registry tests. This would make completion of the training process more convenient and less stressful for the students. If licensed, training institutions that provide testing also may be eligible for training grant funds from the Department of Health. Since licensing would be optional, those training institutions choosing not to obtain a license could continue to operate as they do now.

This concludes my testimony. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

HB 1243--Rep Gerry Uglen ,Dist 19

Chairman Lee, Committee members

House Bill 1243 Adds EMS instructors and EMS training institutions to Sec 23-27-04.3 of ND law. The reason the EMS association is pursuing this action is because ND EMS students have a high retest rate at the practical test sites offered. Any of you who have gone through this practical test site know it is very stressful.

Offering the option of licensure to EMS training institutions, will allow for test sites around the state, where students will be more comfortable and perform better. Right now they all have to come to Bismarck for testing. It will also provide for more oversight of instructors and training programs.

The intent of this bill is not to make EMS education in this state more difficult. It is to make education and testing more student friendly, thus giving these valuable volunteers a better opportunity to get quality training and convenient testing with less travel.

With this bill, licensing of EMS training institutions is optional, so anyone out there who is now providing quality training may continue to do so without licensing.

Testimony

House Bill 1243

Senate Human Services Committee

Monday, March 7, 2005; 11 a.m.

North Dakota Department of Health

Good morning, Madam Chair and members of the Senate Human Services Committee. My name is Tim Meyer, and I am director of the Division of Emergency Medical Services for the North Dakota Department of Health. I am here today to testify in support of House Bill 1243.

House Bill 1243 would give the Department of Health the authority to license emergency medical services training institutions. Currently, we certify more than 250 emergency medical services instructors across the state. Each one of these instructors may teach classes up to the level of his or her training. After a class has been completed, the students must travel to Bismarck or to a testing site in another state to take the National Registry test for certification or licensure. Most students from the Red River Valley take their tests at training institutions in Minnesota because it is more convenient for them.

If the Department of Health had the authority to license training institutions, those licensed institutions would be able to administer their own National Registry tests. This would make completion of the training process more convenient and less stressful for the students. If licensed, training institutions that provide testing also may be eligible for training grant funds from the Department of Health. Since licensing would be optional, those training institutions choosing not to obtain a license could continue to operate as they do now.

This concludes my testimony. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

58251.0101
Title.0200

Adopted by the Human Services Committee
January 17, 2005

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1243

Page 1, line 9, after "personnel" insert ", instructors," and remove "emergency medical
services"

Renumber accordingly



524 Weatherby Way • Bismarck, ND 58503 • 701-258-9147

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1243

Senate Human Services Committee

March 7, 2005

By: **Derek Hanson, Past President
& Legislative Chair**

One reason our association is pursuing this amendment is because North Dakota EMS students have a high retest rate at the practical test sites offered. More than many other states surrounding us. At some of the test sites, 40% or more of the students tested are required to retest one or more practical stations. Some North Dakota class sites are opting to go to the Minnesota side to test. Other states who do not seem to have this high retest rate are generally involved in either an accredited teaching institution for EMS programs, or they are part of a higher education system. That's just not the case in North Dakota.

The intent of this bill is not to make EMS education in this state more difficult. Just the opposite. By encouraging training sites to participate in such a program students will likely feel more comfortable and perform better at the test site. The reputation of retests will improve with such a process.

The rules for this amendment should be formulated and implemented by the Division of Emergency Health Services, in the state Health Department. Same as where the current training, testing and certification rules reside.

One benefit of becoming a licensed EMS training institution might include being able to offer a test site in their local community. Currently, all EMT students must come to Bismarck for all levels of EMT testing. This benefit will also make it easier to recruit new EMT students for rural ambulance services since they won't need to drive and leave their community.

Another benefit may be the use of grant funds to assist with training and/or local testing. This would help eliminate some of the financial burdens of conducting an EMS course. Course coordinators may also be allowed to conduct courses without a regimen of paperwork prior to the program starting which makes it easier for the volunteer instructor. Many EMT instructors in the state volunteer to offer their expertise and adult learning skills. These incentives will only help, they will not harm the rural EMS providers or EMT students.

It is important to point out that this licensure is voluntary (optional), and not mandatory.