

2019 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

HB 1315

2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee
Fort Union Room, State Capitol

HB1315
1/16/2019
30904

☐ Subcommittee
☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Elaine Stromme by Risa Bergquist

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to community transitional housing; and to provide an appropriation

Minutes:

Attachment 1-2

Vice Chairman Rohr Opened Hearing Bill # 1315

1:15-19:10 Representative Erin McWilliams (See attachment 1)

Representative Anderson: How are you going to judge if the program is a success or not? Are there criteria for that?

Representative McWilliams: We would look at if the program saves money overall, an amendment that I would like to add to this bill is a sunset clause. If this program does not save money and does not fulfill the intended purpose it should be removed from Century Code and never seen again.

Representative Tveit: Would you become a host home and would your use be comfortable in such a situation?

Representative McWilliams: That is something I have thought about a great deal over the last year, I have a 5-year-old at home so this bill excludes me but let's say I didn't. I would absolutely become a host home, I live on a farm and I think if they came with letters of recommendations and were recommended by someone in the jail I would give them a chance.

21:10 Vice Chairman Rohr: Is this legislation modeled after another program that you've found in the research or is this your brain child?

Representative McWilliams: This is something completely new, pieces are from many different programs and different research.

Vice Chairman Rohr: There's a lot in the bill that requires development, for instance you're doing interviews, is there criteria already developed for that?

Representative McWilliams: There's a lot of things that were originally in the bill and then I got some feedback that we wanted to be careful to not restrict the department to a be able to adopt and work the program.

Vice Chairman Rohr: The tool you refer to as the Level of Service of Inventory Revised Score (LSIR) Is that already been tried and true?

Representative McWilliams: This is an old tool that has been used across the country and in criminal justice systems.

Vice Chairman Rohr: What is the potential population that would be looking into this method?

Representative McWilliams: That information is on the last page (page 3 of attachment 2). It would be about 6% of total population of the parole and probation and about 724 individuals that have LSIR score of 30 or less and fall between the ages of 18 and 24.

24:30 Representative Westlind: Host home would receive up to \$650 dollars a month?

Representative McWilliams: The host home will receive \$200 as a stiffen and the if they achieve the goals at the end of the month the host home receives \$150-dollar bonus and the host home can receive up to \$350 from the participant themselves a total of \$700.00.

Representative Westlind: Is that enough? It could cost the host homes almost that much for groceries and helping these people get to appointments or different things.

Representative McWilliams: It was lower than it went really high then we settled on that number, I got a bunch of different answers. The intention is that the state stipend covers the room & board, but is that enough to entice someone to do this?

Representative Westlind: Normally a prisoner would go to a half-way house is that correct?

Representative McWilliams: I will defer that question to those that would have more experience with that type of thing. To get back to why would somebody want to do this? You are in church or you see somebody that has taken a bad turn and you want to help but still make sure that you are protected. That's why there's a time limit, the host home doesn't become a permeant residence and it turns into an eviction process. They cannot use the host home as an address and we are calling the fees they are paying as "program fees" and not "room and board" because we do not want to set up a rental contract.

Representative Skroch: It is obvious you have done a lot of research, it's almost seems like you are trying to recreate family and bring about a heal thing process that they aren't able to find anywhere else. Did you find support in the psychological community or how do you think this will work for these prisoners?

Representative McWilliams: There's tons of research that show a strong family and support system always contribute to someone's recovery. This set up a new system for that individual

and I hope that if someone leaves and was successful, and maybe they are struggling again maybe the host home would be able to be there even just for moral support. It's another connection in our committee.

Representative Dobervich: If an individual can't have an address. People can't get a job without an address.

Representative McWilliams: We need to make sure that we don't create a residency. They would have to use a PO box.

Representative Dobervich: Appropriation 100 thousand dollars that would only help 55 people in a biennium? That wouldn't include any administrative cost, how many do you feel could be served by this?

Representative McWilliams: This would be a pilot program, it would be able to give a little bit of money and maybe only serve 25 the first year but be able to see how and if it works. There's money set aside for justice reinvestment act, and would hope that some of that money could be allocated to this program.

35:40-41:30 Brett Burkholder, Grand Forks County Correctional Center Administrator; I've been in field of corrections for over 30 years. I have seen a lot of different programs. Most programs have a group instead of a family atmosphere. Family approach would be better. Tried & true has worked. An amendment would be added to this bill. They have to learn to do things differently. Right now 67% come back to prison again.

Vice Chairman Rohr: Any other in favor? Opposed? Neutral testimony?

42:50-45:10 Tom Eide, Director of Field Services and Chief Financial Officer for the Department of Human Services Department. (see attachment 2)

Representative Schneider: You mentioned Freedom Through Recovery and it seem to ducktail into that, have you talked to the governor's office about tailoring it to fit with that program?

Tom Eide: We are focused on clients with behavioral health needs in particular and is around how are we proving peer support and guidance for someone with mental illness or addictions.

Representative Schneider: That's why I think this would be a fit, you do deal with these people already, might be an important addition.

Tom Eide: Should this program be created in some other fashion we would align ourselves to it. This also requires the administration of housing, there's housing contract, home inspections, and number of things that we would not normally be involved in. I would be a different payment program and there is already something's set up that maybe this would fit better with, half way houses and that sort of thing.

Representative Vice Chairman Rohr: Further questions, any other testimony? We will close the hearing on HB 1315.

2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee Fort Union Room, State Capitol

HB 1315
1/30/2019
31837

- ☐ Subcommittee
☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Nicole Klamann

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to community transitional housing; and to provide an appropriation

Minutes:

Chairman Weisz: opened meeting.

Representative Mary Schneider: This bill was to afford an opportunity for people transitioning out of prison back into life. Giving them an opportunity to live in a home, meeting a lot of requirements.

Chairman Weisz: The host family would employ the participant?

Representative Mary Schneider: They would get minimal compensation at \$300.00 a month.

Chairman Weisz: So it could be any kind of work?

Rep. Schneider: There was a mention of farming, gardening or any kind of supportive assistance.

Vice chair Rohr: Representative McWilliams said he saw this as a pilot and wanted to put a sunset on it.

Representative Gretchen Dobervich: He intended it to be a pilot but didn't call it a pilot. This model does not exist anywhere in the US. Some things I feel is missing, is a plan for evaluating it, return on investment.

Vice Chair Rohr: I move a Do not pass on HB 1315

Representative Greg Westlind: Second

Chairman Weisz: He certainly was thinking outside the box here. The issue is whether DHS should be involved at all here.

Representative Clayton Fegley: Our Church did a mission trip to Phillip SD and they are doing a similar process there.

Representative Kathy Skroch: I've had a lot of conversation with the sponsor of this bill, he calls this his "Adopt a Felon" program. We visited Recovery Reinvented and there was a Deputy out of Fargo who was recognized for work he's done helping inmates cycle out of the prison system into life to end recidivism. This bill addresses that in a unique way. I support this bill, it is unique but it will possibly save the state money.

Representative Bill Devlin I believe everything has been transferred to the Dept. of Corrections but on Section 2 page 4, the money is still coming out of human services.

Vice chair Rohr: I withdraw my motion

Rep. Westlind: Second

Rep. Skroch: I'm wondering if Human Services can have the obligation of evaluating the success or if that can all be done under the Dept. of Correction.

Chairman Weisz: This needs to be cleaned up and take the Dept. of Human Services out of there.

Rep. Skroch: I will do that.

Chairman Weisz: Closes meeting

2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee Fort Union Room, State Capitol

HB 1315
2/4/2019
32093

- ☐ Subcommittee
☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature Nicole Klamann

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to Community transitional housing and to provide an appropriation

Minutes:

Chairman Weisz: Opened meeting.

Chairman Weisz: It has been transferred to Dept. of Corrections. It appears he also changed up the payments, they can charge up to \$450.00 a month to the participant and the Dept. will pay a stipend of \$300 instead of \$200 to the host.
Appropriating \$500,000 Rerefer.

Vice Chair Rohr: I move to adopt the Amendment

Representative Mary Schneider: Second

Voice Vote: Motion to Adopt Amendment carries
(0:3:23)

Representative Greg Westlind: We had testimony from Human Services and there is potential for unrecognized fiscal impact. Substantial cost for set up.

Representative Mary Schneider: I like the concept and the Dept. of Corrections have done some creative work, they may like this. I also think it is tailored to ND.

Chairman Weisz: If this idea to go forward, similar to behavior health last session. My suggestion would be funds that would already be appropriated as they are saving money with this. This is to reduce recidivism. I don't believe this needs appropriations.

Representative Gretchen Dobervich: I wonder without appropriation that post homes will have to go through. Training costs? We may want to take a look at this as a potential model, as first in the nation, and assign appropriation.

Representative Bill Devlin: Liability is still there. Unless you are going to have limited or no resources, or I fear a lawsuit if anything goes wrong. We must protect the state.

Chairman Weisz: The liability was against participant were to injure the post family.

Representative Kathy Skroch: Part of the success is the family structure, bringing that person to healing. Liability possibility, is on the Dept. of Corrections already, due to release. This is to back that and make it an easier transition. This would be a narrowly selected group of people. New concept and if it works potential is huge.

Chairman Weisz: DOC doesn't decide; they do if they've done their time. Arguably, there is still the possible state liability.

Representative Damschen: We know we have a problem with the transition back to society. I think the sponsor did a lot of work. Would I be a host family? No, but I support the bill.

Rep. Dobervich: I move a Do Pass As Amended, Rerefer to Approps

Representative Matthew Ruby: Second

Roll Call Vote Yes 8 No 5 Absent 1

Motion carries, Do Pass As Amended, Rerefer to Approps

Representative Dick Anderson: Carrier

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1315

- Page 1, line 2, replace "and" with "to provide a report;"
- Page 1, line 2, after "appropriation" insert "; and to provide an expiration date"
- Page 1, line 8, replace "human services" with "corrections and rehabilitation"
- Page 1, line 9, remove "convicted felon upon release from"
- Page 1, line 10, replace "incarceration" with "participant"
- Page 1, line 11, replace "a convicted felon" with "an individual"
- Page 1, line 12, replace "upon release from incarceration or completed a term of court-ordered probation" with "and is under the supervision of the department"
- Page 1, line 17, remove "collaborate with the department of corrections and rehabilitation to"
- Page 1, line 18, replace "convicted felons" with "participants"
- Page 1, line 19, remove "upon release from incarceration"
- Page 1, line 20, after "**Administration**" insert "**- Report**"
- Page 1, line 21, remove "collaborate with the department of corrections and rehabilitation"
- Page 1, line 22, remove "to"
- Page 1, line 23, remove "Establish eligibility criteria for convicted felons who have a level of service"
- Page 1, remove line 24
- Page 2, remove lines 1 through 4
- Page 2, line 5, remove "b."
- Page 2, line 5, remove "convicted felons between eighteen and twenty-four"
- Page 2, remove line 6
- Page 2, line 7, replace "subsection" with "participants. If a participant"
- Page 2, line 8, replace "convicted felon" with "participant"
- Page 2, line 10, replace "c." with "b."
- Page 2, line 16, replace "felon" with "participant"
- Page 2, line 17, replace "d." with "c."
- Page 2, line 25, replace "e." with "d."
- Page 2, line 25, replace "Collaborate with the department of corrections and rehabilitation to establish" with "Establish"
- Page 2, line 26, replace "felon" with "participant"

DA 2/4/19
2 of 2

Page 2, line 29, replace "convicted felon" with "participant"

Page 3, line 3, replace "three hundred fifty" with "fifteen"

Page 3, line 4, replace "month" with "day"

Page 3, line 13, replace "felon" with "participant"

Page 3, line 14, remove "felon's scheduled release from incarceration. If a felon is eligible under"

Page 3, remove line 15

Page 3, line 16, replace "before the felon's release from parole or probation" with "participant's anticipated placement with a host home"

Page 3, line 17, remove "Upon approval to participate in the program, the department shall forward the"

Page 3, remove lines 18 through 20

Page 3, line 21, remove "10."

Page 3, after line 21 insert:

"10. The department shall provide a biennial report to the legislative management regarding the number of applications the department receives, the number of applicants who are denied from participating in the program, and the background data of each applicant, including the applicant's job, housing, and criminal history."

Page 3, line 23, replace "two" with "three"

Page 3, line 24, after the second "a" insert "monthly"

Page 3, line 28, replace "\$100,000" with "\$500,000"

Page 3, line 29, replace "human services" with "corrections and rehabilitation"

Page 3, after line 31, insert:

"SECTION 3. EXPIRATION DATE. This Act is effective through July 31, 2023, and after that date is ineffective."

Renumber accordingly

**2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1315**

House Human Services Committee

☐ Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: 19.0434.06002 Title 07000

Recommendation: ☒ Adopt Amendment
☐ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Without Committee Recommendation
☐ As Amended ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations
☐ Place on Consent Calendar
Other Actions: ☐ Reconsider ☐ _____

Motion Made By Vice Chair Rohr Seconded By Rep. Schneider

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Robin Weisz, Chairman			Gretchen Dobervich		
Karen M. Rohr, Vice Chair			Mary Schneider		
Dick Anderson					
Chuck Damschen					
Bill Devlin					
Clayton Fegley					
Dwight Kiefert					
Todd Porter					
Matthew Ruby					
Bill Tveit					
Greg Westlind					
Kathy Skroch					

Total (Yes) _____ No _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

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

Voice Vote, Motion to adopt amendment carries

**2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1315**

House Human Services Committee

☐ Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: 19.0434.06002 Title 07000

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☒ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Without Committee Recommendation
☒ As Amended ☒ Rerefer to Appropriations
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Other Actions: ☐ Reconsider ☐ _____

Motion Made By Rep. Dobervich Seconded By Rep. M. Ruby

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Robin Weisz, Chairman		X	Gretchen Dobervich	X	
Karen M. Rohr, Vice Chair		X	Mary Schneider	X	
Dick Anderson	X				
Chuck Damschen	X				
Bill Devlin		X			
Clayton Fegley	X				
Dwight Kiefert	----	----			
Todd Porter		X			
Matthew Ruby	X				
Bill Tveit	X				
Greg Westlind		X			
Kathy Skroch	X				

Total (Yes) 8 No 5

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Rep Dick Anderson

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

Motion carries, Do Pass As Amended Rerefer to Approps

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1315: Human Services Committee (Rep. Weisz, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (8 YEAS, 5 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1315 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 2, replace "and" with "to provide a report;"

Page 1, line 2, after "appropriation" insert "; and to provide an expiration date"

Page 1, line 8, replace "human services" with "corrections and rehabilitation"

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Page 3, line 29, replace "human services" with "corrections and rehabilitation"

Page 3, after line 31, insert:

"SECTION 3. EXPIRATION DATE. This Act is effective through July 31, 2023, and after that date is ineffective."

Renumber accordingly

2019 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1315

2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1315
2/14/2019
32757

- ☐ Subcommittee
☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Risa Bergquist by Caitlin Fleck
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Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to community transitional housing; to provide a report.

Minutes:

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Chairman Delzer: Opened hearing.

Representative Weisz: This bill is to provide transitional housing, originally in department of human services (DHS) and now moving it to department of corrections and rehabilitation (DOCR). The point is to bring someone in and find them some employment and then transition them back into the real world. It isn't an attempt to just release them, and then they go back to their old lifestyles.

Chairman Delzer: You didn't do it as a pilot project?

Representative Weisz: No.

Chairman Delzer: Was there any discussion about how many host families would be available?

Representative Weisz: Yes, there was discussion. This hasn't been done in any other state, so we don't have anything to base it off. There is no way to quantify.

Chairman Delzer: Did corrections come in?

Representative Weisz: No, they didn't have an opportunity because the original bill was in DHS, but then the amendment changed it to DOCR.

Chairman Delzer: This is just for hosts? We aren't setting up a home, not a host home?

Representative Weisz: Correct, anyone could be a host home; they would have to go through a background check, and have different standards to be able to be involved in this program.

Chairman Delzer: What about liability?

Representative Weisz: We really didn't have an answer for that.

Chairman Delzer: Was there anything about doing a study on this?

Representative Weisz: There was a discussion on it, but why? They are a wanted program, and the vote was close. The committee did give it a do pass.

Chairman Delzer: I would be surprised to see very many host families step forward.

Representative Beadle: The restriction and limitation in the bill, needs to be in standalone home, why wouldn't we allow a duplex or a twin home?

Representative Weisz: Because they are allowing in an X-con and not have to worry about the neighbors not wanting him.

Representative Beadle: What if they own the whole unit?

Representative Weisz: That was not anticipated. It was meant to be an individual family in their own home.

Representative Beadle: What is the reasoning for limiting them for 90 days?

Representative Weisz: The numbers are arbitrary, but the rational is the purpose of the host family isn't to adopt the individual. It is to give them a space to live for a while during their time of transition.

Representative Holman: Was there a reason for changing 100,000 to 500,000?

Representative Weisz: I think that was just numbers.

Chairman Delzer: You'd be talking for 24 months would be 32 thousand, so you are talking 10-18 families.

Representative Meier: Was there any conversation about it not working out?

Representative Weisz: That is a good question.

Chairman Delzer: Are they still considered to be incarcerated?

Representative Weisz: No, this would be individuals that would be released normally, and then they would be able to agree to go to the host family.

Chairman Delzer: There's nothing about the host family being able to say no at any time.

Representative Weisz: I would assume, but it wasn't discussed.

Representative Bellew: Was it discussed that what if the neighbors protested this?

Representative Weisz: Whatever criteria is currently in place, otherwise no there wouldn't be any more notification here as compared to someone being released normally.

Chairman Delzer: Honestly right now you wouldn't know.

No further questions, meeting closed.

2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1315
2/14/2019
32808

- ☐ Subcommittee
☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Risa Bergquist by Caitlin Fleck
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Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Adopting amendments.

Minutes:

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Chairman Delzer: HB 1315 is the bill for the host families to take in released convicts.

Representative J. Nelson: I was told this morning that there may be 10 households that were interested in doing this. There was no mention of a program like this in the department of corrections and rehabilitation budget, we have a lot of programs that we are already doing. I make a motion for a do not pass.

Representative Howe: Second.

Representative J. Nelson: I think if there was a host family interested in doing this then the free through recovery peer support program would give them the support to help them do that.

Chairman Delzer: This is a totally new program that hasn't been done in any other state.

Representative Monson: I would be concerned about liability issues for the people housing them.

Roll Call Vote: 20 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent. Motion carries.

Floor assignment: **Representative J. Nelson**

Chairman Delzer: I would ask if you contact Leann Bertsch and see if she has any comments on that.

Meeting closed.

Date: 2/14/2019
Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1315**

House Appropriations Committee

☐ Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: _____

Recommendation: ☐ Adopt Amendment
☐ Do Pass ☒ Do Not Pass ☐ Without Committee Recommendation
☐ As Amended ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations
☐ Place on Consent Calendar
Other Actions: ☐ Reconsider ☐ _____

Motion Made By Representative J. Nelson Seconded By Representative Howe

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Delzer	X				
Representative Kempenich	X				
Representative Anderson	X		Representative Schobinger	X	
Representative Beadle	X		Representative Vigesaa	X	
Representative Bellew	X				
Representative Brandenburg	X				
Representative Howe	X		Representative Boe	X	
Representative Kreidt	X		Representative Holman	X	
Representative Martinson	X		Representative Mock	A	
Representative Meier	X				
Representative Monson	X				
Representative Nathe	X				
Representative J. Nelson	X				
Representative Sanford	X				
Representative Schatz	X				
Representative Schmidt	X				

Total (Yes) 20 No 0

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Representative J. Nelson

Motion Carries

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1315, as engrossed: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Delzer, Chairman)
recommends **DO NOT PASS** (20 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
Engrossed HB 1315 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2019 TESTIMONY

HB 1315

Rep. Aaron McWilliams
District 20

HB1315

"Our Criminal Justice System is Broken" This has been said by Judges, Presidents, Politicians on the left and right, police officers and those incarcerated. Over the last year I've spent a great deal of time interviewing and discussing these challenges with our state departments, jails, fellow legislators, volunteers and inmates themselves.

When I started this research last year I didn't start with a preconceived approach that I sought to prove or an agenda to try and push. I started with the simple question: "How can we help neighbors help neighbors?".

Over the summer I conducted a little experiment. I had my intern call 15 county social service offices around the state and ask a simple question.

1. Do you recommend anyone in your community as a personal resource for people in need?

The answer every time, No. They will recommend churches, community groups or any number of other organizations, but never an individual or family.

Across the state and across the country we see men and women get caught in an endless cycle of jail, homelessness, crime and back to jail. We've tried harsher sentences, lighter sentences, mandatory rehab, and a host of other programs.

Some of these programs are successful for some people. I met with Judge Frank Racick in October to discuss this plan and he told me that: "No one program works for everyone, it takes many approaches for many different people."

The bill you have in front of you establishes a community transitional housing program for those who or on parole or probation.

The intended population are those who may be just leaving the foster care system and have a record. These individuals may not have served time in Jail but have nowhere to go and no one to turn to. This is a critical time in their life.

The program is not restricted to this population, but I believe that this is where we will likely find the greatest success and need. Another target population are those who are waiting to get into a sober living home but need some transitional housing in the meantime.

This bill establishes criteria to become a Host home and eligibility criteria to participate. Here is a quick overview.

Who can become a host home?

- Single Family Residences, cannot be an apartment or connected to a multi-unit housing.
- Host homes cannot have any minors in the home
- Pass a criminal history background check (This background check must be free of drug offenses and felony convictions for 10 years)
- Cannot be a grandparent, parent, or sibling of the participant/felon.

How do you become a host home?

- You apply through the department of human services
- Provide three letters of recommendation
- And complete training established by the department.
- Interview and approve the prospective participant.

What do the Host homes do?

- Provide room and board within their home
- Provide some transportation to and from appointments
- Collaborate with the department of corrections and rehabilitation to report progress of the participant back to the parole or probation officer.
- Provide a positive example
- Give them a new community contact and potential job reference.

What do the participants get? The participants get...

- An opportunity to start over and become a community member again.
- A stable place to start from without worrying about bills, food, or housing.
- An opportunity to get a job save some money to get into an apartment and turn the utilities on.
- It's my personal hope that the participant will find a friend and resource in the community. And this individual can provide future support if needed.

What are the filters and restrictions on the program?

- Maximum stay of 90 days with a possible 30 day extension.
- Participants must have an LSI-R score of 30 or less
- Only 1 participant at a time in a host home.
- Only 3 participant's per year per host home.
- Guns and Prescription medications must be kept in either a safe or a secure room.

This program is intended to act as transitional housing that allows a participant to save money in a safe and stable environment. This means they need to work. This bill provides three options to accomplish this goal. On page 2 letter D you'll find an employment section. This section provides for three options.

1. Work at least 30 hours as an employee for the Host home.
2. Work at least thirty hours per week in a job
3. A hybrid approach of a few hours for the host home and a few hours in an outside job.

Reimbursement to the Host Home.

The Host Home, upon the intake of a participant, will receive a stipend of \$200 per month and receive a bonus of up to one hundred fifty dollars if the participant meets the goals at the end of each month.

The goal with this reimbursement structure is to give a big enough financial incentive to the Host home while reducing the cost of the program and balancing each players skin in the game.

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To balance the cost of this program the participant may be eligible to be released up to 14 days early. With Jails reporting cost between \$75+ per day this could represent a savings anywhere between of more than \$1,050 or the total that the state would pay out for the Host Home.

With this structure the host home is incentivized to help the individual get to meetings or appointments, the participant is incentivized to maintain a low-cost living accommodation, and the state is incentivized to stay in contact.

So what makes this approach different from a sober living home, or a halfway house or an F5 house? In all of the other programs or housing situations you have a bunch of people, all with their own challenges, who are trying to turn their life around at the same time. When I spoke to inmates in the Grand Forks county Jail several of them told me about treatment programs they were in. They said that they would be doing well but then one day a new guy/girl, would join the program and bring some drugs and they'd all fall off the wagon and end up right back in jail.

This is an individual approach intended for those who want to find a new beginning.

The last section of this Bill is an Appropriation. After discussing this program with a multitude of legislators I was advised to put an appropriation so that the department didn't think I expected them to administer it for free.

With the cost of jails often exceeding \$40,000 per year it doesn't take a lot of success for this program to be successful.

I recognize that while this bill is in it's sixth version there will need to be some amendments to address some of the departments concerns. I look forward to working with the department to accomplish a mutual goal of helping people while trying to save money.

I look forward to answering any questions.

724 Individuals have an LSIR score of 30 or less and are between the ages of 18-24

Level of Service Inventory Revised Score Range from 0 -50. The higher the number the higher the risk to the public.

AGE	Average LSIR Score
18	32
19	25
20	26
21	30
22	28
23	31
24	32
25	30
26	31

Testimony
House Bill 1315 - Department of Human Services
House Human Services Committee
Representative Robin Weisz, Chairman
January 16, 2019

Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee, I am Tom Eide, Director of Field Services and Chief Financial Officer for the Department of Human Services (Department). I appear today to testify on House Bill 1315.

As a department, we have several concerns about what is requested and the potential for unrecognized fiscal impact. This bill makes specific requests of the Department which are not a typical part of our services.

In Section 1, it is requested that the Department will collaborate with the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to establish and implement a new community transitional housing program to provide qualifying convicted felons with short-term housing following their release from the corrections system. It requests the two agencies establish eligibility criteria using tools such as Level of Service Inventory Revised (LSI-R) working with individuals on probation; establish criteria, certification and provide training for host homes; and develop program oversight, including guidelines, goals, liability protocols, and employment parameters for participants with specific employment and insurance requirements.

While the Department has recently partnered with Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in regards to the Free Through Recovery program, that work was specific to community based behavioral health services and supports. Most of the specific activities in this bill would be outside of our current expertise and would have us working with a population that is not our traditional clients.

In addition, the requests above will require resources of both full-time equivalent positions and support costs of which none are included in this bill. Funding for administering and creating such a program, along with providing certification and a system for payment, is not easily estimated without more details on program specifics and a full assessment from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation on how this could be accomplished.

While the Department recognizes the importance of safe and stable housing for the vulnerable people it serves, and appreciates the desire to provide housing to a constituent group who would likely benefit, this particular bill is outside of the expertise of the Department and not sufficiently resourced to produce the desired outcomes.

This concludes my testimony and I am happy to answer any questions. Thank you.