

2021 HOUSE EDUCATION

HB 1217

2021 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1217
1/19/2021

Relating to school guidance and counseling services.
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Chairman Owens called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM. Roll call was taken with Reps. Owens, Schreiber-Beck, Heinert, Hoverson, D. Johnson, M. Johnson, Longmuir, Marschall, Pyle, Richter, Simons, Zubke, Guggisberg and Hager present.

Discussion Topics:

- Contracting services availability
- Undergraduate counseling degree programs
- Counselors shortage

Rep. D. Monson introduced HB 1217, #1742

Rebecca Pitkin – Exec. Director, ND Education Standards and Practices Board, #1738

Jim Upgren – Dept. of Public Instruction answering questions

Additional Written testimony:

Daren Christianson, Superintendent, Langdon Area High/Middle School, #1739

Closed the hearing on HB 1217 at 3:13 PM.

Bev Monroe, Committee Clerk

Testimony for HB1217

Rep. David Monson

Chairman Owens and members of the House Education Committee, for the record, I am Rep. David Monson of District 10 in northeastern ND. I introduced this bill with the knowledge that we have a teacher shortage in ND, and one of the critical shortage areas is in guidance counselors to serve our schools.

The idea for this bill originated with the superintendent of schools in Langdon which is in my legislative district. As the bill is written, it would simply speed up the licensure of individuals working toward their license in elementary and secondary guidance counselling by up to two years. They would still need to complete the coursework in a timely basis. Since I don't serve on an education policy committee anymore, and I am long retired from school administration, you or others in the field may have ideas to improve the bill. Feel free to make it better. Just know there is a need for more guidance counsellors, and this may help fill the gap.

I will stand for any questions, but I hope there are others either online or on your committee who can answer your questions better than I can.



Testimony
House Bill 1217
House Education Committee
January 18, 2021; 3:00 p.m.
Education Standards and Practice Board

Good afternoon Chairman Owens and members of the House Education Committee. My name is Rebecca Pitkin and I am the Executive Director of the Education Standards and Practices Board. I am here today to provide information on ESPB practices which align with HB 1217. ESPB currently issues a “restricted” K-12 license to applicants with a bachelor’s degree seeking to be counselors through an alternate access license. With an alternate access license, individuals work with ESPB, the Department of Public Instruction, and a college to become licensed while finishing their counseling degree. The license is issued for a year at a time contingent upon verification of completion of part of their program of study and at the request of a school administrator (67.1-02-02-02). We do not require they have a bachelor’s degree in counseling, as in line 8 of the bill, but instead an alternate access license could be issued to individuals with degrees in psychology, social work, or other related areas. As a point of clarification, there are currently no state approved undergraduate counseling degrees or programs.

ESPB has issued 11 alternate access licenses for school counseling this school year.

This concludes my testimony and I stand for any questions.

LANGDON AREA HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL
"HOME OF THE CARDINALS"

A+ FOR EXCELLENCE

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1-19-2021

To: Representative Monson

I support HB 1217 which appears to allow individuals with counseling degrees outside the realm of school counseling to be granted a provisional license and work for a school district serving students while pursuing the school counseling licensure. I would fully support this process as I feel it would serve our students at a time when it is difficult to find school counselors and into the future as needed.

During the 2019-2020 school year the Langdon Area School District could not recruit a school counselor and although we were able to contract for some services, we struggled to serve the needs of our students. In our search process, we were approached by individuals with other counseling degrees who would have been interested in serving our students and pursuing the school counseling licensure if they could work for the school district during this transition.

Respectfully Submitted,



Daren Christianson



"Cardinals"

Bill Actions for HB 1217

Introduced by Rep. Monson, D. Johnson, Owens, Sanford, Schatz

Introduced by Sen. Davison, Poolman, Rust

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 15.1-13-23 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to school guidance and counseling services.

Date	Chamber	Meeting Description	Journal
01/11	House	Introduced, first reading, referred Education Committee	<u>HJ 192</u>
01/19	House	Committee Hearing 03:00	
01/20	House	Request return from committee	<u>HJ 305</u>
		Withdrawn from further consideration	<u>HJ 305</u>