2023 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

SB 2081

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee
Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2081
1/10/2023

Relating to maternity hospitals, maternity homes, and medical hospitals

9:00 AM **Madam Chair Lee called the hearing to order. Senators Lee, Cleary, Clemens, K. Roers, Weston. Senator Hogan** was absent**.**

Discussion Topics:

- Removing licenses
- Regulated maternity facility
- Economic services
- Adoption
- Safe place

9:02 AM **Cory Pedersen, Director of the Children and Family Services Section with the Department of Health and Human Services** testimony with changes in favor #12706

9:06 AM ***Christopher Dodson Executive Director and General Counsel ND Catholic Conference*** verbal testimony in favor

9:10 AM **Senator Lee** closed hearing.

Senator Lee asks for motion.

Senator K. Roers moved **DO PASS.**

Senator Cleary seconded.

Senators	Y/N/AB		Senators	Y/N/AB
Senator Lee	Y		Senator K. Roers	Y
Senator Cleary	Y		Senator Weston	Y
Senator Clemens	Y		Senator Hogan	Y

Senator Hogan was absent; the vote was held open. Senator Hogan voted yes on SB 2081 in the afternoon of January 10, 2023.

Final vote: 6-0-0

Senator Weston carries SB 2081

9:13 AM **Madam Chair Lee** closed the meeting.

Patricia Lahr, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2081: Human Services Committee (Sen. Lee, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2081 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

2023 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

SB 2081

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee
Pioneer Room, State Capitol

SB 2081
3/7/2023

Relating to maternity hospitals, maternity homes, and medical hospitals.

Chairman Weisz called the meeting to order at 10:19 AM.

Chairman Robin Weisz, Reps. Karen A. Anderson, Mike Beltz, Clayton Fegley, Kathy Frelich, Dawson Holle, Dwight Kiefert, Carrie McLeod, Todd Porter, Brandon Prichard, Karen M. Rohr, Jayme Davis, and Gretchen Dobervich present. Vice Chairman Matthew Ruby not present.

Discussion Topics:

- Regulated facilities
- Licensing requirements

Cory Pederson, Director of the Children and Family Services Section with the Department of Human Services, supportive testimony (#22439).

Chairman Weisz closed the hearing on SB 2081 at 10:23 AM.

Rep. Porter moved a do pass on SB 2081.

Seconded by Rep. Anderson.

Roll Call Vote:

Representatives	Vote
Representative Robin Weisz	Y
Representative Matthew Ruby	AB
Representative Karen A. Anderson	Y
Representative Mike Beltz	Y
Representative Jayme Davis	Y
Representative Gretchen Dobervich	Y
Representative Clayton Fegley	Y
Representative Kathy Frelich	Y
Representative Dawson Holle	Y
Representative Dwight Kiefert	Y
Representative Carrie McLeod	Y
Representative Todd Porter	Y
Representative Brandon Prichard	Y
Representative Karen M. Rohr	Y

Motion carries 13-0-1.

Carried Rep. Anderson.

Chairman Weisz adjourned the meeting at 10:25 AM.

Phillip Jacobs, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2081: Human Services Committee (Rep. Weisz, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2081 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

TESTIMONY

SB 2081

NORTH Dakota | Health & Human Services
Be Legendary.

Testimony
Senate Bill 2081
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Judy Lee, Chairman
January 10, 2023

Chairman Lee, and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Cory Pedersen, Director of the Children and Family Services Section with the Department of Health and Human Services (Department). I appear before you to support Bill 2081, which was introduced at the request of the Department.

The bill proposes to remove the current North Dakota Century Code requirement for licensure of "maternity homes" by the Department.

Section 1. The proposed changes outlined in this section replaces "the licensed maternity medical hospital or home" in section 23-41-04 of the North Dakota Century Code with "the medical hospital" and replaces "maternity hospital" with "medical hospital" when referencing requirements related to "birth report of child with special health care needs".

Section 2. The changes proposed to section 50-06-05.1 of the North Dakota Century Code on page 2, line 26; page 3, line 5; page 8, line 2; and page 8, line 11 is to remove licensing of maternity hospitals from the powers and duties from the Department.

Section 3. On page 11, line 31, the Department proposes to repeal chapter 50-19 of the North Dakota Century Code, Maternity Homes. This repeal of language would remove reference to "maternity homes" as a regulated facility as maternity homes are specific to the housing of a mother in need of a safe housing and programming, but not to medically birth the infants.

Historically, the Department through its Children and Family Services section has completed onsite licensing of two provider agencies in North Dakota. Maternity homes work closely with various service providers to meet

the needs of the mother and child prior to and after birth including economic assistance, medical services, safe housing supports and in certain circumstances a referral to licensed adoption agency. Maternity homes operate much like an abused adult resource center or domestic violence shelter; neither which require a license from the Department to operate and serve the public.

In evaluating the law, the Department would propose a repeal of the law, given the model is not specific to serving children in child welfare, but rather has supported adult women needing a safe place to live prior to delivery of their infant or for a short period of time after the delivery of the infant.

The changes to this section would offer an efficiency for the Department and the two vendors, St. Gianna's in Warsaw and Perry Center in Fargo, both of which are in support of removing the regulation to operate with a license. Neither vendor receives any Department funding to operate and removing the requirement to be licensed will not disrupt service delivery as the programs could continue to support and serve clients ongoing.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to try to answer any questions the committee may have. Thank you.

NORTH Dakota | Health & Human Services
Be Legendary.

Testimony
Senate Bill 2081
House Human Services Committee
Representative Robin Weisz, Chairman
March 7th, 2023

Chairman Weisz, and members of the House Human Services Committee, I am Cory Pedersen, Director of the Children and Family Services Section with the Department of Health and Human Services (Department). I appear before you to support Bill 2081, which was introduced at the request of the Department.

The bill proposes to remove the current North Dakota Century Code requirement for licensure of "maternity homes" by the Department.

Section 1. The proposed changes outlined in this section replaces "the licensed maternity medical hospital or home" in section 23-41-04 of the North Dakota Century Code with "the medical hospital" and replaces "maternity hospital" with "medical hospital" when referencing requirements related to "birth report of child with special health care needs".

Section 2. The changes proposed to section 50-06-05.1 of the North Dakota Century Code on page 2, line 26; page 3, line 5; page 8, line 2; and page 8, line 11 is to remove licensing of maternity hospitals from the powers and duties from the Department.

Section 3. On page 11, line 31, the Department proposes to repeal chapter 50-19 of the North Dakota Century Code, Maternity Homes. This repeal of language would remove reference to "maternity homes" as a regulated facility as maternity homes are specific to the housing of a mother in need of a safe housing and programming, but not to medically birth the infants.

Historically, the Department through its Children and Family Services section has completed onsite licensing of two provider agencies in North Dakota. Maternity homes work closely with various service providers to meet

the needs of the mother and child prior to and after birth including economic assistance, medical services, safe housing supports and in certain circumstances a referral to licensed adoption agency. Maternity homes operate much like an abused adult resource center or domestic violence shelter; neither which require a license from the Department to operate and serve the public.

In evaluating the law, the Department would propose a repeal of the law, given the model is not specific to serving children in child welfare, but rather has supported adult women needing a safe place to live prior to delivery of their infant or for a period of time after the delivery of the infant.

The changes to this section would offer an efficiency for the Department and the two agencies, St. Gianna's in Warsaw and Perry Center in Fargo, both of whom are in support of removing the regulation to operate with a license. Neither agency receives any Department funding to operate and removing the requirement to be licensed will not disrupt service delivery as the programs could continue to support and serve mothers and infants ongoing.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to try to answer any questions the committee may have. Thank you.