2023 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

SB 2153

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee
Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2153
1/18/2023

Relating to the core functions of public health units.

9:40 AM **Madam Chair Lee** called the hearing to order.
Senators Lee, Cleary, Clemens, K. Roers, Weston, Hogan were present.

Discussion Topics:

- Public health units
- Rules
- Maternal child health status
- Health assessments
- Vaccines
- Nutrition
- Mental health crisis

9:41 AM **Senator Lee** introduced SB 2153

9:42 AM **Mary Korsmo, Executive Director of the ND State Association of City and County Health Officials,** testified in favor. #14023

9:43 AM **Genny Dienstmann, ND Association of Counties State Health Counsel,** testified in favor. #13813

9:49 AM **Theresa Will, Administrator at City County Health District in Valley City, ND,** testified in favor. #14229

9:55 AM **Lisa Clute, Executive Officer, First District Health Unit in Minot, ND** verbally testified in favor.

10:05 AM **Madam Chair Lee** closed the hearing.

Patricia Lahr, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee
Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2153
1/18/2023

Relating to the core functions of public health units.

2:16 PM **Madam Chair Lee called the hearing to order.**
Senators Lee, Cleary, Clemens, K. Roers, Weston, Hogan were present.

Discussion Topics:

- Vaccines available
- Establishing baseline services
- County public health units

Senator Hogan moved DO Pass
Senator Cleary seconded.

Roll call vote:

Senators	Vote
Senator Judy Lee	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	Y
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Kathy Hogan	Y
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Kent Weston	Y

Motion passed. 6-0-0

Senator Hogan will carry SB 2153.

2:22 PM **Madam Chair Lee** closed the hearing.

Patricia Lahr, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2153: Human Services Committee (Sen. Lee, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2153 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

2023 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

SB 2153

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee
Pioneer Room, State Capitol

SB 2153
3/1/2023

Relating to the core functions of public health units.

Chairman Weisz called the meeting to order at 2:32 PM.

Chairman Robin Weisz, Vice Chairman Matthew Ruby, 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. All present.

Discussion Topics:

- Public health units
- Disease prevention
- Past disease outbreaks
- Immunizations

Mary Korsmo, Executive Director of the North Dakota State Association of City & County Health Officials, supportive testimony (#21480).

Sen. Lee, spoke in support.

Genny Dienstmann, North Dakota Association of Counties, supportive testimony (#21328).

Teresa Will, Administrator at City-County Health District in Valley City, North Dakota, supportive testimony (#21358).

Additional written testimony:

Brenda Stallman, Executive Officer of Traill District Health Unit in Hillsboro, supportive testimony (#21522).

Chairman Weisz adjourned the meeting at 3:00 PM.

Phillip Jacobs, Committee Clerk

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee
Pioneer Room, State Capitol

SB 2153
3/13/2023

Relating to the core functions of public health units.

Chairman Weisz called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Chairman Robin Weisz, Vice Chairman Matthew Ruby, 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. All present.

Discussion Topics:

- Committee work

Chairman Weisz called for a discussion on SB 2153.

Rep. Beltz moved a do pass on SB 2153.

Seconded by Rep. Dobervich.

Roll Call Vote:

Representatives	Vote
Representative Robin Weisz	Y
Representative Matthew Ruby	Y
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	AB
Representative Karen M. Rohr	AB

Motion carries 12-0-2.
Carried by Rep. Davis.

Chairman Weisz adjourned the meeting at 4:05 PM.

Phillip Jacobs, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2153: Human Services Committee (Rep. Weisz, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2153 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

TESTIMONY

SB 2153

Testimony Prepared for the
Senate Human Services Committee
January 18, 2023. By Genny Dienstmann
North Dakota Association of Counties

RE: Senate Bill 2153

Chair Lee and Senate Human Services Committee members, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2153. I am Genny Dienstmann with the ND Association of Counties. I also served as a member of the ND Health Council from 2013 through May 2021 and was Chair of the ND Health Council from November 2017 through November 2020.

During my tenure on the Health Council, we handled a number of issues, including updating TENORM rules, creating/passing administrative rules for medical marijuana and creating core functions for a public health unit. Unfortunately I, along with many others who worked on these core functions, were not aware they were not approved in Administrative Rules .

It is important to note, the Health Council worked directly with the ND Department Health staff and Local Public Health Units to create these core functions. There was full support from everyone involved and public input was also requested. We made a concerted effort that no additional responsibilities would be added to the core functions, so existing health units would not have to implement new services.

These core functions were brought to the full Health Council for review and approval, which passed unanimously. They were then forwarded to the ND Attorney General's Office for legal review and approval to be included in the Administrative Rules under the Department of Health.

It was brought to my attention during the 2021 legislative session, there was no clear definition of the core functions of a public health unit. After inquiring with the ND Department of Health and the Attorney General's Office, I was informed the rules exceeded the Department of Health's authority and therefore were not approved.

Chair Lee and committee members, I strongly support SB 2153 as written as it affirms what the Health Council intended to do in 2016/2017 when creating the core functions for a public health unit.

Testimony Prepared for the
Senate Human Services Committee
January 18, 2023
By: Mary Korsmo
ND State Association of City & County Health Officials
RE: Senate Bill 2153

Good morning, Chair Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee. My name is Mary Korsmo and I am the Executive Director of the ND State Association of City and County Health Officials (NDSACCHO). NDSACCHO is comprised of all 28 North Dakota local public health units and I am here this morning in support of SB 2153. This bill merely formalizes core functions of local public health units which are already being provided.

Genny Dienstmann, ND Association of Counties and former State Health Council member, along with Theresa Will, City-County Health District Administrator, will provide further background and comment.

Thank you for the opportunity to communicate our support for this bill.

Testimony – ND Senate Human Service Committee
1/18/2023
Theresa Will, RN, Administrator/Executive Officer
City-County Health District-Valley City

Good morning, Chairman Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee. My name is Theresa Will, and I am the Administrator at City-County Health District (CCHD) in Valley City. Our agency provides public health services for the citizens of Barnes County.

Many years ago, it was determined that all land in North Dakota would be in a public health unit. At that time, there was much to be learned about public health, which may have been the reason that core functions were not included in century code at that time.

Although public health continues to evolve and change as the science supports change, there are specific functions that should be required of each local public health unit. Providing the core functions listed within this bill, assures the public that every citizen will have access to a set of base services. All local public health units currently provide these core services and then augment those services to serve their communities most appropriately.

Testimony Prepared for the
House Human Services Committee
March 1, 2023
By Genny Dienstmann ND Association of Counties

RE: Senate Bill 2153

Chair Weisz and House Human Services Committee members, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2153. I am Genny Dienstmann with the ND Association of Counties. I also served as a member of the ND Health Council from 2013 through 2021 and was Chair of the ND Health Council from November 2017 through November 2020.

During my tenure on the ND Health Council, we were responsible for creating and/or passing a variety of administrative rules including medical marijuana, TENORM and creating/defining core functions of a public health unit. The Health Council worked directly with the ND Department Health staff and Local Public Health administrators to create these core functions as there was no clear definition in administrative rules or state statute that provided this definition. There was full support from all parties involved and public input was requested. We made certain no additional responsibilities would be included in these core functions so that existing health units would meet all requirements once passed.

These core functions were brought to the full Health Council for review and approval, which passed unanimously. They were then forwarded to the ND Attorney General's Office for legal review and approval to be included in the Administrative Rules under the Department of Health. Unfortunately, I, along with many others who worked on these core functions, were not aware they weren't approved in Administrative Rules in 2017.

During the 2021 legislative session, it was brought to my attention there was no clear definition of core functions of a public health unit. After inquiring with the ND Department of Health and ND Attorney General's Office, I was informed the rules exceeded the Department of Health's authority and therefore were not approved back in 2017.

Chair Weisz and committee members, I strongly support SB 2153 as written as it affirms what the ND Health Council, along with our health partners, intended to do in 2017 when defining the core functions for a public health unit.

Testimony – ND House Human Services Committee
SB2153
3/1/2023
Theresa Will, RN, Administrator/Executive Officer
City-County Health District-Valley City

Good morning, Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee. My name is Theresa Will. I am the Administrator at City-County Health District (CCHD) in Valley City. Our agency provides public health services for the citizens of Barnes County.

Many years ago (in 2001 I believe), it was determined that all land in North Dakota would be in a public health unit. At that time, there was much to be learned about public health, which may have been the reason that core functions were not included in century code at that time.

Local Public Health (LPH) works closely with community partners, such as hospitals and clinics to complete Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNA). Critical Access Hospitals are required, by law, to complete a CHNA every 3 years. In Barnes County CCHD works jointly with CHI Mercy Hospital to complete this assessment which involves surveying community members and looking at local data, then determining local gaps and needs. A Community Health Improvement plan based upon the assessment, is put in place and shared widely throughout the community. Availability of mental health services, youth drug use/abuse, youth depression/anxiety and not enough jobs with livable wages were noted in our 2021 CHNA.

Although public health continues to evolve and change as the science supports change, there are specific functions that should be required of each local public health unit. Providing the core functions listed within this bill, assures the public that every citizen will have access to a set of base services. All local public health units currently provide these core services and then augment those services to serve their communities most appropriately.

Testimony Prepared for the
House Human Services Committee
March 1, 2023
By: Mary Korsmo
ND State Association of City & County Health Officials
RE: Senate Bill 2153

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
North Dakota SACCHO

Good afternoon, Chair Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee. My name is Mary Korsmo and I am the Executive Director of the ND State Association of City and County Health Officials (NDSACCHO). NDSACCHO is comprised of all 28 North Dakota local public health units and I am here this morning in support of SB 2153. This bill merely formalizes core functions of local public health units which are already being provided.

Genny Dienstmann, ND Association of Counties and former State Health Council member, along with Theresa Will, City-County Health District Administrator, will provide further background and comment.

Thank you for the opportunity to communicate our support for this bill. We encourage a Do Pass recommendation.

3/1/23 **SB 2153-In Favor** **Brenda Stallman**
House Human Services Committee **Hillsboro, ND**

Hello, Chairman Weisz & Members of the House Human Services Committee,

My name is Brenda Stallman and I am the Executive Officer of Traill District Health Unit in Hillsboro. I offer this written testimony in support of SB 2153.

As with any business, private or public, clearly identifying core functions is essential for maximizing effectiveness and providing understanding of an agency's capabilities.

This bill does not place additional burdens on local public health departments, as each uses these core functions while addressing individual needs identified in their community health assessments.

It is important to have these functions itemized along with the existing public health structure outlined in the ND Century Code. Doing so will maintain consistency, prioritize decision making of local public health agencies, and promote the practice of responsible resource allocation.

Of equal importance, access to a description of core functions in the Century Code provides assurance to those who grant funding to local public health agencies. Additionally, citizens who need and depend on services provided by each local public health department can be assured of these core competencies.

Thank you for your consideration in favor of SB 2153.

Brenda Stallman

Hillsboro