2025 SENATE EDUCATION

SB 2043

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

SB 2043
1/15/2025

Relating to denial of or immediate revocation of a teaching license for crimes against a child and sexual offenses.

10:00 a.m. Chairman Beard called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Beard; Vice-Chairman Lemm; Senators: Axtman, Boschee, Gerhardt, and Wobbema.

Discussion Topics:

- Protection of school children
- State and federal jurisdictions

10:00 a.m. Senator Axtman, Education Committee, testified in favor.

10:03 a.m. Dr. Rebecca Pitkin, Executive Director of Education Standards and Practices Board, testified in favor and submitted testimony #29032.

10:05 a.m. Greg Kasowski, Children Advocacy Centers of ND, testified in favor.

10:07 a.m. Chairman Beard closed the hearing.

10:08 a.m. Senator Wobbema moved a Do Pass.

10:08 a.m. Senator Boschee seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Todd Beard	Y
Senator Randy D. Lemm	Y
Senator Michelle Axtman	Y
Senator Josh Boschee	Y
Senator Justin Gerhardt	Y
Senator Mike Wobbema	Y

Motion Passed 6-0-0

Senator Axtman will carry the bill.

Additional written testimony:

Jacob Thomsen, ND Family Alliance Legislative Action, submitted testimony #29149.

10:10 a.m. Chairman Beard adjourned the meeting.

Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
SB 2043 (25.8004.01000)

Education Committee (Sen. Beard, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2043 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

NDESPB
Education Standards and Practices Board

2718 Gateway Avenue, Suite 204
Bismarck, ND 58503
Phone: 701-328-9641 • www.nd.gov/espb

Testimony SB 2043
Senate Education Committee
January 15, 2025, 10:00 A.M.
Education Standards and Practice Board

Good morning, Chairman Beard, and members of the Senate Education Committee. My name is Rebecca Pitkin, and I am the Executive Director of the Education Standards and Practices Board. I represent our Board in support of SB 2043, a bill which relates to denial or immediate revocation of a teaching license for crimes against a child and sexual offenses.

When an individual with a teaching license is accused of a crime against a child and sexual offense, the Board convenes a special meeting as soon as possible and motions to offer a settlement agreement to immediately suspend the individual's teaching license. Upon a plea or being found guilty of any charge based on the underlying facts, the license is immediately and permanently revoked under N.D.C.C. § 15.1-13-25 (1) (c). The amendment in this bill (lines 18 and 21-23) provides for the same action for an equivalent federal charge because an individual may have committed a qualifying crime in another state or another country, or the crimes brought against the individual are under federal jurisdiction. Often times, we have seen that cases will move between state and federal jurisdictions for related crimes, and the Board should have the same remedies available to it to protect students no matter whether the case is brought in state or federal court. The central focus of this amendment is to protect the children in our schools and for the Board to be able to act quickly on a license upon a conviction for these crimes. The actions the Board takes against the individual's license is added to a national clearinghouse. Other states check their teaching applications against the clearinghouse listings in a national effort to protect children from those who may attempt to cross state lines. This bill prevents the Board from having to convene a second special meeting when the conviction changes jurisdictions, and the possibility of having to negotiate amendments to settlement agreements leaving a gap in licensure suspension.

Our Board urges a do pass on SB 2043.This concludes my testimony, and I will answer any questions.

Rebecca Pitkin, PhD
rpitkin@nd.gov
701.328.9646

NORTH DAKOTA Family Alliance LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Faith · Family · Freedom

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2043

Jacob Thomsen, Policy Analyst
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action
January 15, 2025

Chairman Beard and honorable members of the Senate Education Committee,

North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action would like to testify in support of Senate Bill 2043 and respectfully request that you render a "DO PASS" on this bill.

Our organization believes it is imperative that schools and children in the schools be free from the threat of sex offenders. This bill further lists sexual crimes against children and clarifies that these sexual crimes and equivalent federal charges are grounds for immediate revocation or denial of a teaching license. Our organization strongly believes in protecting children, which is exactly what this bill does.

For these reasons, North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action respectfully requests that you please vote Senate Bill 2043 out of committee with a "DO PASS" recommendation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony, and feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jacob Thomsen
Policy Analyst
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action

1515 Burnt Boat Dr., Suite C-148, Bismarck, ND 58503
jacob@NDfamilyalliance.org
701·355·6425
www.ndfamilyalliance.org

2025 HOUSE EDUCATION

SB 2043

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

SB 2043
3/5/2025

Relating to denial of or immediate revocation of a teaching license for crimes against a child and sexual offenses.

8:59 a.m. Chairman Heinert called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Heinert, Vice Chairman Schreiber- Beck, Representatives, Conmy, Hager, Hatlestad, Hauck, Heilman, Jonas, Longmuir, Maki, Marchall, Morton, Novak, Osowski

Discussion Topics:

- Revocation of teaching licenses

9:00 a.m. Senator Axtman introduced the bill and submitted testimony. #38833

9:01 a.m. Rebecca Pitkin, Executive Director, Education Standards and Practices Board, testified in favor and submitted testimony. #38470

9:04 a.m. Representative Novak moved a Do Pass.

9:04 a.m. Representative Longmuir seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Pat D. Heinert	Y
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	Y
Representative Liz Conmy	Y
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	AB
Representative Patrick R. Hatlestad	Y
Representative Dori Hauck	Y
Representative Matthew Heilman	Y
Representative Jim Jonas	Y
Representative Donald W. Longmuir	Y
Representative Roger A. Maki	Y
Representative Andrew Marschall	AB
Representative Desiree Morton	Y
Representative Anna S. Novak	Y
Representative Doug Osowski	Y

Motion carried: 12-0-2

Bill carrier: Representative Novak

Additional written testimony:

Jacob Thompson, Policy Analyst, ND Family Alliance Legislative Action, submitted testimony in favor. #38709

9:04 a.m. Chairman Heinert closed the hearing

Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
SB 2043 (25.8004.01000)

Education Committee (Rep. Heinert, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2043 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

NDESPB
Education Standards and Practices Board

2718 Gateway Avenue, Suite 204
Bismarck, ND 58503
Phone: 701-328-9641 • www.nd.gov/espb

Testimony Senate Bill 2043

Education Standards and Practices Board

March 5, 2025

Good morning, Chairman Heinert, 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 represent our Board in support of SB 2043, a bill which relates to denial or immediate revocation of a teaching license for crimes against a child and sexual offenses.

When an individual with a teaching license is accused of a crime against a child and sexual offense, the Board convenes a special meeting as soon as possible and motions to offer a settlement agreement to immediately suspend the individual's teaching license. Upon a plea or being found guilty of any charge based on the underlying facts, the license is immediately and permanently revoked under N.D.C.C. § 15.1-13-25 **(1)** (c). The amendment in this bill (lines 18 and 21-23) provides for the same action for an equivalent federal charge because an individual may have committed a qualifying crime in another state or another country, or the crimes brought against the individual are under federal jurisdiction. Often, we have seen that cases will move between state and federal jurisdictions for related crimes, and the Board should have the same remedies available to it to protect students no matter whether the case is brought in state or federal court. The central focus of this amendment is to protect the children in our schools and for the Board to be able to act quickly on a license upon a conviction for these crimes. The actions the Board takes against the individual's license is added to a national clearinghouse. Other states check their teaching applications against the clearinghouse listings in a national effort to protect children from those who may attempt to cross state lines. This bill prevents the Board from having to convene a second special meeting when the conviction changes jurisdictions, and the possibility of having to negotiate amendments to settlement agreements leaving a gap in licensure suspension.

Our Board urges a do pass on SB 2043.This concludes my testimony, and I will answer any questions.

Rebecca Pitkin, PhD
rpitkin@nd.gov

NORTH DAKOTA Family Alliance LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Faith · Family · Freedom

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2043

Jacob Thomsen, Policy Analyst
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action
March 5, 2025

Chairman Heinert and honorable members of the House Education Committee,

North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action would like to testify in support of Senate Bill 2043 and respectfully request that you render a "DO PASS" on this bill.

Our organization believes it is imperative that schools and children in the schools be free from the threat of sex offenders. This bill further lists sexual crimes against children and clarifies that these sexual crimes and equivalent federal charges are grounds for immediate revocation or denial of a teaching license. Our organization strongly believes in protecting children, which is exactly what this bill does.

For these reasons, North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action respectfully requests that you please vote Senate Bill 2043 out of committee with a "DO PASS" recommendation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony, and feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jacob Thomsen
Policy Analyst
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action

1515 Burnt Boat Dr., Suite C-148, Bismarck, ND 58503
jacob@NDfamilyalliance.org
701·355·6425
www.ndfamilyalliance.org

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2043

by Sen. Michelle Axtman

House Education Committee
Wednesday, March 5, 2025

SB2043 allows for allows for an update to the process for revocation of a teaching license for crimes against a child and sexual offenses. Currently, upon a plea or being found guilty of one of these crimes, an individual with a teaching license has their license immediately and permanently revoked, as currently under century code. However, often the cases now move between state and federal jurisdiction, and the education standards and practices board does not have the same authority to immediately revoke the license. Currently the board has to convene to vote on the revocation, using resources and causing delays that leave a cap in licensure suspension and students at risk. SB 2043 would allow the board to take the same action, regardless of the change in jurisdiction,