

Senate Bill 2062
Government and Veterans Affairs
House Standing Committee
March 12, 2021

Testimony by Erica Houn, Business Manager
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Good morning, Chairman Kasper and members of the committee. My name is Erica Houn and I am the Business Manager for the State Historical Society. I am here today to testify in support of Senate Bill 2062. This bill would provide the State Historical Society with the authority to conduct criminal history record checks.

Currently, we have limited authority under OMB Fiscal policy 112 which requires an FBI criminal history background check for each individual who has access to personal information. For the purpose of that policy, the term "personal information" is limited to electronic information contained in the State's PeopleSoft system. We also have limited authority under NDCC 12-60-24 (2s) to conduct criminal history record checks for all employees or final applicants for employment as a security guard.

The State Historical Society has close to 80,000 objects in our museum collections. In the State Archives, there are over 2.5 million photographs, 121,000 publications, and 26,000 linear feet of manuscript and state and local government records. Of this, 4,000 linear feet of records are considered restricted, meaning they have personally identifiable information (PII) on them. PII can include birth/death records, social security numbers, and financial account information.

Additionally, the majority of our employees and volunteers are in possession of irreplaceable collection items every day, many of which are valuable. We also have many positions in public and children facing positions at the Heritage Center and our state historic sites.

Your approval of SB 2062 would provide the State Historical Society with an added measure in our hiring process and further safeguard citizen information and the valuable items entrusted to the agency.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I will stand for any questions that you may have.