

TESTIMONY OF REP. LAWRENCE R. KLEMIN
HOUSE BILL NO. 1117
SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
MARCH 17, 2021

Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. I am Lawrence R. Klemin, Representative from District 47 in Bismarck. I am here to testify in support of HB 1117 and to introduce the bill to you.

During the 2019-2020 interim between the Sessions, the interim Judiciary Committee was assigned the responsibility to study the civil commitment law in Chapter 25-03.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, and in particular, to determine whether steps could be taken to prevent and to decrease the incidence of violence committed by persons who are mentally ill. As a result of that study, HB 1034 was introduced relating to procedural aspects of preliminary treatment and involuntary treatment hearings. HB 1034 has now passed both the House and the Senate and is awaiting House concurrence with a minor amendment made in the Senate.

After the interim Judiciary Committee had adjourned sine die, I was contacted by Bismarck attorney Greg Runge concerning some additional amendments to Chapter 25-03.1. Mr. Runge specializes in representing respondents in civil commitment proceedings and had testified before the interim Judiciary Committee during the interim study. It was too late to go back to the interim Judiciary Committee because it had adjourned, so I agreed to sponsor a bill proposing additional changes to the civil commitment law. Those changes are now contained in HB 1117 and are mainly clarification and clean up revisions to the civil commitment law.

Mr. Runge is here to testify on HB 1117 and will go through the bill to explain it to the committee. Consequently, if you have questions about HB 1117, Mr. Runge will be able to answer them.

Thank you.

Rep. Lawrence R. Klemin
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee
District 47, Bismarck