



House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Testimony on HB 1414

North Dakota Game and Fish Department
Casey Anderson Wildlife Division Chief
February 3, 2023

Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Casey Anderson, Wildlife Division Chief for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (Department). I am testifying today in opposition of HB 1414.

Passage of this bill presents some challenges for the Department. The Department would need to determine historical records for former resident license buyers, and we would not have digital records for all of these former residents spanning an indefinite amount of time. We would need to determine sponsorship with an application and most likely development of an online application to accomplish this. The Department would need to determine who is eligible to be a sponsor, what level of relationship is a sponsor and how exactly to enforce or verify that information. These scenarios would create complications and require significant programming development.

This bill would allow an individual with this license to hunt 4 days consecutively or non-consecutively. The Department would need to determine how to handle these dates and if these dates are allowed to change after initial license purchase. Currently the non-resident upland license contains two 7-day periods that can be changed before each of the periods has started. This system has its challenges already and hunters being able to move individual days would only add to that systems challenges and would likely include additional programming and struggles for enforcement.

The Department is always working to keep licensing and regulations as simple as possible. North Dakota already offers a comparable or lower cost non-resident license compared to our neighboring state of South Dakota who we are often compared to in terms of pheasant success.

North Dakota -- \$100.00 for two – 7-day periods

South Dakota -- \$121.00 for two – 5-day periods

The fiscal note on this bill is hard to determine as we have no way of knowing if a non-resident license buyer still has a relative in the state. Also, programming costs are difficult to determine but the Department would expect significant changes.