

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF:

**Major Aaron Hummel, North Dakota Highway Patrol**

Chairman Wobbema, and members of the committee, my name is Aaron Hummel and I serve as chief of staff for the North Dakota Highway Patrol. The Highway Patrol supports the passage of HB 1279 for a couple of reasons. First, by removing the five-year requirement language, coverage provided under NDCC 65-01-15.1 is effective at the commencement of a full-time career of a covered employee. Second, removal of the requirement also provides recruitment incentive for law enforcement officers or fire-fighters who chose to accept employment in North Dakota from another state. Regarding additional changes this bill makes, it may be beneficial for the committee to know that there is neither a negative or positive impact to the Highway Patrol. Specifically, to the topic of requiring an employer to provide a medical exam at no expense, the Highway Patrol has funding for these exams and does already meet the requirements this bill would add.