

HB 1562
Senate Human Services Committee
March 5, 2025
Education Standards and Practices Board

Good morning, Chairman and members of the Committee. My name is Rebecca Pitkin, and I am the executive director of the Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB). I am here today to provide testimony in support of HB 1562 which requires, before initial licensure, completion of an interactive training module provided by the department of health and human services for mandated reporters of suspected child abuse or neglect, or other developed mandated reporter training, and to provide documentation. My testimony will address the way ESPB would manage the requirements.

The language of the bill requires initial license candidates to complete the training previously completed at the school district level. ESPB would handle this in the same way as the youth mental health competency requirements.

Senate Bill 2048 (64th Legislative Assembly) mandates a mental health competency course for all initial licenses. Those graduating from North Dakota institutions have this built into their preparation program and some teacher education programs currently require mandated reporter training as part of the student teaching seminar. The board may issue a provisional license for up to two years to a teacher licensure candidate that does not meet the requirements of the mental health competency.

If the bill becomes law, ESPB would request additional programming in our online ND Teach platform as is customary when changes are needed. The application would then contain language informing the applicant of the training requirements as well as including a place for them to upload their completion certificate. All website licensure information would be amended to reflect the changes so applicants are aware of this as they begin the process of obtaining an initial license.

ESPB anticipates a smooth transition, once programming is complete and will work with colleges and universities to ensure completion before initial licensing. This is important training that all licensed individuals need and ESPB will gladly support this requirements of this bill.

Thank you and this concludes my testimony.

Rebecca Pitkin, PhD
rpitkin@nd.gov
701.328.9646