

2021 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

HB 1076

2021 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1076
1/6/2021

Relating to the children's cabinet & to declare an emergency
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Chairman Weisz opened the hearing at 10:30 a.m.

Representatives	Roll Call
Representative Robin Weisz	P
Representative Karen M. Rohr	P
Representative Mike Beltz	P
Representative Chuck Damschen	P
Representative Bill Devlin	P
Representative Gretchen Dobervich	P
Representative Clayton Fegley	P
Representative Dwight Kiefert	P
Representative Todd Porter	P
Representative Matthew Ruby	P
Representative Mary Schneider	P
Representative Kathy Skroch	P
Representative Bill Tveit	P
Representative Greg Westlind	P

Discussion Topics:

- Needed flexibility for the chairman's position of the cabinet
- Removal of the sunset clause of July 31, 2025

Pamela Sagness, Department Human Services Behavioral Health Division (10:34) testified in favor and submitted testimony #103.

Representative Matthew Ruby made a motion for a **Do Pass**.

Rep. Gretchen Dobervich seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Robin Weisz	Y
Representative Karen M. Rohr	Y
Representative Mike Beltz	Y
Representative Chuck Damschen	A
Representative Bill Devlin	Y
Representative Gretchen Dobervich	Y
Representative Clayton Fegley	Y
Representative Dwight Kiefert	Y
Representative Todd Porter	A
Representative Matthew Ruby	Y

Representative Mary Schneider	Y
Representative Kathy Skroch	Y
Representative Bill Tveit	Y
Representative Greg Westlind	Y

Motion passed 12-0-2

Bill Carrier: Representative Mike Beltz

Additional written testimony: #34

Chairman Weisz adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Tamara Krause, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1076: Human Services Committee (Rep. Weisz, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS**
(12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1076 was placed on the
Eleventh order on the calendar.

Testimony
House Bill 1076 - Department of Human Services
House Human Services Committee
Representative Robin Weisz, Chairman

January 6, 2021

Chairman Weisz and members of the Human Services Committee, I am Pamela Sagness Behavioral Health Division and Executive Policy Director for the Department of Human Services (Department). I appear today to provide testimony in support of House Bill 1076.

The Department provides the children's cabinet with staffing and administrative services. We support the changes proposed in this bill and believe the intent of the Children's Cabinet to coordinate broad-based leadership across programs, agencies, branches of government, and tribal nations to meet the needs of children is essential to improve services to children and families. We look forward to continuing to support this effort.

This concludes my testimony and I am available to answer any questions.

Testimony Prepared for the
House Human Services Committee

January 5, 2021

By: Kim Jacobson, Agassiz Valley Human Service Zone Director

RE: House Bill 1076 – Children’s Cabinet Governness

Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Service Committee, my name is Kim Jacobson. I serve as the Director of Agassiz Valley Human Service Zone which includes the service area of Traill and Steele Counties. In addition, I am a current member of the North Dakota Children’s Cabinet appointed by Governor Burgum as a community representative. . Please consider my testimony in support of House Bill 1076.

The Children’s Cabinet was enacted during the 66th Legislative Assembly. The purpose of the cabinet is to “*assess, guide, and coordinate the care of children across the state’s branches of government and the tribal nations.*” This is unique and purpose-filled cabinet focusing on broad scale children’s issues, systems, programs, and policy. Under this capacity, we work together to listen, learn, ask questions, study, and recommend how to best provide comprehensive services and supports to children and their families.

During the recent interim, the inaugural Children’s Cabinet was selected and organized. As a newly formed cabinet, we have been becoming acquainted with our role, defining our work plan, and begun to learn together during our quarterly meetings. There remains much important work to be done. The changes offered by SB 1076, provide technical clarifications to existing language, and helps to support the future role and effectiveness of the Children’s Cabinet.

I support the technical correction to the overall timeline for the Children's Cabinet. The vision and intent of the cabinet was not for a few years' initiative, but rather meaningful and ongoing way to improve communications, oversight, visioning, and planning with a specialty focus of children's issues. I also support the flexibility proposed in Children's Cabinet Chair assignment. Appointment discretion is critical to support a well-fitted legislatively appointed cabinet chair to lead the cabinet.

For your consideration, I offer one additional item for your consideration and improvement to existing law. During the 66th Legislative Assembly, two different groups were formed that have relationship to each other. This includes the Children's Cabinet and the Commission on Juvenile Justice. The Commission on Juvenile Justice is detailed in NDCC 50-06-43.2 and requires oversight and report to the Children's Cabinet. However, the language in NDCC 50-06-43.1 does not clearly state this duty and responsibility.

It is important that roles and scope of duty be clear so that both groups understand relationships and roles. To remedy, NDCC 50-06-43.1 may be amended to contain complimentary language respective to the role and scope of duty of the Children's Cabinet with the Commission on Juvenile Justice as provided for in NDCC 50-06-43.2.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1076. I am available to the committee for any questions or follow-up.

2021 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

HB 1076

2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee Sakakawea Room, State Capitol

HB 1076
3/3/2021

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 50-06-43.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the children's cabinet; and to declare an emergency.

Madam Chair Lee opened the hearing on HB 1076 at 4:41 p.m. Members present: Lee, K. Roers, Hogan, Anderson, Clemens, O. Larsen.

Discussion Topics:

- Sunset clause

[4:42] Senator K. Roers. Introduced HB 1076 and provided the committee with testimony #7353 in favor from primary sponsor Representative Bill Devlin.

[4:43] Pamela Sagness, Director, Behavioral Health Division, DHS. Provided testimony #7290 in favor.

Senator Hogan moves **DO PASS**.

Senator Clemens seconded.

Senators	Vote
Senator Judy Lee	Y
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Howard C. Anderson, Jr.	Y
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Kathy Hogan	Y
Senator Oley Larsen	Y

The motion passed 6-0-0

Senator Hogan will carry HB 1076.

Additional written testimony: N/A

Madam Chair Lee closed the hearing on HB 1076 at 4:45 p.m.

Justin Velez, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1076: Human Services Committee (Sen. Lee, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1076 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

Good afternoon Chairman Lee and the esteemed members of the Senate Human Services Committee. For the record, I am Representative Bill Devlin of District 23 which is made up of four & one-half counties in Eastern North Dakota. I live in Finley.

HB 1076 is a housekeeping bill in every sense of the word.

Veteran members of this committee will remember that we made a change last session which provided that the Chairman of the Children's Cabinet would not be from the Executive Branch as proposed but instead would be chaired by a legislator.

Specifically, the bill last session named the Chairman of Legislative Management as Chairman of the Children's Cabinet. As the Children's Cabinet worked through issues during the interim, we came to realize that we should have provided more flexibility to the chairman's position.

We believe there will be times in the future when the Chairman of Legislative Management might prefer if others in the legislature could be chairman. There are certainly people on this committee and others in both chambers who may provide some additional expertise to chair the cabinet in the future. We want to allow this flexibility and that is what this bill does.

The membership of the committee, which is listed on the first page of the bill remains unchanged. The duties of the committee, which appears on page two of the bill also is unchanged.

The only other change is minor as the bill removes the sunset clause of July 31, 2025 as we believe the Children's Cabinet will provide many positive things for years to come. The bill has the emergency clause as we wanted to give the Chairman of Legislative Management a full range of options, even during this session, if needed.

That is the bill, Chairman Lee and Committee members. I would certainly stand for any questions but believe this bill deserves quick passage by the committee and I urge a do pass recommendation.

Thank you, Chairman Lee and members of the committee, for your attention this afternoon.

Testimony
House Bill 1076 - Department of Human Services
Senate Services Committee
Senator Judy Lee, Chairman

March 3, 2021

Chairman Lee and members of the Human Services Committee, I am Pamela Sagness Behavioral Health Division and Executive Policy Director for the Department of Human Services (Department). I appear today to provide testimony in support of House Bill 1076.

The Department provides the children's cabinet with staffing and administrative services. We support the changes proposed in this bill and believe the intent of the Children's Cabinet to coordinate broad-based leadership across programs, agencies, branches of government, and tribal nations to meet the needs of children is essential to improve services to children and families. We look forward to continuing to support this effort.

This concludes my testimony and I am available to answer any questions.