

2025 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

HB 1039

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE PIONEER ROOM, STATE CAPITOL

HB 1039
1/14/2025

Relating to the definition of licensee eligible for participation in the physician health program.
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3:34 pm Chairman M. Ruby opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman M. Ruby, Vice Chairman Frelich, Representatives Anderson, Beltz, Bolinske, Davis, Dobervich, Fegley, Hendrix, Holle, Kiefert, Rios, Rohr

Discussion Topics:

- Former licensees
- Monitoring of licensees

3:34 pm Sandra DePountis, Executive Director of the North Dakota Board of Medicine, testified in support, and submitted testimony #29040.

3:43 pm Chairman M. Ruby adjourned the meeting.

Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk

**BOARD OF
MEDICINE**

Established 1890

4204 Boulder Ridge Rd Suite 260
Bismarck, ND 58503-6162Phone (701) 450-4060 • Fax (701) 989-6392
www.ndbom.org**HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
JANUARY 14, 2025****TESTIMONY OF
NORTH DAKOTA BOARD OF MEDICINE
HOUSE BILL NO. 1039**

Chair Ruby, members of the Committee, I'm Sandra DePountis, Executive Director of the North Dakota Board of Medicine, appearing on behalf of the Board to present House Bill 1039 relating to the North Dakota Professional Health Program (PHP).

For those not familiar with the PHP, the PHP facilitates the rehabilitation of healthcare providers who have physical or mental health conditions that could compromise public safety, and to monitor their recovery. It's a safe place for our licensees to go to get the help they need – whether it be from burnout or a substance use disorder. The PHP evaluates the needs of every individual and utilizes its resources to match them with appropriate treatment to create an individualized monitoring program.

Currently, this program is offered to licensees under the jurisdiction of the Board of Medicine, and those applying for a license. Last session, Senate Bill 2098 passed and extended the program to students enrolled in medical school or physician assistant school.

This current bill looks to again extend the program – this time to “former” licensees. This would cover individuals who were a part of the program and, for whatever reason, are no longer licensed. For example, a licensee who has a substance use disorder and is not safe to practice, and therefore their license is suspended. By allowing such individuals to continue or be eligible for enrollment with the PHP, they have a better chance of getting their license back after rehabilitation and treatment. The PHP is there for them every step of the way, providing support

Mission Statement

The Board's mission is to protect the public's health, safety and welfare by regulating the practice of medicine, thereby ensuring quality health care for the citizens of this state.

and monitoring, working with them to get them back to a place where they are safe to practice and back into the workforce. Another example is a licensee who wishes to retire, however, still wants/needs the monitoring of the program. The language of this bill would allow for Board funds to be used to cover the continued participation of its licensees who need its accountability and monitoring.

Thank you for your time and attention and I would be happy to answer any questions.

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE PIONEER ROOM, STATE CAPITOL

HB 1039
1/15/2025

Relating to the definition of licensee eligible for participation in the physician health program.

2:38 p.m. Chairman Ruby called the meeting to order.

Members present: Chairman Ruby, Vice Chairman Frelich, Representatives Anderson, Beltz, Bolinske, Davis, Dobervich, Fegley, Hendrix, Holle, Kiefert, Rios, Rohr

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

2:38 p.m. Representative Anderson moved Do Pass.

2:38 p.m. Representative Dobervich seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Matthew Ruby	Y
Representative Kathy Frelich	Y
Representative Karen Anderson	Y
Representative Mike Beltz	Y
Representative Macy Bolinske	Y
Representative Jayme Davis	Y
Representative Gretchen Dobervich	Y
Representative Cleyton Fegley	Y
Representative Jared Hendrix	Y
Representative Dawson Holle	Y
Representative Dwight Kiefert	Y
Representative Nico Rios	Y
Representative Karen Rohr	Y

2:39 p.m. Motion passed 13-0-0.

Representative Rohr will carry the bill.

Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1039 ([25.8001.01000](#))

Human Services Committee (Rep. M. Ruby, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1039 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2025 SENATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

HB 1039

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Workforce Development Committee Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

HB 1039
2/20/2025

Relating to the definition of licensee eligible for participation in the physician health program.

3:11 p.m. Chairman Wobbema called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Wobbema, Vice-Chairman Axtman, Senator Boschee, Senator Larson, Senator Powers.

Discussion Topics:

- Physician Health Program Eligibility Changes
- Board Jurisdiction

3:11 p.m. Sandra Deontis, Executive Director of ND Board of Medicine, testified in favor and submitted testimony #38080.

3:15 p.m. Maggie Seamands, Executive Director of ND Professional Health Plan, testified in favor.

3:20 p.m. Senator Axtman moved Do Pass.

3:20 p.m. Senator Powers seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Mike Wobbema	Y
Senator Michelle Axtman	Y
Senator Josh Boschee	Y
Senator Diane Larson	Y
Senator Michelle Powers	Y

Motion passed 5-0-0.

Senator Axtman will carry the bill.

3:22 p.m. Chairman Wobbema adjourned the meeting.

Andrew Ficek, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1039 ([25.8001.01000](#))

Workforce Development Committee (Sen. Wobbema, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1039 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar. This bill affects workforce development.



4204 Boulder Ridge Rd Suite 260
Bismarck, ND 58503-6162
Phone (701) 450-4060 • Fax (701) 989-6392
www.ndbom.org

SENATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 20, 2025

TESTIMONY OF
NORTH DAKOTA BOARD OF MEDICINE
HOUSE BILL NO. 1039

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