

2025 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1078

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

GOVERNMENT VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

PIONEER ROOM, STATE CAPITOL

HB 1078

1/16/2025

Relating to the reimbursement of certain medical expenses for North Dakota national guard members: and to declare an emergency.

10:30 a.m. Chairman Schauer called the meeting to order.

Members present: Chairman Schauer, Representatives Bahl, Brown, Christy, Grindberg, Karls, McLeod, Rohr, Schneider, Steiner, VanWinkle, Vetter, Wolff

Members absent: Vice Chairman Satrom

Discussion Topics:

- Protections for active-duty members.

10:31 a.m. Jackie Huber, Deputy Adjutant General, testified in favor and submitted testimony, #29213.

10:43 a.m. Chairman Schauer closed the hearing.

10:43 a.m. Representative Rohr moved Do Pass.

10:43 a.m. Representative Grindberg seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Austen Schauer	Y
Representative Bernie Satrom	AB
Representative Landon Bahl	AB
Representative Collette Brown	Y
Representative Josh Christy	Y
Representative Karen Grindberg	Y
Representative Karen Karls	Y

Representative Carrie McLeod	Y
Representative Karen Rohr	Y
Representative Mary Schneider	Y
Representative Vicky Steiner	Y
Representative Lori VanWinkle	Y
Representative Steve Vetter	Y
Representative Christina Wolff	Y

10:44 a.m. Motion passed 12-0-2.

Representative Schneider will carry the bill.

Additional written testimony:

Lonnie Wangen, North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, submitted testimony in favor #29411.

Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1078 ([25.8104.01000](#))

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Schauer, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1078 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

TESTIMONY OF
BRIGADIER GENERAL JACKIE HUBER
NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD
BEFORE THE
HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
16 JANUARY 2025
HOUSE BILL 1078

Thank you, Chairman Schauer and members of the committee, for the record I am Jackie Huber, the Deputy Adjutant General of the North Dakota National Guard. I am here today to testify in support of HB 1078 that would extend medical protection for our service members who have been injured or fallen ill as a direct result of their duties on state active-duty missions.

North Dakota's National Guard answers the call to serve during emergencies and other critical missions, placing themselves in harm's way for the good of our state and its people. When they are called to duty within the state, they are subject to the same risks of injury and illness as they would be on federal missions. Unfortunately, the protections and support provided after their state active-duty assignments conclude are not always as comprehensive as those offered for federal service.

This legislation aims to fill that gap by ensuring that all service members are covered for medical care, rehabilitation, and related treatments necessary to address injuries or illnesses they incurred while on state active duty. Such protections are crucial, not only for the well-being of the individuals who serve but also to maintain a strong and ready force. By offering these protections, we demonstrate to our service members that we honor their sacrifices and are committed to supporting them, not just during missions but long after they end.

Many neighboring states have implemented similar policies, recognizing that an injured or ill service member's recovery process is often lengthy, and the absence of guaranteed medical protection can lead to financial and physical hardship. In some cases, without continued coverage, service members may face significant out-of-pocket costs for injuries directly tied to their service to our state. Additionally, this kind of assurance strengthens morale, as service members are aware that they have support in their times of need.

The legislation before us provides a straightforward but critical promise: that if you serve North Dakota and are injured or become ill in the line of duty, we will support your journey to recovery without unnecessary burden. Extending these protections is the right thing to do and aligns with North Dakota's long-standing tradition of valuing and supporting those who serve.

I urge this committee and our legislature to pass this legislation, ensuring that our service members have the necessary protections and support they deserve.

Thank you and I will stand for questions.

HB 1078

North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs
Lonnie Wangen-Commissioner

1/16/2025

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
69th Legislative Session
Representative Schauer-Chair

Chairman Schauer and House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee,

Please accept this testimony in support of HB 1078.

Intent of this bill:

Amend medical benefit for ND National Guard members on State Active Duty (SAD) to match cover follow up or continuing medical care for injury or illness incurred on SAD.

Need for bill:

ND National Guard members are not covered by any federal military benefits while on SAD. While on SAD the members are working for the state of North Dakota under the orders of the Governor. Pay scale and benefits are set and provided by the state. Workforce Safety and Insurance, soldiers own insurance are used first.

Outcome of bill:

ND National Guard members will be properly covered in the event of injury and illness during SAD.

Thank you for your consideration.
Lonnie Wangen Commissioner-NDDVA

2025 SENATE AGRICULTURE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1078

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee

Fort Union Room, State Capitol

HB 1078

3/13/2025

A bill relating to the reimbursement of certain medical expenses for North Dakota national guard members; and to declare an emergency.

10:47 a.m. Chairman Luick opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Luick, Vice-Chair Myrdal, Senator Marcellais, Senator Weston, Senator Weber, Senator Lemm

Discussion Topics:

- Federal and state active-duty mission differences
- Sacrifice of service members
- Neighboring states statutes
- Lengthy recovery process and financial and physical hardships
- Initiation of coverage
- Remedy of last resort
- Workforce Safety and Insurance (WSI)

10:48 a.m. Colonel Patrick Flanigan, Chief of Staff for the ND National Guard, testified in favor.

10:56 a.m. Christopher J. Martens, attorney advisor for the ND National Guard, answered the committee's questions and submitted testimony #41085.

11:00 a.m. Senator Myrdal moved a Do Pass.

11:00 a.m. Senator Marcellais seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Larry Luick	Y
Senator Janne Myrdal	Y
Senator Randy D. Lemm	Y
Senator Richard Marcellais	Y
Senator Mark F. Weber	Y
Senator Kent Weston	Y

Motion passed 6-0-0.

Senator Marcellais will carry the bill.

11:01 a.m. Chairman Luick adjourned the meeting.

Audrey Oswald, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1078 ([25.8104.01000](#))

Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Luick, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1078 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

TESTIMONY OF
COLONEL PATRICK FLANAGAN
NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD
BEFORE THE
SENATE AGRICULTURE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
13 MARCH 2025
HOUSE BILL 1078

Thank you, Chairman Luick and members of the committee, for the record I am Colonel Patrick Flanagan, Chief of Staff for the North Dakota Army National Guard. I am here today to testify in support of HB 1078 that would extend medical protection for our service members who have been injured or fallen ill as a direct result of their duties on state active-duty missions.

North Dakota's National Guard answers the call to serve during emergencies and other critical missions, placing themselves in harm's way for the good of our state and its people. When they are called to duty within the state, they are subject to the same risks of injury and illness as they would be on federal missions. Unfortunately, the protections and support provided after their state active-duty assignments conclude are not always as comprehensive as those offered for federal service.

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