

**2025 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES**

**HB 1205**

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Human Services Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1205  
1/21/2025

relating to abandonment of infants in newborn safety devices; and to provide an appropriation.

2:52 p.m. Chairman M. Ruby opened the hearing.

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

Members absent: Vice-Chairman Frelich

### **Discussion Topics:**

- Safe-haven Baby Boxes
- Alternatives to abortion
- Knowledge that the child is safe

2:52 p.m. Representative Holle, District 31, testified in favor and submitted testimony, #30407.

3:00 p.m. Savannah Schmidt, foster mother, testified in favor and submitted testimony, #30225

3:07 p.m. Jacob Thomsen, Policy Analyst for North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action, testified in favor and submitted testimony, #30440

3:09 p.m. David Tamisiea, North Dakota Catholic Conference, testified in favor.

3:11 p.m. Bridget Turbide, Director of North Dakota Right to Life, testified in favor and submitted testimony, #30476

3:13 p.m. Kimberly Jacobson, Director of the Agassiz Valley Human Service Zone, testified in favor.

### **Additional written testimony:**

Vanessa Deibert submitted testimony in favor, #29965.

Miranda Maier submitted testimony in favor, #30274.

Alexa Lajimodiore submitted testimony in favor, #30465.

Jean Nasers, Christian Adoption Services, submitted testimony in favor, #30529.

3:16 p.m. Chairman M. Ruby closed the hearing.

*Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk*

Vanessa Deibert  
Regarding HB 1205  
January 19, 2025

My name is Vanessa Deibert and I am a resident of Mandan, ND as well as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the state of North Dakota.

I am submitting written testimony in support of HB1205 relating to abandonment of infants in newborn safety devices; and to provide an appropriation.

Prior to my work in clinical mental health, I worked in foster care adoption for close to ten years. During my time in adoption, we experienced multiple cases of what is referred to as 'safe haven babies', across the state. I had the opportunity to be the social worker assigned to two of these cases within the Bismarck area. Unfortunately, in one of the cases I was a part of, the parent was questioned by law enforcement and even threatened with criminal charges until Social Services became involved.

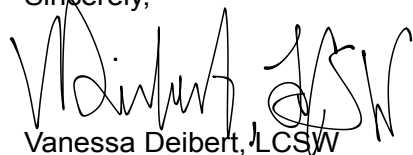
Parents who are choosing to utilize a safe haven law are usually in crisis mode to begin with. I cannot imagine how terrifying it was for this parent to think she was choosing a safe option for her child and then being met with questioning. I do not fault law enforcement as I realize this is not a common occurrence for many departments, especially in our rural areas. However, it is clear that additional education as well as newborn safety devices can be beneficial in our state.

I believe many people would like to think that there is not a need for a bill to ensure parents have a safe way to surrender their child; however, there are many circumstances that can lead parents to feeling like they do not have any other choice. By utilizing newborn safety devices, this would create an additional safe and anonymous way for a parent to surrender their child.

Developing protocol for newborn safety devices can decrease child abandonment and give parents an additional option for their child if they do not believe they can care for them adequately. Newborn safety devices save lives and are already being utilized in other states.

Thank you for reading this testimony. Your consideration of this matter and solutions are much appreciated.

Sincerely,



Vanessa Deibert, LCSW

Good afternoon Chairman Ruby and members of the Human Service Committee.

My name is SaVanna Schmidt. I am testifying in support of HB 1205 as a foster parent, and the adoptive mother of a Safe Haven Baby.

Babies are surrendered for Safe Haven here in North Dakota more often than people realize. There are many different unfortunate scenarios where a mother may suddenly find herself needing to take advantage of the Safe Haven Law. The Safe Haven Baby Box ensures a safe place for the baby, and a contactless surrender for the mother. In sensitive, difficult, and possibly dangerous situations, mothers may prefer to avoid contact with the staff members of an approved location. Without the Safe Haven Baby Box, a mother has no legal way to surrender her baby under the Safe Haven law without dealing directly with staff.

I have some examples to share with you today that highlight how the use of a Safe Haven Baby Box could have eliminated some complications in the following stories.

My husband and I adopted our daughter in 2020, but she was born in 2018. Safe Haven babies can usually be adopted shortly after a 6 month residency period. But this child was in foster care for over two years, and that could have been prevented with more awareness around Safe Haven procedure or with a Safe Haven Baby Box.

Her mother had delivered her at home, then traveled around a hundred miles to Bismarck to surrender her at a hospital here. Unfortunately, the mother's travel companion gave the mother's name to the hospital during the surrender. Possibly due to the lack of education around Safe Haven procedure, the hospital made the mistake of putting the mother's name on the baby's birth certificate. This created an issue for the baby's Safe Haven status, and the case was tied up in court for over two years.

So why did the mother travel a hundred miles to surrender her baby? Because a few years earlier, she had been detained while trying to surrender a baby near her hometown. Even though she was surrendering at a legal location, it was initially misunderstood to be abandonment.

Education, training, and awareness are necessary to make our Safe Haven law effective, and I was pleased to see that this bill provides for some of that. Safe Haven laws are designed to protect women in crisis, as well as their babies, but lack of awareness and training can result in not only unsafe abandonment and tragedy, but also unnecessary hardship for mothers or the surrendered children. In addition to awareness of the law, Safe Haven Baby Boxes give desperate mothers the essential option for a legal, contactless surrender.

The Safe Haven Baby Boxes paired with the awareness campaign proposed in this bill will save lives. Our Safe Haven baby is six years old today. She is beautiful, precocious and thriving, and the world is better because she is here.

Thank you for your attention.



I'm in support of safe haven boxes in North Dakota. As a mom of a safe haven baby and also a foster parent, I have seen so much over the years. I'm hoping that this would help with abuse/shaken baby syndrome, abandonment and much more. I believe this would help parents who are wanting to make this selfless decision for their children and also have their privacy protected. This will make their decision of surrendering their child and knowing that they will be safe.



# North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL  
600 EAST BOULEVARD  
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



## Representative Dawson Holle

District 31  
2185 54th Street  
Mandan, ND 58554-8731  
H: 701-445-7369  
C: 701-214-9506  
[dholle@ndlegis.gov](mailto:dholle@ndlegis.gov)

**COMMITTEES:**  
Human Services  
Political Subdivisions

1/21/2025

Good Afternoon Chairman Ruby and Members of the House Human Services Committee, For the record, my name is Dawson Holle, and I have the honor of representing the great people of District 31. Today, I come before you to introduce HB1205.

I want to start by painting two very different pictures for you.

In the first story, a maintenance worker hears a faint cry coming from behind a gas station dumpster. When he investigates, he finds a newborn baby—abandoned, cold, and wrapped in nothing but a towel. Thankfully, that baby survived. But the reality is, not all stories like this have happy endings. Across the country, too many infants are abandoned in unsafe, life-threatening conditions because their parents feel they have no other choice.

Now imagine another story. A mother, overwhelmed by fear and hopelessness, finds a Safe Haven Baby Box. She gently places her baby inside the climate-controlled, secure box. As soon as the door closes, first responders are alerted, and within minutes, her child is being cared for by medical professionals. This time, the mother walks away knowing she made the best choice to protect her baby.

This second story isn't just a hypothetical—it's a reality in states like Indiana, Ohio, and Arkansas. Safe Haven Baby Boxes have already saved dozens of lives. These are real children who are now growing up in loving families, given a second chance at life because their parents had access to a safe, compassionate option during a moment of crisis.

Here in North Dakota, we pride ourselves on being a state that values life, family, and community. Supporting this legislation isn't just about saving lives—it's about aligning with the principles we hold dear. It's about showing parents in crisis that they are not alone, and that there is hope.

HB1205 allows a mother to surrender her baby, under 60 days old, to a Safe Haven Baby Box. Each box costs about \$15,000, with an annual program fee of \$500. As you can see, I have an appropriation request of \$50,000, which would cover approximately 3 or 4 boxes.

Members of the committee, we cannot afford to wait. Every day that passes without Safe Haven Baby Boxes is another day where a parent in crisis may feel there is no safe option for their child. Every day represents another opportunity to save a life.

This legislation isn't just about baby boxes—it's about hope. It's about creating a lifeline for parents who feel trapped and giving every child the chance to grow up in a safe and loving environment.

Thank you for your time and I'll stand for questions.



How a Safe Haven Baby Box Works? Watch the video below

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4flui02-Bkc&t=34s>

## **ABOUT THE BABY BOX**

### **What does the installation of a baby box in a building require?**

Installing a Baby Box is as simple as installing a window in a building. It is very rare that a permit or additional alterations are needed on a building for installation. The Baby Box simply slides into the wall, insulation is added around the outside of the Baby Box, and it is sealed on both sides. The electronics in the Baby Box can be connected to a building's existing alarm system or will be set up with alarm monitoring with a 3rd party vendor.

### **How is the Baby Box safe in locations where there are extreme temperatures?**

There is a heating and cooling unit inside the baby box to work with the interior of the building to ensure the proper temperature is constant.

### **Are there security cameras to ensure the safety of emergency personnel?**

The only requirement for the Safe Haven Baby Box program is to not have a camera directly on the baby box. Cameras are allowed in all other areas around the building. To date, no location has had an issue with this requirement, nor has any location declined the Safe Haven Baby Boxes program because of it.

### **What happens if something fails on the Baby Box?**

Weekly testing and daily visual checks ensure the Baby Box is functioning properly. Should any issues arise, the Safe Haven Baby Box policy is to have a representative at the location hang a sign (provided) that the baby box is not in service and the door will be locked. Safe Haven Baby Boxes will immediately notify the hotline counselor(s) and update the website and other social media sites to show the location is temporarily not in service. The average time a Baby Box is out of service is about 5 business days.

### **What happens if the Baby Box Alarm fails?**

The Baby Box is set up with 3 alarms that are each triggered by an action and not dependent upon an initial alarm. Daily visual checks and weekly alarm tests ensure the function of a Baby Box. If a Baby Box loses power, the device initiates a 911 call. There is also a battery backup built in in case a location does not have a generator.

### **Has a baby box ever been improperly used?**

Not a single Baby Box has had damage or been vandalized in the past 4 years of being in service. Occasionally a curious person has opened the box without reading the sign about the alarm, but this is very rare. In December 2019, a crate of kittens was placed in a Baby Box. While this is an instance of improper use, it did serve as an opportunity to further educate the community and surrounding areas about the availability of the Baby Box and the Safe Haven law.



## **1. Have the Safe Haven Baby Boxes been tested?**

The Safe Haven Baby Box is tested. At every stage of design, development and deployment, the Box undergoes stringent testing. While there are no standards that exist, the Safe Haven Baby Box organization is developing standards by adopting the most stringent requirements.

The ultimate test came on November 7, 2017 at the CoolSpring Fire Department. A courageous mother anonymously surrendered Baby Hope in the Safe Haven Baby Box located in Michigan City, IN. After the notification system notified the first responders flawlessly, she was safely received and evaluated under the Safe Haven Baby Box Protocol for Surrender and the laws of Indiana. It is noted the Box performed within the design parameters and the surrender is considered legal under the Indiana Safe Haven law.

## **2. Why are the Safe Haven Boxes not regulated by the FDA or the CSPC?**

It has been determined by the FDA that the Safe Haven Baby Box, like the baby drawers in Arizona, is not a medical device and does not require FDA approval. The baby box and the baby drawer are not available for sale to the public and do not require CSPC regulation.

## **3. Are the Safe Haven Baby Boxes and baby drawers UL listed and approved?**

UL approval is not legally required and there is no legislation mandating certification by UL or any other agency, public or private in the US. SHBB partners with a third party for performance testing to ensure the baby boxes function properly.

## **4. Do baby boxes exist that are not from the Safe Haven Baby Boxes organization?**

Yes. In fact, "baby hatches" existed in one form or another for centuries and was quite common in medieval times. Modern versions appear in other countries, including Germany, Switzerland, Pakistan, and Malaysia.

Arizona also has baby drawers and are available at designated hospitals. (For more information, please see the back of this page.)

## **5. Is Safe Haven Baby Boxes the only organization that offers complete anonymity?**

For individuals contacting our National Safe Haven Crisis Hotline, contact is confidential and anonymous, should the caller wish. For individuals using our Safe Haven Baby Boxes, there are no cameras, so the individual remains anonymous.

The Hotline and counselors are supervised by a Clinical Staff Psychologist with over 25 years of crisis pregnancy hotline experience. We will not ask for a name. We do ask for location so we can provide information on the laws that apply and resources that may be available. Our goal is to provide the mothers-in-crisis with the resources that allow themselves to stabilize their situation and have time to make a decision that is in the best interest of themselves and their child.



### Testimony Supporting House Bill 1205

Jacob Thomsen, Policy Analyst  
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action  
January 21, 2025

Good afternoon, Chairman Ruby and honorable members of the House Human Services Committee. My name is Jacob Thomsen, and I am a Policy Analyst with North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action. I am testifying on behalf of our organization in support of House Bill 1205 and respectfully request that you render a "DO PASS" on this bill.

This bill supports North Dakota's longstanding history of being a pro-life state. Newborn safety devices are another important way to encourage adoption over abortion. In a state where it is incredibly common to know someone everywhere you go, it is important to have these boxes as protection of the parents' anonymity, as well as the baby's safety. These boxes provide a safe way to surrender a baby without face-to-face interaction, and they undoubtedly eliminate concerns of confidentiality. To address any questions or concerns about these boxes, I've attached a resource from Safe Haven Baby Boxes in the footnote of my testimony<sup>1</sup>.

This bill supports safe and confidential surrender of babies in our state. For these reasons, North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action respectfully requests that you render a "DO PASS" on House Bill 1205. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify, I will stand for any questions.

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<sup>1</sup> "Arguments Against SHBB: Responses," accessed January 20, 2025, [Link](#).

**HB1205 testimony**

My name is Alexa Lajimodiere. I am a resident of Fargo. My husband and I are adopting an infant who was surrendered in North Dakota under Safe Haven Law. I am writing to express my support for House Bill 1205.

HB1205 provides a clear definition of a "newborn safety device," specifying essential safety features such as being part of an approved location, 24/7 staffing, temperature control, ventilation, and an alarm system that notifies staff when an infant is placed in the device. It would allow parents to safely surrender their infant less than 60 days old in the devices without facing prosecution. By permitting the use of these devices, the bill offers parents a discreet alternative, potentially encouraging those who might otherwise abandon their infants in unsafe conditions to choose a secure and legal option.

Infants between 60-365 days can still be surrendered to an on-duty staff person at an approved location. This aspect of HB1205 is very important to our family because at the time of our daughter's surrender, she was older than 60 days. It would have been illegal to surrender her in any state other than ND or Iowa as all other states have significantly lower age limits for safe haven.

As a North Dakota resident, I believe that the implementation of newborn safety devices is a compassionate and practical solution to prevent tragic outcomes for infants whose parents may be in crisis. By providing a safe, anonymous, and legal option for surrendering infants, we can protect the most vulnerable members of our society and offer them a chance for a healthy future.

I urge the committee to support House Bill No. 1205, as it represents a proactive and humane approach to infant safety and well-being in North Dakota.



Thank you for your time and consideration.

Alexa Lajimodiere

Bridget Turbide  
Executive Director  
PO Box 551  
Bismarck, ND 58502  
(701) 955 - 8239  
director@ndrl.org



**Dear House Human Services Committee,**

I am testifying today in support of HB 1205, which seeks to expand our current Safe Haven laws by introducing Safe Haven Baby Boxes into our communities. These boxes will provide parents with the option to safely and anonymously surrender their infants in a secure environment.

This bill will not only offer a crucial resource for vulnerable parents but will also raise public awareness of Safe Haven laws, ultimately contributing to saving more infant lives. According to the National Safe Haven Alliance, 102 babies were saved through Safe Haven laws in 2023. These laws work—they give infants a second chance, and they allow loving families the opportunity to adopt and care for these children.

In North Dakota, we already have numerous success stories showcasing the positive impact of our Safe Haven laws. By adding physical Safe Haven Baby Boxes, we can further strengthen these efforts and ensure even more lives are protected.

I respectfully recommend a "due pass" for HB 1205 to implement this important resource in our state.

Sincerely,

Bridget Turbide



**Testimony of Jean Nasers  
Administrator of Christian Adoption Services**

**Before the North Dakota House Committee on Human Services on HB 1205**

**SUPPORT  
January 23, 2023**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and members of the Committee for providing the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of House Bill 1205. I am the administrator for Christian Adoption Services and a member of the ND Pregnancy Resource Network.

This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring the safety and well-being of infants while also providing parents with a compassionate alternative during moments of vulnerability. By enhancing the existing framework for newborn safety devices and procedures, we reaffirm our collective commitment to safeguarding the lives of our most vulnerable citizens.

However, I urge this committee to consider an important clarification within this bill. When an infant is safe havened in North Dakota, the path forward should not lead to the child entering the foster care system. Instead, private domestic adoption agencies (such as Catholic Charities of North Dakota, All About U Adoptions, and Christian Adoption Services) should be contacted promptly to provide these children with a stable, loving, and permanent home as quickly as possible. Such a measure not only secures the best outcomes for these children but also alleviates the financial and administrative burden on the state. Allocating resources to long-term foster care when viable adoption solutions are readily available represents an inefficient use of government funds and does not prioritize the child's need for permanency or the surrendering parent's intent.

This clarification would ensure that the intent of this bill—to provide immediate safety and long-term stability for abandoned infants—is fully realized. By partnering with adoption agencies, we can streamline this process and demonstrate a commitment to both fiscal responsibility and the best interests of these children. I thank the committee for its thoughtful consideration of this suggestion and its dedication to the well-being of North Dakota's families and children.

Sincerely,

Jean M Nasers

**West Fargo Office**  
2345 Meadow Ridge Parkway  
West Fargo, ND 58078  
701.237.4473

**Bismarck Office**  
PO Box 149  
Bismarck, ND  
58501  
701.354.3992

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Human Services Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1205  
1/27/2025

relating to abandonment of infants in newborn safety devices; and to provide an appropriation.
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4:21 p.m. Chairman M. Ruby opened the meeting.

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

Members Absent: Representative Rohr

### Discussion Topics:

- Committee work

4:26 p.m. Representative Davis moved to adopt the amendment LC #25.0559.02003.

4:26 p.m. Representative seconded the motion.

4:26 p.m. Voice vote - motion passed.

4:26 p.m. Representative Dobervich moved Do Pass as amended and rerefer to appropriations.

4:27 p.m. Representative Anderson 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	AB

4:28 p.m. Motion passed 12-0-1

Representative Rios will carry the bill.

4:29 p.m. Chairman M. Ruby closed the hearing.

*Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk*

January 27, 2025

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1205**

Introduced by

Representatives Holle, Bolinske, Meier, Pyle, M. Ruby, Schauer, S. Olson

Senators Boschee, Castaneda, Mathern, Weston, Larson

*gm 1-27-25*  
*1 of 4*

- 1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 50-25.1-15 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
2 relating to abandonment of infants in newborn safety devices; and to provide an appropriation.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

- 4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-25.1-15 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **50-25.1-15. Abandoned infant - Approved location procedure - Reporting immunity.**

- 7 1. As used in this section:

- 8 a. "Abandoned infant" means an infant who has been abandoned at birth at a  
9 hospital or before reaching the age of one year regardless of the location of birth  
10 and who has been left with an on-duty staff member or, if an infant is less than  
11 sixty days old, left in a newborn safety device, at an approved location in an  
12 unharmed condition.
- 13 b. "Approved location" means a hospital or other location as designated by  
14 administrative rule adopted by the department.
- 15 c. "Hospital" means a facility licensed under chapter 23-16.
- 16 d. "Newborn safety device" means a device that is:
- 17 (1) Physically part of the building at an approved location;  
18 (2) Staffed twenty-four hours a day seven days a week;  
19 (3) Temperature-controlled and ventilated for the safety of newborns;

JB 2 of 4

- 1                   (4) Equipped with a functional alarm system which automatically triggers an  
2                   alarm inside the building when an infant is placed in the device; and
- 3                   (5) Located in a manner that the interior point of access is in an area that is  
4                   conspicuous and visible to the employees of the approved location.
- 5           2.   a. A parent of an infant less than sixty days old, or an agent of the parent with the  
6               parent's consent, may leave the infant in a newborn safety device at an approved  
7               location.
- 8               b. A parent of an infant under the age of one year, or an agent of the parent with the  
9               parent's consent, may leave the infant with an on-duty staff member at an  
10              approved location. Neither the parent nor the
- 11              c. A parent or agent ~~who abandons an infant under this section~~ is not subject to  
12               prosecution under sections 14-07-15 and 14-09-22 for leaving an abandoned  
13               infant under this section.
- 14           3. An infant left under this section must be accepted at an approved location ~~shall accept~~  
15               an infant left under this section. The ~~An approved location is not required to possess a~~  
16               newborn safety device.
- 17           4. Except as provided in subsection 6, the approved location may request information  
18               regarding the parents and shall provide the parent or the agent with a medical history  
19               form and an envelope with the approved location's return address. If a hospital  
20               accepting the an infant has the infant's medical history, the hospital is not required to  
21               provide the parent or the agent with a medical history form. Neither the A parent nor  
22               the or agent is not required to provide any information.
- 23           4.5. Except as provided in subsection 6, if an infant is left at a hospital, the hospital shall  
24               provide the parent or the agent with a numbered identification bracelet to link the  
25               parent or the agent to the infant, unless due to birth of the infant, the infant and parent  
26               currently already have an identification bracelet. Possession of an identification  
27               bracelet does not entitle the bracelet holder to take custody of the infant on demand. If  
28               an individual possesses a bracelet linking the individual to an infant left at a hospital  
29               under this section and parental rights have not been terminated, possession of the  
30               bracelet creates a presumption that the individual has standing to participate in a



JB 384

- 1 protection services action brought under this chapter or chapter 27-20.3. Possession  
2 of the bracelet does not create a presumption of maternity, paternity, or custody.
- 3 ~~5-6.~~ If an abandoned infant is left in a newborn safety device at an approved location, the  
4 approved location may not inquire as to the identity of the parent or agent. Except as  
5 provided in subsection 10, if the identity of the parent or agent of the abandoned child  
6 is known to the approved location, the approved location shall keep all information as  
7 to the identity of the parent or agent of the abandoned child confidential. The parent or  
8 agent of the abandoned child is not required to provide any information to the  
9 approved location but may voluntarily provide information, including the medical  
10 history of the parents or infant.
- 11 7. The approved location may provide the parent or the agent with any relevant  
12 information, including:
- 13 a. Information about the safe place for abandoned infant programs;  
14 b. Information about adoption and counseling services; and  
15 c. Information about whom to contact if reunification is sought.
- 16 ~~6-8.~~ Within twenty-four hours of receiving an infant under this section, the approved  
17 location shall report to the department or authorized agent, as required by section  
18 50-25.1-03, that an infant has been left at ~~the~~an approved location. The report may not  
19 be made before the parent or the agent leaves the approved location.
- 20 ~~7-9.~~ The approved location and its employees and agents are immune from any criminal or  
21 civil liability for accepting an infant under this section.
- 22 ~~8-10.~~ Upon receiving a report of an abandoned infant under this section, the department or  
23 authorized agent shall proceed as required under this chapter if it appears that the  
24 abandoned infant was not harmed, except the department or authorized agent may  
25 not attempt to identify or contact the parent or the agent. If it appears the infant who  
26 was left was harmed, the approved location shall disclose to the department or  
27 authorized agent any known information as to the identity of the parent or agent, and  
28 the department or authorized agent shall initiate a child protection assessment of the  
29 matter as required by law.
- 30 ~~9-11.~~ If an individual claiming to be the parent or the agent contacts the department or  
31 authorized agent and requests to be reunited with ~~the infant who was left an~~

2024

1 abandoned infant, the department or authorized agent may identify or contact the  
2 individual as required under this chapter and all other applicable laws. If an individual  
3 contacts the department or authorized agent seeking information only, the department  
4 or authorized agent may attempt to obtain information regarding the identity and  
5 medical history of the parents and may provide information regarding the procedures  
6 in a case involving an infant who was left at an approved location. The individual is  
7 under no obligation to respond to the request for information, and the department or  
8 authorized agent may not attempt to compel response to investigate the identity or  
9 background of the individual.

10 ~~40-12.~~ The department shall develop and implement a public awareness campaign to provide  
11 information, public service announcements, and educational materials regarding this  
12 section to the public, including medical providers, law enforcement, and social service  
13 agencies.

14 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES -**  
15 **NEWBORN SAFETY DEVICES.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in  
16 the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of ~~\$50,000~~\$100,000, or so much of the  
17 sum as may be necessary, to the department of health and human services for the purpose of  
18 implementing a public awareness campaign to provide information regarding newborn safety  
19 devices to the public, medical providers, law enforcement, and social service agencies, and  
20 disbursing funds through a grant to private or public entities for the purpose of purchasing,  
21 installing, and testing newborn safety devices, ~~and implementing a public awareness campaign~~  
22 ~~to provide information regarding newborn safety devices to the public, medical providers, law~~  
23 ~~enforcement, and social service agencies,~~ for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending  
24 June 30, 2027.



**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
HB 1205**

**Human Services Committee (Rep. M. Ruby, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0559.02003](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1205 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

**2025 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS**

**HB 1205**

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## **Appropriations Committee** Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1205  
2/13/2025

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 50-25.1-15 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to abandonment of infants in newborn safety devices; and to provide an appropriation.

10:22 a.m. Chairman Vigesaa called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Vigesaa, Vice Chairman Kempenich, Representatives Anderson, Berg, Bosch, Brandenburg, Fisher, Hanson, Louser, Martinson, Meier, Mitskog, Monson, Murphy, Nathe, Nelson, O'Brien, Pyle, Richter, Sanford, Stemen, Swiontek, Wagner

### **Discussion Topics:**

- Abandoned Infants
- Emergency Services for Infants
- Newborn Safety Devices

10:22 a.m. Representative Ruby introduced the Bill.

10:36 a.m. Chairman Vigesaa closed the meeting.

*Sierra Schartz, Committee Clerk*

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## **Appropriations Committee** Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1205  
2/13/2025

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 50-25.1-15 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to abandonment of infants in newborn safety devices; and to provide an appropriation.

11:00 a.m. Chairman Vigesaa called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Vigesaa, Vice Chairman Kempenich, Representatives Anderson, Berg, Bosch, Brandenburg, Fisher, Hanson, Louser, Martinson, Meier, Mitskog, Monson, Murphy, Nathe, Nelson, O'Brien, Pyle, Richter, Sanford, Stemen, Swiontek, Wagner

### **Discussion Topics:**

- Infants
- Hospitals
- North Dakota "Baby Boxes"

11:00 a.m. Discussion amongst committee members.

11:03 a.m. Chairman Vigesaa closed the meeting.

*Sierra Schartz, Committee Clerk*

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1205  
2/17/2025

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 50-25.1-15 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to abandonment of infants in newborn safety devices; and to provide an appropriation.

7:33 p.m. Chairman Vigesaa opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Vigesaa, Vice Chairman Kempenich, Representatives Anderson, Berg, Bosch, Brandenburg, Fisher, Hanson, Louser, Martinson, Meier, Mitskog, Monson, Murphy, Nathe, Nelson, O'Brien, Pyle, Richter, Sanford, Stemen, Swiontek, Wagner

### Discussion Topics:

- Safe haven babies
- FTEs
- Safe boxes

7:37 p.m. Representative Wagner moved a Do Not Pass.

7:38 p.m. Representative Murphy seconded the motion.

7:39 p.m. Roll call vote:

Representatives	Vote
Representative Don Vigesaa	Y
Representative Keith Kempenich	Y
Representative Bert Anderson	Y
Representative Mike Berg	Y
Representative Glen Bosch	Y
Representative Mike Brandenburg	Y
Representative Jay Fisher	Y
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	Y
Representative Scott Louser	Y
Representative Bob Martinson	Y
Representative Lisa Meier	N
Representative Alisa Mitskog	Y
Representative David Monson	Y
Representative Eric J. Murphy	Y
Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y
Representative Emily O'Brien	Y
Representative Brandy L. Pyle	N
Representative David Richter	Y

Representative Mark Sanford	Y
Representative Gregory Stemen	Y
Representative Steve Swiontek	Y
Representative Scott Wagner	Y

7:39 p.m. Motion carried 21-2-0.

Representative Murphy is the bill carrier.

7:39 p.m. Chairman Vigesaa closed the hearing.

*Mary Brucker, Committee Clerk for Sierra Schartz, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
ENGROSSED HB 1205 ([25.0559.03000](#))**

**Appropriations Committee (Rep. Vigesaa, Chairman)** recommends **DO NOT PASS** (21 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1205 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1205  
2/20/2025

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 50-25.1-15 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to abandonment of infants in newborn safety devices.

8:26 p.m. Chairman Vigesaa opened the meeting.

Members present: Chairman Vigesaa, Vice Chairman Kempenich, Representatives Anderson, Berg, Bosch, Brandenburg, Fisher, Hanson, Martinson, Meier, Mitskog, Monson, Murphy, Nathe, Nelson, O'Brien, Pyle, Richter, Sanford, Stemen, Swiontek, Wagner

Member absent: Representative Louser.

### Discussion Topics:

- Committee Action

8:27 p.m. Chairman Vigesaa explained the bill.

8:28 p.m. Representative Martinson moved to reconsider the action by which they passed HB 1205.

8:28 p.m. Representative Richter seconded the motion.

8:28 p.m. Voice vote passed the motion.

8:29 p.m. Representative Monson moved to amend to remove section 2.

8:29 p.m. Representative Nathe seconded the motion.

8:30 p.m. Roll Call Vote

Representatives	Vote
Representative Don Vigesaa	Y
Representative Keith Kempenich	Y
Representative Bert Anderson	Y
Representative Mike Berg	Y
Representative Glen Bosch	Y
Representative Mike Brandenburg	Y
Representative Jay Fisher	Y
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	Y
Representative Scott Louser	AB
Representative Bob Martinson	Y
Representative Lisa Meier	Y
Representative Alisa Mitskog	Y



Representative David Monson	Y
Representative Eric J. Murphy	Y
Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y
Representative Emily O'Brien	Y
Representative Brandy L. Pyle	Y
Representative David Richter	Y
Representative Mark Sanford	Y
Representative Gregory Stemen	Y
Representative Steve Swiontek	Y
Representative Scott Wagner	Y

8:30 p.m. Motion passed to amend 22-0-1.

8:31 p.m. Representative Stemen moved to Do Pass as amended.

8:31 p.m. Representative Fisher seconded the motion.

8:31 p.m. Roll call vote

<b>Representatives</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Representative Don Vigesaa	Y
Representative Keith Kempenich	Y
Representative Bert Anderson	Y
Representative Mike Berg	Y
Representative Glen Bosch	Y
Representative Mike Brandenburg	Y
Representative Jay Fisher	Y
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	Y
Representative Scott Louser	AB
Representative Bob Martinson	Y
Representative Lisa Meier	Y
Representative Alisa Mitskog	Y
Representative David Monson	Y
Representative Eric J. Murphy	Y
Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y
Representative Emily O'Brien	Y
Representative Brandy L. Pyle	Y
Representative David Richter	Y
Representative Mark Sanford	Y
Representative Gregory Stemen	Y
Representative Steve Swiontek	Y
Representative Scott Wagner	Y

8:31 p.m. Motion passed 22-0-1.

8:31 p.m. Representative Rios will carry.

8:32 p.m. Chairman Vigesaa adjourned the meeting.

*Krystal Eberle for Risa Berube, Committee Clerk*

February 21, 2025

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO  
FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

**ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1205**

Introduced by

Representatives Holle, Bolinske, Meier, Pyle, M. Ruby, Schauer, S. Olson

Senators Boschee, Castaneda, Mathern, Weston, Larson

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 50-25.1-15 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
2 relating to abandonment of infants in newborn safety devices; ~~and to provide an appropriation.~~

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-25.1-15 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **50-25.1-15. Abandoned infant - Approved location procedure - Reporting immunity.**

7 1. As used in this section:

8 a. "Abandoned infant" means an infant who has been abandoned at birth at a  
9 hospital or before reaching the age of one year regardless of the location of birth  
10 and who has been left with an on-duty staff member or, if an infant is less than  
11 sixty days old, left in a newborn safety device, at an approved location in an  
12 unharmed condition.

13 b. "Approved location" means a hospital or other location as designated by  
14 administrative rule adopted by the department.

15 c. "Hospital" means a facility licensed under chapter 23-16.

16 d. "Newborn safety device" means a device that is:

17 (1) Physically part of the building at an approved location;

18 (2) Staffed twenty-four hours a day seven days a week;

19 (3) Temperature-controlled and ventilated for the safety of newborns;

- 1                   (4) Equipped with a functional alarm system which automatically triggers an  
2                   alarm inside the building when an infant is placed in the device; and
- 3                   (5) Located in a manner that the interior point of access is in an area that is  
4                   conspicuous and visible to the employees of the approved location.
- 5           2.   a. A parent of an infant less than sixty days old, or an agent of the parent with the  
6                   parent's consent, may leave the infant in a newborn safety device at an approved  
7                   location.
- 8                   b. A parent of an infant under the age of one year, or an agent of the parent with the  
9                   parent's consent, may leave the infant with an on-duty staff member at an  
10                  approved location. Neither the parent nor the
- 11                  c. A parent or agent is not subject to prosecution under sections 14-07-15 and  
12                  14-09-22 for leaving an abandoned infant under this section.
- 13           3. An infant left under this section must be accepted at an approved location shall accept  
14                  an infant left under this section. TheAn approved location is not required to possess a  
15                  newborn safety device.
- 16           4. Except as provided in subsection 6, the approved location may request information  
17                  regarding the parents and shall provide the parent or the agent with a medical history  
18                  form and an envelope with the approved location's return address. If a hospital  
19                  accepting thean infant has the infant's medical history, the hospital is not required to  
20                  provide the parent or the agent with a medical history form. Neither theA parent nor  
21                  theor agent is not required to provide any information.
- 22           4.5. Except as provided in subsection 6, if an infant is left at a hospital, the hospital shall  
23                  provide the parent or the agent with a numbered identification bracelet to link the  
24                  parent or the agent to the infant, unless due to birth of the infant, the infant and parent  
25                  currentlyalready have an identification bracelet. Possession of an identification  
26                  bracelet does not entitle the bracelet holder to take custody of the infant on-demand. If  
27                  an individual possesses a bracelet linking the individual to an infant left at a hospital  
28                  under this section and parental rights have not been terminated, possession of the  
29                  bracelet creates a presumption that the individual has standing to participate in a  
30                  protection services action brought under this chapter or chapter 27-20.3. Possession  
31                  of the bracelet does not create a presumption of maternity, paternity, or custody.



- 1     ~~5-6.~~    If an abandoned infant is left in a newborn safety device at an approved location, the  
2           approved location may not inquire as to the identity of the parent or agent. Except as  
3           provided in subsection 10, if the identity of the parent or agent of the abandoned child  
4           is known to the approved location, the approved location shall keep all information as  
5           to the identity of the parent or agent of the abandoned child confidential. The parent or  
6           agent of the abandoned child is not required to provide any information to the  
7           approved location but may voluntarily provide information, including the medical  
8           history of the parents or infant.
- 9        7.    The approved location may provide the parent or the agent with any relevant  
10        information, including:
- 11        a.    Information about the safe place for abandoned infant programs;  
12        b.    Information about adoption and counseling services; and  
13        c.    Information about whom to contact if reunification is sought.
- 14        ~~6-8.~~    Within twenty-four hours of receiving an infant under this section, the approved  
15        location shall report to the department or authorized agent, as required by section  
16        50-25.1-03, that an infant has been left at ~~the~~an approved location. The report may not  
17        be made before the parent or ~~the~~ agent leaves the approved location.
- 18        ~~7-9.~~    The approved location and its employees and agents are immune from any criminal or  
19        civil liability for accepting an infant under this section.
- 20        ~~8-10.~~   Upon receiving a report of an abandoned infant under this section, the department or  
21        authorized agent shall proceed as required under this chapter if it appears ~~that~~ the  
22        abandoned infant was not harmed, except the department or authorized agent may  
23        not attempt to identify or contact the parent or ~~the~~ agent. If it appears the infant who  
24        was left was harmed, the approved location shall disclose to the department or  
25        authorized agent any known information as to the identity of the parent or agent, and  
26        the department or authorized agent shall initiate a child protection assessment of the  
27        matter as required by law.
- 28        ~~9-11.~~   If an individual claiming to be the parent or ~~the~~ agent contacts the department or  
29        authorized agent and requests to be reunited with ~~the infant who was left an~~  
30        abandoned infant, the department or authorized agent may identify or contact the  
31        individual as required under this chapter and all other applicable laws. If an individual

1 contacts the department or authorized agent seeking information only, the department  
2 or authorized agent may attempt to obtain information regarding the identity and  
3 medical history of the parents and may provide information regarding the procedures  
4 in a case involving an infant who was left at an approved location. The individual is  
5 under no obligation to respond to the request for information, and the department or  
6 authorized agent may not attempt to compel response to investigate the identity or  
7 background of the individual.

8 ~~10-12.~~ The department shall develop and implement a public awareness campaign to provide  
9 information, public service announcements, and educational materials regarding this  
10 section to the public, including medical providers, law enforcement, and social service  
11 agencies.

12 ~~SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES~~  
13 ~~NEWBORN SAFETY DEVICES. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in~~  
14 ~~the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$100,000, or so much of the sum as~~  
15 ~~may be necessary, to the department of health and human services for the purpose of~~  
16 ~~implementing a public awareness campaign to provide information regarding newborn safety~~  
17 ~~devices to the public, medical providers, law enforcement, and social service agencies, and~~  
18 ~~disbursing funds through a grant to private or public entities for the purpose of purchasing,~~  
19 ~~installing, and testing newborn safety devices, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and~~  
20 ~~ending June 30, 2027.~~

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
ENGROSSED HB 1205**

**Appropriations Committee (Rep. Vigesaa, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0559.03001](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (22 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1205 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

**2025 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES**

**HB 1205**



# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Human Services Committee Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

HB 1205  
3/11/2025

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 50-25.1-15 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to abandonment of infants in newborn safety devices.

9:00 a.m. Vice-Chairman Weston called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Lee, Vice-Chairman Weston, Senator Van Oosting, Senator Clemens, Senator Hogan, Senator Roers.

### **Discussion Topics:**

- Safe Haven Laws
- Legal Liability

9:00 a.m. Representative Dawson Holle, District 31, introduced the bill and submitted testimony #40290 and #40297.

9:11 a.m. Bridget C. Turbide, Executive Director of North Dakota Right to Life, testified in favor and submitted testimony #40243.

9:17 a.m. Jacob Thomsen, Policy Analyst with North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action, testified in favor and submitted testimony #40417.

9:21 a.m. Christopher Dodson, Co-Director of North Dakota Catholic Conference, testified in favor and submitted testimony #40341.

### **Additional written testimony:**

Andrea Evinger, Owner and Postpartum Doula, Nestled in Postpartum, submitted written testimony in favor #40404.

SaVanna M. Schmidt submitted written testimony in favor #40416.

Shelle Aberle submitted written testimony in neutral #40000.

9:30 a.m. Chairman Lee closed the hearing.

*Andrew Ficek, Committee Clerk*

Dear Senators Judy Lee, Kent Weston, David A. Clemens, Kathy Hogan, Kristin Roers and Desiree Van Oosting,

**I am neutral in support of HB 1205**, a bill that was originally intended to fund and place safe haven baby boxes in North Dakota. These boxes provide a safe, anonymous option for mothers in crisis to surrender their babies, ensuring the infants receive immediate care.

While I am pro-life and I respect the passion behind this bill, we already have the Baby Moses Law which our state has put a lot of time and effort and funds into implanting with safe places across the state for babies to be given to **a human** for mothers/fathers/noted representative of to surrender the child in crisis.

I do think it is important in our state to keep that human element in place – boxes are just that. Tech driven to protect the child. Alerts, bells, whistles, notifications fail. North Dakota is brutal in the winter.

It's a feel good bill, but, I do not really feel its the right one for North Dakota.

Shelle Aberle

D30

Bridget Turbide  
Executive Director  
PO Box 551  
Bismarck, ND 58502  
(701) 955 - 8239  
director@ndrl.org



Dear House Human Services Committee,

I'm here today to testify in support of HB 1205, which would expand North Dakota's Safe Haven laws by introducing Safe Haven Baby Boxes in our communities. These boxes offer a safe and anonymous option for parents in crisis to surrender their infants, ensuring the babies receive immediate care.

Safe Haven laws have proven to be effective. In 2023, the National Safe Haven Alliance reported that 102 infants were safely surrendered across the country. This law has been successful in our state as well and since 2021 four infants have been adopted through our current Safe Haven law.

If the committee is interested in amending the bill to include a physical box location, as was originally written, we would support that change. States like Indiana, Kentucky, and Arkansas each have more than 25 Safe Haven Baby Boxes in place, and 20 states currently have the physical box, while 6 don't have a box but do have laws allowing for the box. Expanding this resource in North Dakota would provide another option for parents.

I respectfully urge the committee to give HB 1205 a "do pass" recommendation to help ensure that every infant in crisis has a chance to be cared for and placed in a loving home. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Bridget Turbide

Good Afternoon Chairman Lee and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee,

For the record, my name is Dawson Holle, and I have the honor of representing the great people of District 31. Today, I come before you to introduce House Bill 1205—legislation with the potential to save lives and provide hope to parents facing unimaginable crises.

I want to begin by painting two starkly different pictures for you.

In the first, a maintenance worker hears a faint cry coming from behind a gas station dumpster. Upon investigating, he finds a newborn baby—abandoned, cold, and wrapped in nothing but a towel. Thankfully, this baby survived. But the tragic reality is that not all stories like this have happy endings. Across the country, too many infants are left in unsafe, life-threatening conditions because their parents feel they have no other choice.

Now, imagine another scenario. A mother, overwhelmed by fear and desperation, comes across a Safe Haven Baby Box. She gently places her baby inside the climate-controlled, secure compartment. The moment the door closes, first responders are automatically alerted, and within minutes, medical professionals are providing care. This time, the mother walks away knowing she made the safest and most compassionate choice for her child.

This second story isn't hypothetical—it is already happening. In states like Indiana, Ohio, and Arkansas, Safe Haven Baby Boxes have saved dozens of lives. These are real children who are now growing up in loving families, given a second chance because their parents had access to a safe, compassionate option during a moment of crisis.

#### Why HB 1205 is Needed

Here in North Dakota, we take pride in being a state that values life, family, and community. Supporting this legislation is not just about preventing tragedies—it is about offering parents in crisis a safe and legal option and ensuring that no child is left in harm's way due to fear or desperation.

#### What HB 1205 Does

HB 1205 allows a mother to safely surrender her newborn, under 60 days old, to a Safe Haven Baby Box. To support the successful implementation of this initiative, this bill originally included an appropriation request of \$50,000.

Let me clarify why this appropriation was removed in the House. When HB 1205 unanimously passed out of the House Human Services Committee, it was then referred to House Appropriations. However, I believe there was confusion between the existing Safe Haven law and the Safe Haven Baby Box program. As a result, the Appropriations Committee initially issued a "Do Not Pass" recommendation. However, following significant support from fellow representatives, the committee reconsidered the bill and ultimately passed the policy but removed the fiscal note, allowing charitable organizations to fundraise for these boxes instead.

Each Safe Haven Baby Box costs approximately \$20,000, with an annual program fee of \$500. The \$50,000 appropriation in this bill would have covered the cost of two baby boxes, with remaining funds allocated for advertising and public awareness. It is important to emphasize that this is a pilot program, allowing us to evaluate its impact before further expansion.

#### We Cannot Afford to Wait

Members of the committee, every day that passes without Safe Haven Baby Boxes is another day where a parent in crisis may feel there is no safe option for their child. Every day represents another opportunity to save a life.

This legislation is not just about baby boxes—it is about hope. It is about providing a lifeline to parents who feel trapped, ensuring that every child has the chance to grow up in a safe and loving environment.

I respectfully urge this committee to support HB 1205 and take this critical step toward protecting North Dakota's most vulnerable infants.

I sincerely hope you will consider the amendment to restore the \$50,000 appropriation to ensure proper funding for this program. However, if you choose not to do so, I understand and simply ask for your support in passing the policy itself, allowing charitable organizations to fundraise and implement these boxes independently.

Thank you for your time, and I am happy to stand for any questions.

How a Safe Haven Baby Box Works? Watch the video below

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4flui02-Bkc&t=34s>

# ALABAMA SAFE HAVEN BABY BOX

## ALABAMA CAJA DE REFUGIO SEGURO PARA BEBÉ



As per Alabama Code 26-25-1 this is a designated Safe Haven Surrender Site. Baby may be placed in Safe Haven Baby Box or with any emergency personnel according to Alabama's Safe Haven Law.

Según el Título 26-25-1 del Código de Alabama, este es un sitio de entrega de refugio seguro designado. El bebé puede ser colocado en Safe Haven Baby Box o con cualquier personal de emergencia de acuerdo con la Ley de Refugio Seguro de Iowa.

### To Use Baby Box / Para usar la caja de bebé:

1. Open the Access Portal Door  
Abra la puerta de acceso
2. Place the Infant Inside the Medical Bassinet; and  
Coloque al bebé dentro de la cuna médica y;
3. Close the Access Portal Door to Engage the Lock.  
Cierre la puerta del portal de acceso para activar el candado.

Any Questions Please Call 1-866-99BABY1  
Si tiene alguna pregunta favor de llamar al 1-866-992-2291

[www.SHBB.org](http://www.SHBB.org)



## Safe Haven Baby Box Drop Off

Caja de Refugio Seguro para entregar al bebé.

**Please do not open door  
unless you are in need  
of services.**

Favor de NO abrir la puerta si no necesita de este servicio.



**Silent Alarm Will Activate.**

La compuerta abierta activará una alarma silenciosa.



**Safe Haven**  
Baby Boxes

## Safe Haven Crisis Line

Safe Haven Línea Directa de Crisis

# 1 - 866 - 99BABY1



## **ABOUT THE BABY BOX**

### **What does the installation of a baby box in a building require?**

Installing a Baby Box is as simple as installing a window in a building. It is very rare that a permit or additional alterations are needed on a building for installation. The Baby Box simply slides into the wall, insulation is added around the outside of the Baby Box, and it is sealed on both sides. The electronics in the Baby Box can be connected to a building's existing alarm system or will be set up with alarm monitoring with a 3rd party vendor.

### **How is the Baby Box safe in locations where there are extreme temperatures?**

There is a heating and cooling unit inside the baby box to work with the interior of the building to ensure the proper temperature is constant.

### **Are there security cameras to ensure the safety of emergency personnel?**

The only requirement for the Safe Haven Baby Box program is to not have a camera directly on the baby box. Cameras are allowed in all other areas around the building. To date, no location has had an issue with this requirement, nor has any location declined the Safe Haven Baby Boxes program because of it.

### **What happens if something fails on the Baby Box?**

Weekly testing and daily visual checks ensure the Baby Box is functioning properly. Should any issues arise, the Safe Haven Baby Box policy is to have a representative at the location hang a sign (provided) that the baby box is not in service and the door will be locked. Safe Haven Baby Boxes will immediately notify the hotline counselor(s) and update the website and other social media sites to show the location is temporarily not in service. The average time a Baby Box is out of service is about 5 business days.

### **What happens if the Baby Box Alarm fails?**

The Baby Box is set up with 3 alarms that are each triggered by an action and not dependent upon an initial alarm. Daily visual checks and weekly alarm tests ensure the function of a Baby Box. If a Baby Box loses power, the device initiates a 911 call. There is also a battery backup built in in case a location does not have a generator.

### **Has a baby box ever been improperly used?**

Not a single Baby Box has had damage or been vandalized in the past 4 years of being in service. Occasionally a curious person has opened the box without reading the sign about the alarm, but this is very rare. In December 2019, a crate of kittens was placed in a Baby Box. While this is an instance of improper use, it did serve as an opportunity to further educate the community and surrounding areas about the availability of the Baby Box and the Safe Haven law.

## **1. Have the Safe Haven Baby Boxes been tested?**

The Safe Haven Baby Box is tested. At every stage of design, development and deployment, the Box undergoes stringent testing. While there are no standards that exist, the Safe Haven Baby Box organization is developing standards by adopting the most stringent requirements.

The ultimate test came on November 7, 2017 at the CoolSpring Fire Department. A courageous mother anonymously surrendered Baby Hope in the Safe Haven Baby Box located in Michigan City, IN. After the notification system notified the first responders flawlessly, she was safely received and evaluated under the Safe Haven Baby Box Protocol for Surrender and the laws of Indiana. It is noted the Box performed within the design parameters and the surrender is considered legal under the Indiana Safe Haven law.

## **2. Why are the Safe Haven Boxes not regulated by the FDA or the CSPC?**

It has been determined by the FDA that the Safe Haven Baby Box, like the baby drawers in Arizona, is not a medical device and does not require FDA approval. The baby box and the baby drawer are not available for sale to the public and do not require CSPC regulation.

## **3. Are the Safe Haven Baby Boxes and baby drawers UL listed and approved?**

UL approval is not legally required and there is no legislation mandating certification by UL or any other agency, public or private in the US. SHBB partners with a third party for performance testing to ensure the baby boxes function properly.

## **4. Do baby boxes exist that are not from the Safe Haven Baby Boxes organization?**

Yes. In fact, "baby hatches" existed in one form or another for centuries and was quite common in medieval times. Modern versions appear in other countries, including Germany, Switzerland, Pakistan, and Malaysia.

Arizona also has baby drawers and are available at designated hospitals. (For more information, please see the back of this page.)

## **5. Is Safe Haven Baby Boxes the only organization that offers complete anonymity?**

For individuals contacting our National Safe Haven Crisis Hotline, contact is confidential and anonymous, should the caller wish. For individuals using our Safe Haven Baby Boxes, there are no cameras, so the individual remains anonymous.

The Hotline and counselors are supervised by a Clinical Staff Psychologist with over 25 years of crisis pregnancy hotline experience. We will not ask for a name. We do ask for location so we can provide information on the laws that apply and resources that may be available. Our goal is to provide the mothers-in-crisis with the resources that allow themselves to stabilize their situation and have time to make a decision that is in the best interest of themselves and their child.



25.0559.04002  
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council  
staff for Representative Holle  
March 10, 2025

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SECOND ENGROSSMENT

### REENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1205

Introduced by

Representatives Holle, Bolinske, Meier, Pyle, M. Ruby, Schauer, S. Olson

Senators Boschee, Castaneda, Mathern, Weston, Larson

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8 a. "Abandoned infant" means an infant who has been abandoned at birth at a  
9 hospital or before reaching the age of one year regardless of the location of birth  
10 and who has been left with an on-duty staff member or, if an infant is less than  
11 sixty days old, left in a newborn safety device, at an approved location in an  
12 unharmed condition.

13 b. "Approved location" means a hospital or other location as designated by  
14 administrative rule adopted by the department.

15 c. "Hospital" means a facility licensed under chapter 23-16.

16 d. "Newborn safety device" means a device that is:

17 (1) Physically part of the building at an approved location;

18 (2) Staffed twenty-four hours a day seven days a week;

19 (3) Temperature-controlled and ventilated for the safety of newborns;

- 1                   (4) Equipped with a functional alarm system which automatically triggers an  
2                   alarm inside the building when an infant is placed in the device; and
- 3                   (5) Located in a manner that the interior point of access is in an area that is  
4                   conspicuous and visible to the employees of the approved location.
- 5           2.   a. A parent of an infant less than sixty days old, or an agent of the parent with the  
6               parent's consent, may leave the infant in a newborn safety device at an approved  
7               location.
- 8               b. A parent of an infant under the age of one year, or an agent of the parent with the  
9               parent's consent, may leave the infant with an on-duty staff member at an  
10              approved location. ~~Neither the parent nor the~~
- 11              c. A parent or agent is not subject to prosecution under sections 14-07-15 and  
12              14-09-22 for leaving an abandoned infant under this section.
- 13           3. ~~An infant left under this section must be accepted at an approved location shall accept~~  
14              ~~an infant left under this section. The~~An approved location is not required to possess a  
15              newborn safety device.
- 16           4. Except as provided in subsection 6, the approved location may request information  
17              regarding the parents and shall provide the parent or the agent with a medical history  
18              form and an envelope with the approved location's return address. If a hospital  
19              accepting ~~the~~an infant has the infant's medical history, the hospital is not required to  
20              provide the parent or the agent with a medical history form. ~~Neither the~~A parent nor  
21              ~~the~~or agent is not required to provide any information.
- 22           4.5. ~~If~~Except as provided in subsection 6, if an infant is left at a hospital, the hospital shall  
23              provide the parent or the agent with a numbered identification bracelet to link the  
24              parent or the agent to the infant, unless due to birth of the infant, the infant and parent  
25              ~~currently~~already have an identification bracelet. Possession of an identification  
26              bracelet does not entitle the bracelet holder to take custody of the infant ~~on demand~~. If  
27              an individual possesses a bracelet linking the individual to an infant left at a hospital  
28              under this section and parental rights have not been terminated, possession of the  
29              bracelet creates a presumption that the individual has standing to participate in a  
30              protection services action brought under this chapter or chapter 27-20.3. Possession  
31              of the bracelet does not create a presumption of maternity, paternity, or custody.

1     ~~5-6.~~    If an abandoned infant is left in a newborn safety device at an approved location, the  
2           approved location may not inquire as to the identity of the parent or agent. Except as  
3           provided in subsection 10, if the identity of the parent or agent of the abandoned child  
4           is known to the approved location, the approved location shall keep all information as  
5           to the identity of the parent or agent of the abandoned child confidential. The parent or  
6           agent of the abandoned child is not required to provide any information to the  
7           approved location but may voluntarily provide information, including the medical  
8           history of the parents or infant.

9         ~~7.~~     The approved location may provide the parent or the agent with any relevant  
10        information, including:

- 11           a.    Information about the safe place for abandoned infant programs;  
12           b.    Information about adoption and counseling services; and  
13           c.    Information about whom to contact if reunification is sought.

14     ~~6-8.~~    Within twenty-four hours of receiving an infant under this section, the approved  
15           location shall report to the department or authorized agent, as required by section  
16           50-25.1-03, that an infant has been left at ~~the~~an approved location. The report may not  
17           be made before the parent or the agent leaves the approved location.

18     ~~7-9.~~    The approved location and its employees and agents are immune from any criminal or  
19           civil liability for accepting an infant under this section.

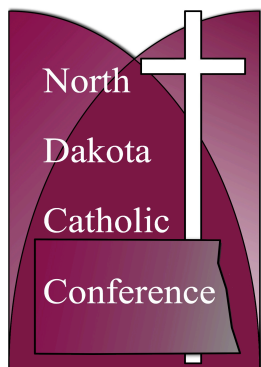
20     ~~8-10.~~   Upon receiving a report of an abandoned infant under this section, the department or  
21           authorized agent shall proceed as required under this chapter if it appears ~~that~~ the  
22           abandoned infant was not harmed, except the department or authorized agent may  
23           not attempt to identify or contact the parent or the agent. If it appears the infant who  
24           was left was harmed, the approved location shall disclose to the department or  
25           authorized agent any known information as to the identity of the parent or agent, and  
26           the department or authorized agent shall initiate a child protection assessment of the  
27           matter as required by law.

28     ~~9-11.~~   If an individual claiming to be the parent or the agent contacts the department or  
29           authorized agent and requests to be reunited with ~~the infant who was left an~~  
30           abandoned infant, the department or authorized agent may identify or contact the  
31           individual as required under this chapter and all other applicable laws. If an individual

1 contacts the department or authorized agent seeking information only, the department  
2 or authorized agent may attempt to obtain information regarding the identity and  
3 medical history of the parents and may provide information regarding the procedures  
4 in a case involving an infant who was left at an approved location. The individual is  
5 under no obligation to respond to the request for information, and the department or  
6 authorized agent may not attempt to compel response to investigate the identity or  
7 background of the individual.

8 ~~40:12.~~ The department shall develop and implement a public awareness campaign to provide  
9 information, public service announcements, and educational materials regarding this  
10 section to the public, including medical providers, law enforcement, and social service  
11 agencies.

12 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES -**  
13 **NEWBORN SAFETY DEVICES.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in  
14 the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$50,000, or so much of the sum as  
15 may be necessary, to the department of health and human services for the purpose of  
16 implementing a public awareness campaign to provide information regarding newborn safety  
17 devices to the public, medical providers, law enforcement, and social service agencies, and  
18 disbursing funds through a grant to private or public entities for the purpose of purchasing,  
19 installing, and testing newborn safety devices, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and  
20 ending June 30, 2027. The department shall provide grants for the installation of at least one  
21 newborn safety device in each of the two cities in the state with the largest population.



*Representing the Diocese of Fargo  
and the Diocese of Bismarck*

103 South Third Street  
Suite 10  
Bismarck ND 58501  
701-223-2519  
ndcatholic.org  
ndcatholic@ndcatholic.org

**To:** Senate Human Services  
**From:** Christopher Dodson, Co-Director  
**Date:** March 11, 2025  
**Re:** House Bill 1205 — Newborn Safety Devices

The North Dakota Catholic Conference supports House Bill 1205 to authorize newborn infant safety devices (also called baby boxes) under the state's safe haven law.

We know that there are women in complex circumstances who will decide to relinquish their child after giving birth. When that happens, the safety of the child is paramount. By authorizing the installation of newborn infant safety devices in hospitals and other locations authorized by the Department of Health and Human Services, HB 1205 can help ensure that the child's life and health is protected in these situations.

This bill embraces both mother and child, providing women with a last resort that protects their own safety and that of their child. It gives birth mothers the security of knowing that their children will find love and stability.

As mentioned, HB 1205 is about safety. It does not negate the need to ensure that, whenever possible, mothers and children remain united and have every opportunity to thrive. We must continue to work to improve conditions for pregnant women and new mothers, especially those struggling with mental illness, drug addiction, domestic violence, and extreme poverty.

The Catholic Church stands ready and willing to walk alongside women experiencing challenges during pregnancy and parenthood. The Church's initiative, Walking with Moms in Need, seeks to ensure that no woman is alone when faced with such challenges. Pregnancy resource centers are also an invaluable source of support and can be found across North Dakota. Together, we must build a society where all women and children can flourish.

We respectfully ask for a **Do Pass** recommendation on House Bill 1205.

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

To Whom it May Concern:

I strongly urge you to vote in favor of this bill. As a professional who works with postpartum women and their families, I strongly believe that mothers need to be provided safe options to surrender their babies anonymously and in a safe manner. It is our duty, as a society, to protect those most vulnerable.

Providing this option would benefit mothers and their babies.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrea Evinger  
Owner and Certified Postpartum Doula of Nestled in Postpartum

Dear members of the Senate Human Service Committee.

My name is SaVanna Schmidt. I am testifying in support of HB 1205 as a foster parent, and the adoptive mother of a Safe Haven Baby.

Babies are surrendered for Safe Haven here in North Dakota more often than people realize. There are many different unfortunate scenarios where a mother may suddenly find herself needing to take advantage of the Safe Haven Law. The Safe Haven Baby Box ensures a safe place for the baby, and a contact free surrender for the mother. In sensitive, difficult, and possibly dangerous situations, mothers may prefer to avoid contact with the staff members of an approved location. Without the Safe Haven Baby Box, a mother has no legal way to surrender her baby under the Safe Haven law without dealing directly with staff.

I have some examples to share with you today that highlight how the use of a Safe Haven Baby Box could have eliminated some complications in the following stories.

My husband and I adopted our daughter in 2020, but she was born in 2018. Safe Haven babies can usually be adopted shortly after a 6 month residency period. But this child was in foster care for over two years, and that could have been prevented with more awareness around Safe Haven procedure or with a Safe Haven Baby Box.

Her mother had delivered her at home, then traveled around a hundred miles to Bismarck to surrender her at a hospital here. Unfortunately, the mother's travel companion gave the mother's name to the hospital during the surrender. Possibly due to the lack of education around Safe Haven procedure, the hospital made the mistake of putting the mother's name on the baby's birth certificate. This created an issue for the baby's Safe Haven status, and the case was tied up in court for over two years.

So why did the mother travel a hundred miles to surrender her baby? Because a few years earlier, she had been detained while trying to surrender a baby near her hometown. Even though she was surrendering at a legal location, it was initially misunderstood to be abandonment.

Education, training, and awareness are necessary to make our Safe Haven law effective, and I was pleased to see that this bill provides for some of that. Safe Haven laws are designed to protect women in crisis, as well as their babies, but lack of awareness and training can result in not only unsafe abandonment and tragedy, but also unnecessary hardship for mothers or the surrendered children. In addition to awareness of the law, Safe Haven Baby Boxes give desperate mothers the essential option for a legal, contact free surrender.

The Safe Haven Baby Boxes paired with the awareness campaign proposed in this bill will save lives. Our Safe Haven baby is six years old today. She is beautiful, precocious and thriving, and the world is certainly better because she is here.

Thank you for your attention.



### Testimony Supporting House Bill 1205

Jacob Thomsen, Policy Analyst  
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action  
March 11, 2025

Good morning, Madam Chair Lee and honorable members of the Senate Human Services Committee. My name is Jacob Thomsen, and I am a Policy Analyst with North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action. I am testifying on behalf of our organization in support of House Bill 1205 and respectfully request that you render a "DO PASS" on this bill.

This bill supports North Dakota's longstanding history of being a pro-life state. Newborn safety devices are another important way to encourage adoption over abortion. In a state where it is incredibly common to know someone everywhere you go, it is important to have these boxes as protection of the birth parents' desired anonymity, as well as the baby's safety. These boxes provide a safe way to surrender a baby without face-to-face interaction, and they undoubtedly eliminate concerns of confidentiality. To address any questions or concerns about these boxes, I've attached a resource from Safe Haven Baby Boxes in the footnote of my testimony<sup>1</sup>.

For these reasons, North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action respectfully requests that you render a "DO PASS" on House Bill 1205. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify, I will stand for any questions.

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<sup>1</sup> "Arguments Against SHBB: Responses," accessed January 20, 2025, [Link](#).



# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Human Services Committee Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

HB 1205  
3/17/2025

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 50-25.1-15 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to abandonment of infants in newborn safety devices.

4:02 p.m. Chairman Lee opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Lee, Vice-Chairman Weston, Senator Van Oosting, Senator Clemens, Senator Hogan, Senator Roers.

### Discussion Topics:

- Unfunded Authorization
- Legal Liability
- Amendment Changing 'Child' to 'Infant'

4:07 p.m. Kimberly Jacobson, Agassiz Valley Human Service Zone, answered committee questions.

4:13 p.m. Senator Roers moved amendment LC#25.0559.04004.

4:13 p.m. Senator Hogan seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Judy Lee	Y
Senator Kent Weston	Y
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Kathy Hogan	Y
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Desiree Van Oosting	Y

Motion passed 6-0-0.

4:18 p.m. Senator Roers moved Do Not Pass as amended.

4:19 p.m. Senator Hogan seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Judy Lee	Y
Senator Kent Weston	N
Senator David A. Clemens	N
Senator Kathy Hogan	Y
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Desiree Van Oosting	N

Motion failed 3-3-0.

4:20 p.m. Senator Roers moved without committee recommendation as amended.

4:20 p.m. Senator Weston seconded the motion.

<b>Senators</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Senator Judy Lee	Y
Senator Kent Weston	Y
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Kathy Hogan	Y
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Desiree Van Oosting	Y

Motion passed 6-0-0.

Senator Van Oosting will carry the bill.

4:24 p.m. Chairman Lee adjourned the meeting.

*Andrew Ficek, Committee Clerk*

March 17, 2025

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO  
SECOND ENGROSSMENT**

**REENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1205**

Introduced by

Representatives Holle, Bolinske, Meier, Pyle, M. Ruby, Schauer, S. Olson

Senators Boschee, Castaneda, Mathern, Weston, Larson

- 1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 50-25.1-15 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
2 relating to abandonment of infants in newborn safety devices.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

- 4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-25.1-15 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **50-25.1-15. Abandoned infant - Approved location procedure - Reporting immunity.**

- 7 1. As used in this section:

- 8 a. "Abandoned infant" means an infant who has been abandoned at birth at a  
9 hospital or before reaching the age of one year regardless of the location of birth  
10 and who has been left with an on-duty staff member or, if an infant is less than  
11 sixty days old, left in a newborn safety device, at an approved location in an  
12 unharmed condition.
- 13 b. "Approved location" means a hospital or other location as designated by  
14 administrative rule adopted by the department.
- 15 c. "Hospital" means a facility licensed under chapter 23-16.
- 16 d. "Newborn safety device" means a device that is:
- 17 (1) Physically part of the building at an approved location;  
18 (2) Staffed twenty-four hours a day seven days a week;  
19 (3) Temperature-controlled and ventilated for the safety of newborns;

- 1                   (4) Equipped with a functional alarm system which automatically triggers an  
2                   alarm inside the building when an infant is placed in the device; and
- 3                   (5) Located in a manner that the interior point of access is in an area that is  
4                   conspicuous and visible to the employees of the approved location.
- 5       2.   a. A parent of an infant less than sixty days old, or an agent of the parent with the  
6           parent's consent, may leave the infant in a newborn safety device at an approved  
7           location.
- 8           b. A parent of an infant under the age of one year, or an agent of the parent with the  
9           parent's consent, may leave the infant with an on-duty staff member at an  
10          approved location. Neither the parent nor the
- 11          c. A parent or agent is not subject to prosecution under sections 14-07-15 and  
12          14-09-22 for leaving an abandoned infant under this section.
- 13       3. An infant left under this section must be accepted at an approved location shall accept  
14          an infant left under this section. TheAn approved location is not required to possess a  
15          newborn safety device.
- 16       4. Except as provided in subsection 6, the approved location may request information  
17          regarding the parents and shall provide the parent or the agent with a medical history  
18          form and an envelope with the approved location's return address. If a hospital  
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20          provide the parent or the agent with a medical history form. Neither theA parent nor  
21          theor agent is not required to provide any information.
- 22       4.5. IfExcept as provided in subsection 6, if an infant is left at a hospital, the hospital shall  
23          provide the parent or the agent with a numbered identification bracelet to link the  
24          parent or the agent to the infant, unless due to birth of the infant, the infant and parent  
25          currentlyalready have an identification bracelet. Possession of an identification  
26          bracelet does not entitle the bracelet holder to take custody of the infant on-demand. If  
27          an individual possesses a bracelet linking the individual to an infant left at a hospital  
28          under this section and parental rights have not been terminated, possession of the  
29          bracelet creates a presumption that the individual has standing to participate in a  
30          protection services action brought under this chapter or chapter 27-20.3. Possession  
31          of the bracelet does not create a presumption of maternity, paternity, or custody.



Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly

- 1     ~~5-6.~~    If an abandoned infant is left in a newborn safety device at an approved location, the  
2            approved location may not inquire as to the identity of the parent or agent. Except as  
3            provided in subsection 10, if the identity of the parent or agent of the abandoned  
4            ~~child~~infant is known to the approved location, the approved location shall keep all  
5            information as to the identity of the parent or agent of the abandoned ~~child~~infant  
6            confidential. The parent or agent of the abandoned ~~child~~infant is not required to  
7            provide any information to the approved location but may voluntarily provide  
8            information, including the medical history of the parents or infant.
- 9     ~~7.~~     The approved location may provide the parent or the agent with any relevant  
10            information, including information about:  
11            a.   ~~Information about the~~The safe place for abandoned infant programs;  
12            b.   ~~Information about adoption~~Adoption and counseling services; and  
13            c.   ~~Information about whom~~Whom to contact if reunification is sought.
- 14    ~~6-8.~~    Within twenty-four hours of receiving an infant under this section, the approved  
15            location shall report to the department or authorized agent, as required by section  
16            50-25.1-03, that an infant has been left at ~~the~~an approved location. The report may not  
17            be made before the parent or ~~the~~ agent leaves the approved location.
- 18    ~~7-9.~~    The approved location and its employees and agents are immune from any criminal or  
19            civil liability for accepting an infant under this section.
- 20    ~~8-10.~~   Upon receiving a report of an abandoned infant under this section, the department or  
21            authorized agent shall proceed as required under this chapter if it appears ~~that~~ the  
22            abandoned infant was not harmed, except the department or authorized agent may  
23            not attempt to identify or contact the parent or ~~the~~ agent. If it appears the infant who  
24            was left was harmed, the approved location shall disclose to the department or  
25            authorized agent any known information as to the identity of the parent or agent, and  
26            the department or authorized agent shall initiate a child protection assessment of the  
27            matter as required by law.
- 28    ~~9-11.~~   If an individual claiming to be the parent or ~~the~~ agent contacts the department or  
29            authorized agent and requests to be reunited with ~~the infant who was left~~an  
30            abandoned infant, the department or authorized agent may identify or contact the  
31            individual as required under this chapter and all other applicable laws. If an individual

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly

- 1           contacts the department or authorized agent seeking information only, the department  
2           or authorized agent may attempt to obtain information regarding the identity and  
3           medical history of the parents and may provide information regarding the procedures  
4           in a case involving an infant who was left at an approved location. The individual is  
5           under no obligation to respond to the request for information, and the department or  
6           authorized agent may not attempt to compel response to investigate the identity or  
7           background of the individual.
- 8    ~~40.12.~~   The department shall develop and implement a public awareness campaign to provide  
9           information, public service announcements, and educational materials regarding this  
10          section to the public, including medical providers, law enforcement, and social service  
11          agencies.



**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
REENGROSSED HB 1205**

**Human Services Committee (Sen. Lee, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0559.04004](#)) and when so amended, recommends the measure **BE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1205 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.