

2025 HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

HB 1365

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1365

2/7/2025

Relating to possession of firearms or dangerous weapons at a school or a school-sponsored event on school property.

9:38 a.m. Chairman Porter called the hearing to order.

Members Present: Chairman Porter, Vice Chairman Anderson, Vice Chair Novak,
Representatives: Dockter, Hagert, Headland, Heinert, Johnson, Marschall, Olson, Ruby,
Conmy, Foss

Discussion Topics:

- Firearm regulations
- Building safety

9:38 a.m. Representative Koppelman introduced the bill. #36183

9:49 a.m. Brian Gosch, Lobbyist, NRA, testified in favor.

9:54 a.m. Jonathan Alm, Attorney, Department of Health and Human Services, testified in favor and submitted testimony. #36138

9:56 a.m. Lloyd Halvorson, Lake Region State College, testified in opposition and submitted testimony. #36177

9:57 a.m. Katie Fitzsimmons, Director of Student Affairs, NDUS, testified in opposition and submitted testimony. #35920

10:01 a.m. Carter Gill, VP of Government Affairs, ND Student Association, testified in opposition and submitted testimony. #36105 #36106

10:05 a.m. Christopher Dodson, ND Catholic Conference, testified in opposition and submitted testimony. #36090

10:08 a.m. Doug Darling, President, Lake Region State College, testified in opposition and submitted testimony. #36104

Additional written testimony:

Andrew Armacost, President, University of North Dakota, submitted testimony in opposition. #35871

Tessa Leiseth, Bishop, Eastern North Dakota Synod, submitted testimony in opposition. #35991

Cole Higlin, Public Policy Chair, North Dakota Recreation & Park Association, submitted testimony in opposition. #36037

Zarrina Azizova, University Senate Chair, University of North Dakota, submitted testimony in opposition. #36052

Jane Schreck, ND Resident, submitted testimony in opposition. #36079

Katherine Kempel, Governmental Affairs Commissioner, UND Student Government, submitted testimony in opposition. #36082

10:12 a.m. Chairman Porter closed the meeting

Addison Randazzo for Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk



Testimony for the 69th Legislative Assembly – House Energy and Natural Resources

February 7, 2025

Andy Armacost, President, UND

andrew.armacost@UND.edu | 701.777.2121

Bill: HB 1365

Position: In Opposition

Dear Chairman Porter and Members of the Committee.

For the record, my name is Andrew Armacost, and I am the President of the University of North Dakota. I'm writing in opposition to House Bill 1588, specifically our concern about the proposed language that would allow possession of firearms or dangerous weapons on college campuses and at campus events.

Among my concerns are the growing behavioral health risks and substance use disorders that exist on our campuses. Introducing firearms and dangerous weapons into that mix could prove fatal. The Kaiser Family Foundation has demonstrated the connection between higher suicide rates and access to firearms.

Our campus, along with the other campuses in the NDUS, already sustain strong safety records and currently have high perceptions of safety among students, faculty, and staff. We pride ourselves on the great work of our University Police Department and their response to any issues on our campus.

Legalizing weapons on the campus might provide a higher perception of safety for some, but perceptions of less safety for others. These perceptions will impact how our students and faculty engage with one another and will impact our ability to attract and retain employees on our campuses.

Let me close by encouraging the bill authors to consider adding college campuses as an exception to the provisions of this bill. Thank you.



State Capitol – 600 E Boulevard Ave – Dept. 215
Bismarck ND 58505-0230
Phone: 701.328.2960 Fax: 701.328.2961
E-mail: ndus.office@ndus.edu Web: ndus.edu

HB 1365

House Energy and Natural Resources | February 6, 2025

Katie Fitzsimmons, NDUS Director of Student Affairs

701-328-4109 | katie.fitzsimmons@ndus.edu

Chair Porter and Committee Members, my name is Katie Fitzsimmons and I serve as the Director of Student Affairs for the North Dakota University System. I am representing the System Office and the eleven NDUS campuses in opposition to HB 1588. The bill would allow for the open and concealed carry and possession of a firearm on our campuses. I will focus on several issues in my testimony: current law and State Board Policy regarding firearms; the varied environments on our campuses; and finally, a note on access to lethal means. We are fortunate to have NDUS students, faculty, and administration providing testimony on this bill and HB 1588, so I will leave the campus-specific arguments to them.

Under current law, NDUS institutions are classified as “public gatherings,” where the possession of firearms and dangerous weapons is restricted. As a result, the State Board of Higher Education (SBHE) enacted State Board Policy 916.1 to follow state law, which prohibits the possession of firearms and dangerous weapons in campus buildings owned or operated by the State Board of Higher Education. However, recognizing that there may be necessary exceptions to this general rule, this body passed HB 1279 in 2017 (it created a new subdivision to subsection 2 of section 62.1-02-05, which is deleted in this bill) and the State Board updated Policy 916.1, which now authorizes the Chancellor or institution president to permit a qualifying individual to store a firearm or dangerous weapon in a campus residence provided that certain requirements are met. Additionally, most of our campuses provide secure weapon storage options for our students and students, faculty, staff, and visitors have the ability to store firearms in their personal vehicles that are on public property. At this time, these policies work beautifully for our students, faculty, and staff. As a result, the System Office sees no benefit, and many potential drawbacks, to expanding firearm possession on our campuses.

Our campuses are places where students of all ages go to learn, live, eat, workout, perform, practice, research, connect, and compete. Students sleep on the property and attend events, faculty and staff work all hours. We have highly competent campus police or security to respond to emergencies, and our campuses have cafeterias, swimming pools, theaters, classrooms, labs, and libraries. Most of these spaces are open to the public. When you

compare the happenings of a campus to that of a courthouse, a K-12 school, or a state office building, it is plain to see that we are different animals than other public gathering spaces and thus, I would argue we should be treated differently. This bill does not allow campuses to adjust firearm policies to their unique spaces and events, nor to their staff or resources available. This bill does not account for staff or students who require accommodations to work in a gun-free area, such as our students with veteran status or those who are survivors of domestic violence, nor does it factor the importance that intimidation can play if a student is involved in a student conduct or Title IX case. Let us not forget that the students that are currently enrolled on our campuses have participated in active shooter drills since they were in kindergarten. To now require those students to no longer “say something when they see something” will have impacts on local law enforcement and how they would respond to our campuses. The inflexibility of this proposed bill does not take countless variables into account and would place our campus communities in precarious, dangerous positions.

Finally, the added level of suicide risk this would pose to our campuses is real. The closer proximity to lethal means, the higher the suicide rate. 48% of those that die by suicide decided to take their own lives with less than nineteen minutes of deliberation¹. 62% of suicides in North Dakota happen with the means of a firearm². Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for ages 10-34. Added to that, our on-campus population primarily consists of 18-24-year-olds, who do not have fully formed frontal lobes, and thus, lack full executive function including complex decision making and impulse control. We are far less concerned about homicide or accidental injury on our campuses than we are about access to self-harm. The more time and distance we can place between an individual under stress and a firearm, the more likely we are to save that life.

On behalf of the System Office and the eleven institutions, I respectfully request a Do Not Pass on HB 1365 or an amendment to the bill to add a subsection to NDCC 62.1-02-05(1) adding this designee to prohibited spaces: "Any property owned, leased, or under the control of the North Dakota state board of higher education." Further, to be able to maintain the exceptions we have in place, made possible by 2017's HB 1279 and SBHE Policy 916.1, we would ask that the deletion of subsection (o) of 62.1-02-05 be reinstated in this bill and amended to read:

¹ Means Matter: *Duration of Suicidal Crisis* <https://means-matter.hsph.harvard.edu/means-matter/duration/>

² John Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions. <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/center-for-gun-violence-solutions/north-dakota>

- (o) An individual's storage of a firearm or dangerous weapon in a building that is owned, leased, or under the control of the North Dakota state board of higher education, provided:
- (1) The individual resides in the building; and
 - (2) The storage has been consented to by the North Dakota state board of higher education, or its designee.

I thank you for your time and service and stand ready to answer your questions to the best of my ability.

House Energy and Natural Resources Committee**Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 1365****Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth****February 7, 2025**

Chairman Porter and members of this Committee, on behalf of the Eastern North Dakota Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, I am submitting testimony in opposition to House Bill 1365.

The current law allows an individual, who is authorized to carry a firearm or dangerous weapon in North Dakota, to possess such a weapon in a church building if authorized by the church's primary religious leader or the governing body of the church. Within the synod, the pastor or the congregation council could grant such authorization. It is a workable law that allows each congregation to determine who may possess concealed firearms or dangerous weapons in its church building.

If enacted, this bill would allow any individual, who is authorized to carry a concealed firearm or dangerous weapon North Dakota, to possess such concealed weapons in church buildings of the approximately 175 churches in the synod – even if a congregation would be opposed to any individual possessing any dangerous weapon with its building.

Essential to the concept of religious liberty, each congregation within the synod should have the right to ensure the safety of its members and should have the right to declare its church building a safe, weapons free zone.

Accordingly, I urge this Committee to vote a “do not pass” recommendation for House Bill 1365.

Testimony of Cole Higlin
North Dakota Recreation & Park Association
To House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
In Opposition to HB 1365
Friday, February 7, 2025

Chairman Porter and members of the Committee, my name is Cole Higlin, and I am the public policy chair of the North Dakota Recreation & Park Association (NDRPA). We represent more than 900 members, primarily park districts, and work to advance parks, recreation and conservation for an enhanced quality of life in North Dakota.

We strongly oppose House Bill 1365. Enacting this bill would lead to significant confusion and enforcement difficulties for local park districts and their staff. Park districts manage a variety of public spaces, many of which are shared with schools and other community organizations. For example, the Rough Rider Center in Watford City and the Williston Area Recreation Center host both high school activities and elementary school programs at different times throughout the day. This bill, as currently written, introduces uncertainty about when weapons are allowed on park district property, particularly in spaces that serve multiple functions.

For instance, a venue might host both a school sports event and a private event, like a wedding or business gathering, on the same day. This overlap could create confusion about whether weapons should be permitted at any given time.

Moreover, this bill would impose an unfair burden on staff—many of whom are students or young adults—who would be tasked with monitoring and enforcing complex, case-by-case decisions about weapon allowances, especially when the distinction between public and private use of the facility is unclear.

In summary, we urge the committee to consider the enforcement challenges, potential confusion, and safety risks that this bill would create. We ask for your support in opposing this legislation and encourage you to explore other solutions that more effectively balance public safety with individual rights.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

To: Chair Porter and the Energy and Natural Resources Committee
 From: The Senate Executive Committee of the University of North Dakota
Subject: Opposition to House Bill 1365
 Date: February 6, 2025

Dear Chairman Porter and members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

I am Zarrina Azizova, an Associate Professor of higher education, and I currently serve as the Chairs of the University Senate at the University of North Dakota (UND). On behalf of the University Senate, I submit this testimony in opposition to HB 1365. The bill exempts from liability public and private entities for injuries caused by an individual in lawful possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon at a publicly owned or operated building, and at a school or school-sponsored event on school property.

As educators, staff, and students, we assume that our public institution of higher education is a safe place and see our campus as a “sensitive place” (by the definition of the Supreme Court’s “sensitive places” doctrine) to teach, work, live, and learn. This includes all of our campus, from our classrooms and offices to our dining facilities, residential halls, sports arenas, and beyond. The assumption of safety is essential for the faculty, staff, and students here at UND to thoughtfully engage with the subject matter at hand, support the success and retention of our students and employees, allow for a sense of communal security in dorms, offices and classrooms, as well as to create the freedom to enjoy UND-sponsored events (from hockey games to art exhibits to commencement).

The current bill includes wording which may be intended to increase a sense of safety, but when implemented may cause several adverse consequences for students, staff, and faculty:

- **Negatively impacts student educational/learning/living environments:** Nearly all faculty and staff meet the requirements of Constitutional Concealed Carry as outlined by NDCC 62.1-04. Open carry of a firearm or dangerous weapon by an educator or staff member is a shift from a duty of education and support to a presumable duty of defense. University faculty and staff work hard to create a welcoming educational environment to promote learning. However, with the exception of the University Police Department, a university employee with a weapon greatly effects the power dynamic between educators/staff and students. An armed educator or staff member may make students uncomfortable with approaching the educator/staff member for assistance, questioning their instructions, and/or just generally cause them to feel unsafe depending on their personal backgrounds.

Likewise, nearly all college/university students also meet the requirements of Constitutional Concealed Carry, which means nearly everywhere a student goes, they may encounter someone carrying a weapon, which may have a chilling effect on discussions inside and outside the classroom, may increase the risk of self-harm, and may increase the risk of on campus violence as otherwise minor altercations that happen in

close environments can escalate very quickly.

- **Inability of institutions of higher education to comply with the mandates of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. § 12101), its subsequent amendments, and implementing regulations (29 CFR Part 1630).** Like all employers, institutions of higher education must make reasonable accommodations for employees who are documented as having “a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of such individual” (29 CFR 1630.2(g)(1)(i)) “Major life activities” include, but are not limited, to “learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, interacting with others, and working” (29 CFR 1630.2(i)(1)(i)). ADA accommodations also extend to our student body.

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD; ICD-10 code F43.1) is diagnosis that is recognized by most major medical associations; UND and other entities, such as the Veterans Affairs Administration, recognize PTSD as a “mental impairment” that impacts “major life activities” and make accommodations (or, in the case of the VA, disability payments) accordingly. Due to the significant number of veterans and active-duty service members on UND’s campus (faculty, staff, and students), UND already sends out notifications of the monthly emergency siren warning to accommodate those who may live with PTSD.

That said, if dangerous weapons/firearms are permitted to be carried on campus, those who live with PTSD or other qualifying diagnoses under ADA may request accommodations for a weapon-free work, learning, and living environment so that they are not “substantially limited” in their “major life activities.” If UND or other NDUS institutions are prevented from granting accommodations as a result of this proposed bill, there is the risk that lawsuits will be filed.

- **Prohibitive expense of passing a more restrictive city ordinance:** While the proposed bill does state that a city, county, or township “*may enact*” an ordinance prohibiting weapons locally, such an ordinance would only be allowable if two conditions are met. The second condition is not feasible for a campus as large as UND. It is cost prohibitive to install “equipment that detects weapons” or “armed security personnel” at every access point on campus. Consequently, as written, it is not a viable option.

Consequently, unless there is an amendment that also exempts institutions of higher education under the control of the NDUS from this bill, UND’s University Senate urges a **DO NOT PASS** recommendation on HB 1365.

Respectfully Submitted,

Zarrina Azizova, Ph.D.
2024-2025 Chair, University Senate of the University of North Dakota

We need fewer guns in public, not more.



Katherine Kempel | Governmental Affairs Commissioner
Katherine.kempel@und.edu

House Bill 1365
House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
February 7, 2025

Chairman Porter and Members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Katherine Kempel, and I serve as the Governmental Affairs Commissioner for the University of North Dakota (UND) Student Government. I am submitting testimony in opposition to HB 1365 as it relates to the possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon at a public gathering.

As proposed, the amendments listed in Section 4 of this bill would allow individuals to possess firearms or dangerous weapons in publicly owned or operated buildings. In your assessment of this bill, please consider the impact this would have on North Dakota's institutions of higher education, including the University of North Dakota. All buildings owned by UND are considered public property and would be affected by this amendment, allowing individuals to bring firearms and dangerous weapons into university-owned buildings such as residence halls, academic buildings, dining halls, and recreational facilities.

UND's current policy regarding firearms and dangerous weapons in campus buildings reflects State Board of Higher Education (SBHE) policy which states that "Except as provided by law, firearms and dangerous weapons are prohibited from campus buildings owned or operated by the SBHE, including the eleven institutions."¹ HB 1365 directly opposes this policy that is in place to ensure the safety of students, staff, faculty, and the public.

Prior to the current legislative session, UND's Student Government, which is made up of elected student representatives from across campus, unanimously passed Senate Resolution 2425-05 outlining the legislative priorities of UND's Student Government. Campus safety was included as one of UND Student Government's priorities for this legislative session. This bill does not increase safety on campuses; instead, it stands to decrease both real and perceived

¹ <https://und.policystat.com/policy/17207934/latest/#autoid-a59d3>

campus safety.² Students living, working, and studying on campus deserve to have a reasonable expectation that those around them are not carrying firearms or dangerous weapons.

Under this amendment, students would be able to possess firearms and dangerous weapons in on-campus student residence halls. This would be a change from UND's current policy, which instead allows students to store weapons in a 24-hour accessible gun locker facilitated by the University Police Department. This current policy allows for easy access to personal firearms and dangerous weapons without allowing students to store these items in student residence halls where the safe storage of these items cannot be guaranteed. This policy has not been opposed by students.

For many students, college is a time of increased stress and potential mental health issues. With increased access to firearms and dangerous weapons, the risk of students potentially harming themselves or others is also increased.³ UND's community values statement specifies that everyone be allowed to work, learn, and live in a safe, caring environment. Out of concern for the safety of students, staff, faculty, and the public when in university-owned buildings, firearms and dangerous weapons should continue to be prohibited in university-owned public buildings.

Chairman Porter and members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I respectfully request a **Do Not Pass** recommendation on HB 1365 as currently written. If this bill were to be amended to exclude university-owned buildings, I would take a neutral stance on this bill. Thank you for your time, and I am available to answer any questions

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Kempel

² <https://news.gallup.com/poll/611459/students-prefer-colleges-restrict-guns-campus.aspx>

³ <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/2016/allowing-guns-on-college-campuses-unlikely-to-reduce-mass-shootings>



*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: House Energy and Natural Resources
From: Christopher T. Dodson - Co-Director
Subject: HB 1365 - Possession of a Firearm at a Church
Date: February 7, 2025

The North Dakota Catholic Conference opposes House Bill 1365.

Places of Worship

Existing law allows an individual to have a firearm in a place of worship if the individual meets certain requirements and has permission from the church or place of worship. It is a workable law that does not negate the religious organization's fundamental right to define their sacred spaces. House Bill 1365 destroys that carefully designed compromise and tosses aside the religious rights of places of worship.

Essential to religious liberty is the recognition that churches and other places of worship have a fundamental right to create, design, and exercise autonomy of their religious spaces. Government interference with that right would likely not withstand a legal challenge.

Some religious bodies do not have a problem with firearms in places of worship. To others, the very idea is blasphemous. Others fall somewhere in between. The existing law respects the varying religious views on the matter. It allows an individual to possess a firearm at a place of worship if the place of worship gives approval.

Frankly, the only reason for enacting this section of HB 1365 would be to appease individuals who do not have the courtesy to ask for approval or to respect the decision of the place or worship if approval is not given. This is a poor reason for infringing on religious freedom and subjecting the state to litigation.

Schools

House Bill 1365 leaves intact the general prohibition on possessing a firearm or dangerous weapon at a school or school-sponsored event on school property. However, on Page 4, line 5, it gives any political subdivision the authority to enact an ordinance that is less restrictive as it relates to possession on school property.

The purpose of this language may be to give public school districts the ability to allow certain individuals to possess firearms on public school property. The language, however, goes well beyond that purpose.

It would allow any political subdivision to enact an ordinance forcing a nonpublic school to allow firearms on its property, even if it is against the nonpublic school's policy. Nonpublic schools, not the government, should determine their firearm policies. Moreover, as discussed above, the government should not strip away the right of religious nonpublic schools to have policies consistent with their religious beliefs.

Publicly owned or Operated Buildings

House Bill 1365 removes publicly-owned or operated buildings from the general prohibition against possession of firearms. Although the bill gives a city, county, or township the ability to enact an ordinance prohibiting the possession of a firearm in public areas of a publicly-owned or operated building under certain conditions, it strips all other governmental bodies, such as a park board and the state itself, the ability to regulate the possession of firearms in their public buildings.

The North Dakota Catholic Conference has long held that providers of public services should be able to create firearm policies that reflect the safety needs of the people they serve. House Bill 1365 fails to reflect that.

We ask this committee to give HB 1365 a **Do Not Pass** recommendation.



1801 College Drive North, Devils Lake, ND 58301-1598

(701) 662-1600 | (800) 443-1313 | fax (701) 662-1570

TDD (701) 662-1572 | www.lrsc.edu

HB 1365

House Energy and Natural Resources

February 7, 2025

Doug Darling, President Lake Region State College

701-662-1506 | Doug.Darling@lrsc.edu

Chair Porter and members of the committee, for the record, my name is Doug Darling, and I serve as President of Lake Region State College. I am here testifying in opposition to HB 1365. I am a strong supporter of the 2nd amendment. I'm a life member of the NRA, holder of a ND Conceal Carry permit, and a NRA/ATA/Shooting USA certified coach. I coach a 4H Shooting Sports team, High School Clay Target team and a College Clay Target team. I am a firm believer in the right to keep and bear arms, but I do not believe we need concealed and open carry of firearms on college campuses.

Most of our students are between the ages of 18-24. At this age they haven't completed the cognitive development of their brains. Their ability to make complex decisions is not fully developed. The decision to use deadly force is a complex decision. Our campuses are places where students of all ages go to learn, live, participate in extra and cocurricular activities, research, and compete in athletics. We have students, faculty and staff on our campuses 24/7 365 days a year. They should feel safe where they are living and learning. Allowing firearms on campuses will have the opposite effect for many.

The mental health of our students is a major concern with respect to allowing firearms on campuses. A Harvard study shows that 50% of students deciding to commit suicide act within 20 minutes and 73% within 1 hour. Having immediate access to firearms is very concerning to me. Even the US military doesn't allow possession of firearms in their barracks or dormitories.

I respectfully ask for a do not pass vote on HB1365.

NDSA-12-2324

A Resolution in Opposition to Open and Concealed Gun Carry on NDUS College Campuses

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Student Association (NDSA) represents the voice of North Dakota's 45,000 public college and university students; and,

WHEREAS, the purpose of NDSA is to represent all students enrolled in the North Dakota University System (NDUS) and advocate on issues of higher education in support of access, affordability, quality, and the student experience; and,

WHEREAS, during the last several legislative sessions, numerous bills have been proposed in the North Dakota Legislature that would allow firearms on college campuses; and,

WHEREAS, in response to HB 1311¹ during the 67th Legislative Session in 2021, the NDSA passed NDSA-16-2021, opposing HB 1311 on the basis that this bill would have also allowed individuals licensed to carry firearms on college campuses, additionally citing student mental health concerns and change in the operations of campus security²; and,

WHEREAS, in response to HB 1404³ during the 68th Legislative Session in 2023, the NDSA testified in opposition, citing mental health concerns for students on college campuses, the use of a lethal weapon for suicide, and NDSA-16-2021⁴; and,

WHEREAS, among college students, mental health continues to be an issue, with suicide being the among the top four leading causes of death for individuals 15-24, with a 57% increase in the rate of suicide from 2009 to 2017 for people aged 15-19, and a 63% increase from 2001 to 2021 for people aged 20-24; and,

WHEREAS, by allowing firearms on college campus, suicide rates and attempts could increase, through easier access to a lethal means of committing suicide; and,

WHEREAS, over the last few decades, several states have passed legislation allowing firearms on college campuses and, as of 2022, 11 states allow campus carry, 22 states allow the campuses to decide, and 17 states prohibit campus carry⁶; and,

WHEREAS, gun violence on college campuses and in public areas has been on a rise in the last few decades with 323 documented cases of gunfire on college campuses, in which 162 people have died in these cases, 95 of them from campus shootings⁷; and,

WHEREAS, there were 2 major shootings on college campuses in 2023, at Michigan State

¹ https://ndlegis.gov/assembly/67-2021/regular/bill-overview/bo1311.html?bill_year=2021&bill_number=1311

² <https://ndsa.ndus.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2021/02/NDSA-16-2021.pdf>

³ https://ndlegis.gov/assembly/68-2023/regular/bill-overview/bo1404.html?bill_year=2023&bill_number=1404

⁴ https://ndlegis.gov/assembly/68-2023/testimony/HNATRES-1404-20230126-17129-A-SCOTT_CHRISTOPHER_M.pdf

⁵ <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db471.pdf>

⁶ <https://giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-laws/policy-areas/guns-in-public/guns-in-schools/>

⁷ <https://everytownresearch.org/maps/gunfire-on-school-grounds/>; <https://www.bestcolleges.com/research/college-shootings-statistics/>

University, where three were killed and five were injured⁸, with the shooter committing suicide, and at the University of Nevada, where a shooter killed three faculty members⁹; and,

WHEREAS, as cited in NDSA-16-2021, a study found that 78 percent of college students were not supportive of concealed handguns on campuses¹⁰; and,

WHEREAS, in another survey given to 1,000 current and prospective students, 65 % indicated that schools made them worry about campus safety, with 60 % of those surveyed indicating that campus safety was a factor when considering their college¹¹; and,

WHEREAS, during campus visits that the NDSA conducted during the 2022-2023 academic year, faculty expressed concerns regarding concealed firearms on college campuses with concerns that firearms could potentially escalate situations where students are dissatisfied with grades; so,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the North Dakota Student Association opposes any and all legislation that would change Section 62.1 . of the North Dakota Century Code to allow firearms on campuses, whether concealed or open carry.

Approved by the North Dakota Student Association General Assembly

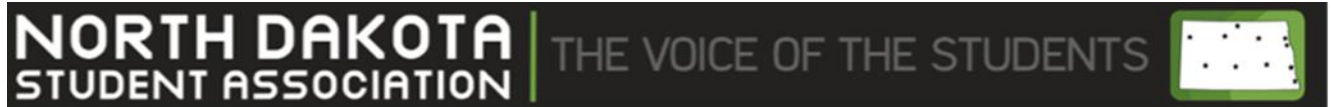
Saturday, March 16th, 2024

⁸ <https://www.cnn.com/us/live-news/michigan-state-university-shooting-updates-2-14-23/index.html>

⁹ <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/live-blog/unlv-shooting-las-vegas-live-updates-rcna128402>

¹⁰ <http://dx.doi.org.ezproxy.library.und.edu/10.1080/07448481.2013.799478>

¹¹ <https://www.bestcolleges.com/research/campus-safety-survey/>



HB 1365

February 6th, 2025

Carter Gill, North Dakota Student Association

Christopher Scott, North Dakota Student Association

701-340-3380 | Christopher.m.scott@ndus.edu

Chair Porter and members of the committee:

My name is Carter Gill, and I am the Vice President of Governmental Affairs for the North Dakota Student Association. I am here to express the NDSA's opposition to HB 1365.

The North Dakota Student Association (NDSA) is a student organization established in 1969 that is dedicated to ensuring that students have a voice in policy that affects Higher Education. The NDSA consists of delegates from each of the 11 public institutions that meet monthly to engage students in Higher Education policy in North Dakota. Our mission is to empower students, foster collaboration between students across campuses in the North Dakota University System, and to advocate on issues of higher education in support of access, affordability, quality, and the student experience.

HB 1588 proposes to permit the possession of firearms and dangerous weapons in publicly owned and operated buildings. Additionally, it would allow cities, counties and townships the authority to enforce and enact ordinances prohibiting the possession of firearms or dangerous weapons in publicly owned areas. However, if passed, HB 1365 would also allow firearms and dangerous weapons on college campuses. The current wording of HB 1365 would prevent institutions and the State Board of Higher Education from implementing policies that prohibit the possession of firearm on college campuses, jeopardizing the safety of thousands of students, staff and faculty across the state.

Historically, the NDSA has opposed state gun legislation that would threaten the safety of the students of North Dakota the last three legislative sessions. The NDSA opposes any and all legislation that would change section 62.1 of the North Dakota Century Code to allow firearms on campuses, whether open or concealed carry.

In 2021, the NDSA opposed HB 1311, which would have allowed the possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon in a public space. In response to HB 1311, the NDSA passed NDSA Resolution [NDSA-16-2021](#): A Resolution in Opposition of HB 1311. In 2023, the NDSA opposed and testified against [HB 1404](#), a bill which would have allowed concealed gun carry on college campuses. Recognizing the ongoing efforts of the legislature to approve open and concealed firearm carry, the NDSA proactively passed [NDSA-12-2324](#): A Resolution in Opposition to Open and Concealed Gun Carry on NDUS College Campuses in March of 2023.

One of the NDSA's concerns about this bill is increased accessibility of a lethal means to suicide for NDUS students experiencing mental health crises. Mental health challenges, including depression and suicidal ideation are significant issues among college students.

According to the North Dakota Behavioral Health Data Book in 2023, there are approximately 41,000 North Dakota adults that experienced serious mental health illnesses in the prior year. The Data Book goes further and states that in 2021, 153 North Dakotans died by suicide, an increase from 134 suicides in 2019. Of those that died by suicide in 2021, 80% of them were male, 20% person were female. In addition, 61% of those who died by suicide in 2021 were between the ages of 20 and 49, an age range that includes the traditional college age demographic. Additionally, data from the Kaiser Family Foundation (2023) specifies that the suicide rate in North Dakota was 20.3 per 100,000 people, exceeding the national average of 14.1 per 100,000. North Dakota's firearm death rate is reported to be 13.3 per 100,000, also above than the national average of 7.5 per 100,000.

An additional concern the NDSA has with this bill and other legislation that would allow firearms on college campuses, is that these bills as mentioned before, jeopardize the safety of the college campus community. They could lead to an increase the risk of a gun violence, including campus shootings, as institutions would not be able to distinguish between students carrying firearms for self-protection and those with harmful intentions.

The presence of firearms also raises concerns among faculty and staff. The potential for firearms to escalate conflicts is concerning, as a student dissatisfied with an academic outcome of a course that they took, or other university matters may resort to firearm violence in an emotionally charged situation. This concern shared among faculty could deter prospective faculty from taking jobs in North Dakota universities, impacting the overall quality of education that would be offered across the state.

For these concerns of campus safety and student mental health concerns, the NDSA strongly opposes HB 1588. On behalf of the NDSA, I ask for a DO NOT PASS recommendation from the committee on this bill, or for an amendment exempting North Dakota colleges and universities.

North Dakota Data Book:

https://www.hhs.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/BH/BehavioralHealthDataBook_March2023_web.pdf

Kaiser Family Foundation:

<https://www.kff.org/statedata/mental-health-and-substance-use-state-fact-sheets/north-dakota/>



Health & Human Services

Testimony
House Bill No. 1365
House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Representative Todd Porter, Chairman
February 7, 2025

Chairman Porter, and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I am Jonathan Alm, an attorney with the Department of Health and Human Services (Department). I appear before you to present an amendment on behalf of the Department.

House Bill No. 1365 removes the general prohibition on possessing a firearm or dangerous weapon at a publicly owned or operated building. In its current form, House Bill No. 1365 would allow firearms or dangerous weapons at the North Dakota State Hospital, Life Skills and Transition Center, and at the State's Human Service Centers and satellite locations (Behavioral Health Clinics) as these locations do not have metal detectors or armed security.

The Department is requesting this committee adopt the amendment attached to my testimony to mitigate the risk of violence and injury between clients, employees, and the general public. The proposed amendment would prohibit the possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon at the portion of buildings occupied, owned, or leased by the North Dakota State Hospital, Life Skills and Transition Center, and Human Service Centers and satellite locations.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to try to answer any questions the committee may have. Thank you.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1365

Page 2, lines 3 through 8:

62.1-02-05. Possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon at a public gathering ~~on school property~~ - Penalty - Application.

1. An individual may not possess a firearm or dangerous weapon at:
 - a. ~~A~~ a school or school-sponsored event on school property; or
 - b. ~~A church or other place of worship; or~~ The portion of buildings occupied, owned, or leased by the state hospital, life skills and transition center, and human service centers and satellite locations
 - e. ~~A publicly owned or operated building.~~

Testimony: HB 1588

Thursday February 6, 2025 2:30 PM &

Testimony: HB 1365

Friday February 7, 2025 8:30 AM

My name is Lloyd Halvorson, I am the VP for Academic and Student Affairs at Lake Region State College in Devils Lake. In addition to my role as the VP, I serve as the college's Chief of Police. I have been a licensed peace officer in the State of ND for 36 years. After a decade with the Bismarck Police Department, I joined Lake Region State College in 2002 as the police academy director and law enforcement educator. In addition, I have been a ND POST approved firearms instructor for the past 21 years.

I am here to testify in opposition to that portion of HB 1365 and 1588 that removes from the NDCC *"A publicly owned or operated building"* from the places where firearms are prohibited. I testify today on behalf of Lake Region State College and communicate to this committee the college's official position on both HB 1365 and 1588.

Removing *"A publicly owned or operated building"* from this statute would create an environment where it would be perfectly legal for almost anyone to possess a rifle, including a semi-automatic "assault style" rifle, shotgun, and/or handgun open carry (completely visible) and/or concealed (completely hidden) in all campus buildings, including residence halls, classrooms, hallways, meeting rooms, student unions, dining centers, auditoriums, and sports arenas; and in all circumstances on campus such as athletic events and graduation ceremonies. This would all be in "constitutional carry" environment, where no permit is required.

Being able to openly carry firearms on our campus in this way is highly problematic. From a protection standpoint under the law today: If someone emerged into the doorway of a crowded college event (think basketball game) carrying an assault rifle or a handgun, a police officer on scene would know what to do. The officer would not need to wait for this individual to point the weapon at a person, the crowd, or to open fire, as the possession of the firearm is unlawful in and of itself.

If either bill becomes law, the officer would not be able to proactively respond (engage/detain) as the law would make it legally permissible to bring an assault rifle into this event. It would even be legal to walk around with a handgun in your hand.

Do we want to require our police officers to wait until someone opens fire or otherwise shows a readiness to kill or terrorize before they are allowed to engage?

Even if this person isn't planning an attack, perhaps they are just being a knucklehead walking around our campus with an assault rifle or visible handgun, considering what we have taught people about active shooter response, it would create a seriously alarming situation.

Someone asked me recently if people should be able to carry firearms to defend themselves from an attacker or an active shooter? My response was, yes, I am not worried about safety when it comes to law-abiding residents with a concealed carry permit who go about their business armed and unnoticed every day.

I do worry about introducing guns into our campus environment.

- I worry about an intoxicated student who decides to show their guns to others in the resident halls. At some point there will be unintentional discharge that leaves one student dead and one likely going to jail; or
- A dispute settled with words or with fists today may being settled with a gun tomorrow; or
- Currently, a student in the grips of a mental health episode who is thinking suicide is the only answer to their immediate problem may not kill themselves because the "tool" is not readily available; but if the gun is easily accessible in their dorm room, the situation ends in death instead.
- Should President Darling be forced to allow teachers to wear a handgun, fully in view while teaching in the classroom?
- What about a teacher, afraid to turn her back to write on the smart board because she is terrified by the young man in her class who has an assault rifle hanging at the ready?

If "*publicly owned or operated buildings*" are removed, the distinction between lawful behavior and seriously alarming behavior will become very subjective. Here is a scenario: if two dozen people call 911 in a panic because they are watching two people approaching Memorial Union at UND with assault rifles; what does the dispatcher say to them? "Sounds like a perfectly legal situation to me...call back if they start shooting"? Sounds absolutely absurd, but the caller would only be describing a perfectly legal scenario.

I believe the general public, my public, your public, his/her public, would conclude that this situation just described is simply not ok. The new permissions created by this bill will make our ND world less inviting and more intimidating.

I sincerely hope you will give the provision removing "*A publicly owned or operated building*" more scrutiny and give (at a minimum) the open carry of visible firearms renewed deliberation and reconsideration. Again, if the scenario described earlier of dozens of callers to 911 reporting those men approaching memorial union with assault rifles causes you concern, this proposed edit to 62.1-02-05 should also cause you concern.

It is my professional opinion, as a higher education and law enforcement leader for 3 1/2 decades, that a majority of North Dakotans, gun-owning and law-abiding North Dakotans, would without hesitation, reject the new reality created here.

I encourage this committee to give this legislation a unanimous "Do Not Pass" recommendation, at least so far as college campuses are concerned. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

Lloyd Halvorson, Vice President
Academic and Student Affairs & Chief of Police

Lake Region State College
1801 College Dr N
Devils Lake ND 58301

(701) 662-1681
Lloyd.halvorson@lrsc.edu

25.0508.03000

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

HOUSE BILL NO. 1365

Introduced by

Representatives Koppelman, Frelich, J. Johnson, Novak, M. Ruby

Senators Magrum, Boehm, Castaneda, Cory, Paulson

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact two new sections to chapter 62.1-02 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to exemption from liability for public and private entities and possession
3 of firearms or dangerous weapons at a publicly owned or operated building; and to amend and
4 reenact section 62.1-02-05 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to possession of
5 firearms or dangerous weapons at a school or school-sponsored event on school property.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

7 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 62.1-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
8 and enacted as follows:

9 ~~Exemption from liability for public and private entities.~~

10 ~~Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a public or private entity may not be held liable~~
11 ~~for any injury or death or damage to property caused by an individual permitted to carry a~~
12 ~~dangerous weapon concealed under this chapter.~~

13 **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 62.1-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
14 and enacted as follows:

15 **Possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon at a publicly ~~owned or~~ operated**
16 **building.**

17 1. ~~A city, county, or township, may enact and enforce an ordinance prohibiting the~~
18 ~~P~~ossession of a firearm or dangerous weapon ~~is prohibited~~ in public areas ~~of within a~~
19 publicly ~~owned or~~ operated building if:

20 a. All individuals possessing a valid class 1 or class 2 firearm and dangerous
21 weapons license are restricted from possessing a firearm; and

22 b. Access is not permitted unless an individual passes through equipment that
23 detects weapons and is staffed by armed security personnel.

24 ~~2. This section does apply to nonpublic areas of a publicly owned and operated building.~~

1 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 62.1-02-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3 **62.1-02-05. Possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon at a public gathering ~~on~~**
4 **school property - Penalty - Application.**

- 5 1. An individual may not possess a firearm or dangerous weapon at:-
- 6 a. ~~A~~ a school or school-sponsored event on school or publicly operated property;
 - 7 b. ~~A church or other place of worship; or~~
 - 8 b. A building operated by the university system
 - 9 c. ~~A Nonpublic areas within a publicly owned or~~ operated building.

A public area of a publicly operated building means the portion of the publicly operated building that is accessible to the public without permit, escort or key.

A nonpublic area of a publicly operated building means the portion of the publicly operated building that is inaccessible to the public without permit, escort or key.

10 2. This section does not apply to:

- 11 a. A law enforcement officer, or a correctional officer employed by the department of
12 corrections and rehabilitation or by a correctional facility governed by chapter
13 12-44.1. A correctional officer employed by the department of corrections and
14 rehabilitation may carry a firearm only as authorized in section 12-47-34. A
15 correctional officer employed by a correctional facility governed by chapter
16 12-44.1 may carry a firearm or dangerous weapon only as authorized in section
17 12-44.1-30;
- 18 b. An individual who is on an ambulance or firefighter crew while the individual is on
19 duty if:
 - 20 (1) The individual has written permission from the governing body or owner of
21 the fire department or ambulance service;
 - 22 (2) The individual possesses a valid class 1 concealed weapons license;
 - 23 (3) The individual has successfully completed a weapons training course
24 developed by the North Dakota private investigative and security board; and
 - 25 (4) The governing body or owner of the fire department or ambulance crew
26 provides written notice to the bureau of criminal investigation of the
27 individuals authorized or no longer authorized to carry a firearm or
28 dangerous weapon under this section, including that all training and

- 29 certification requirements have been satisfied;
- 30 c. A member of the armed forces of the United States or national guard, organized
- 31 reserves, state defense forces, or state guard organizations, when on duty;
- 32 d. A competitor participating in an organized sport shooting event;

- 1 e. A gun or antique show;
- 2 f. A participant using a blank cartridge firearm at a sporting or theatrical event;
- 3 g. A firearm or dangerous weapon carried in a temporary residence or motor
- 4 vehicle;
- 5 h. A student and an instructor at a hunter safety class;
- 6 i. Private and public security personnel while on duty;
- 7 j. A state or federal park;
- 8 k. An instructor, a test administrator, an official, or a participant in educational,
- 9 training, cultural, or competitive events involving the authorized use of a
- 10 dangerous weapon if the event occurs with permission of the person or entity
- 11 with authority over the function or premises in question;
- 12 l. An individual in a publicly owned or operated rest area or restroom;
- 13 m. An individual who is authorized under section 62.1-04-02 to carry a firearm or
- 14 dangerous weapon concealed or who has reciprocity under section 62.1-04-03.1
- 15 authorizing the individual to carry a firearm or dangerous weapon concealed if
- 16 the individual is in a church building or other place of worship and the primary
- 17 religious leader or the governing body of the church or other place of worship
- 18 approves the individual or group of individuals to carry a firearm or dangerous
- 19 weapon through a policy or any other means;
- 20 n. A state, federal, or municipal court judge, a district court magistrate judge or
- 21 judicial referee, and a staff member of the office of attorney general if the
- 22 individual maintains the same level of firearms proficiency as is required by the
- 23 peace officer standards and training board for law enforcement officers. A local
- 24 law enforcement agency shall issue a certificate of compliance under this section
- 25 to an individual who is proficient;
- 26 o. An individual's storage of a firearm or dangerous weapon in a building that is
- 27 owned or managed by the state or a political subdivision, provided:
- 28 (1) The individual resides in the building;
- 29 (2) The storage is inside the individual's assigned residential unit; and
- 30 (3) The storage has been consented to by the state, the governing board, or a
- 31 designee; and

- 1 p-k. An individual authorized to carry a concealed weapon on school property under
2 section 62.1-02-14.
- 3 3. This section does not prevent any political subdivision from enacting an ordinance that
4 is less restrictive than this section relating to the possession of firearms or dangerous
5 weapons at a public gathering~~school or school-sponsored event on school property~~.
6 An enacted ordinance supersedes this section within the jurisdiction of the political
7 subdivision.
- 8 4. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a church or place of worship may not be
9 held liable for any injury or death or damage to property caused by an individual
10 permitted to carry a dangerous weapon concealed under this section.
- 11 5. This section does not prevent the governing body of a school or the entity exercising
12 control over a publicly owned or operated building or property from authorizing the use
13 of a less than lethal weapon as part of the security plan for the school, building, or
14 property.
- 15 6.5. An individual who knowingly violates this section is guilty of an infraction.

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1365
2/14/2025
Subcommittee

Relating to possession of firearms or dangerous weapons at a school or school-sponsored event on school property.

9:39 a.m. Chairman Heinert called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Heinert, Representatives Dockter, Hagert, Conmy

Discussion Topics:

- Subcommittee action

9:40 a.m. Representative Dockter moved a Do Not Pass recommendation to the full committee.

9:41 a.m. Representative Conmy seconded the motion.

9:41 a.m. Voice Vote on Do Not Pass recommendation: motion carried.

9:41 a.m. Chairman Heinert closed the hearing.

Addison Randazzo for Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1365

2/20/2025

Relating to possession of firearms or dangerous weapons at a school or school-sponsored event on school property.

11:24 a.m. Chairman Porter opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman Porter, Vice Chairman Anderson, Vice Chair Novak,
Representatives: Dockter, Hagert, Headland, Heinert, Johnson, Marschall, Olson, Conmy,
Foss

Absent: Representative M. Ruby

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

11:24 a.m. Representative Heinert moved Amendment LC#25.0508.03001.

11:24 a.m. Representative J. Olson seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: Motion Carried.

11:25 a.m. Representative Heinert moved Do Not Pass as amended.

11:25 a.m. Representative Conmy seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Todd Porter	Y
Representative Dick Anderson	Y
Representative Anna Novak	Y
Representative Liz Conmy	Y
Representative Jason Dockter	Y
Representative Austin Foss	Y
Representative Jared c. Hagert	Y
Representative Craig Headland	Y
Representative Pat D. Heinert	Y
Representative Jorin Johnson	N
Representative Andrew Marschall	N
Representative Jeremy L. Olson	Y
Representative Matthew Ruby	A

Motion Carried: 10-2-1

Bill Carrier: Representative Heinert

11:27 a.m. Chairman Porter closed the meeting.

Addison Randazzo for Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk

25.0508.03001
Title.04000

Adopted by the Energy and Natural
Resources Committee
February 21, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

HOUSE BILL NO. 1365

Introduced by

Representatives Koppelman, Frelich, J. Johnson, Novak, M. Ruby

Senators Magrum, Boehm, Castaneda, Cory, Paulson

2-21-25

JB 1044

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact ~~two~~ a new sections to chapter 62.1-02 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to ~~exemption from liability for public and private entities and possession~~
3 of firearms or dangerous weapons at a publicly owned or operated building; and to amend and
4 reenact section 62.1-02-05 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to possession of
5 firearms or dangerous weapons at a ~~school or school-sponsored event on school property~~ public
6 gathering.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

8 ~~SECTION 1. A new section to chapter 62.1-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is created~~
9 ~~and enacted as follows:~~

10 ~~Exemption from liability for public and private entities.~~

11 ~~Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a public or private entity may not be held liable~~
12 ~~for any injury or death or damage to property caused by an individual permitted to carry a~~
13 ~~dangerous weapon concealed under this chapter.~~

14 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 62.1-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
15 and enacted as follows:

16 **Possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon at a publicly owned or operated**
17 **building.**

18 ~~1. A city, county, or township, may enact and enforce an ordinance prohibiting the~~
19 ~~possession~~ Possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon is prohibited in public areas ~~of~~ within a
20 publicly owned or operated building if:

- 1 ~~a.1.~~ All individuals possessing a valid class 1 or class 2 firearm and dangerous weapons
2 license are restricted from possessing a firearm; and
3 ~~b.2.~~ Access is not permitted unless an individual passes through equipment that detects
4 weapons and is staffed by armed security personnel.
5 ~~2.~~ This section does apply to nonpublic areas of a publicly owned and operated building.

6 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 62.1-02-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended
7 and reenacted as follows:

8 **62.1-02-05. Possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon at a public gathering**
9 **school property - Penalty - Application.**

- 10 1. An individual may not possess a firearm or dangerous weapon at:
11 a. ~~A~~ a school or school-sponsored event on school property;
12 b. ~~A church or other place of worship; or~~
13 e. ~~A~~ Nonpublic areas within a publicly owned or operated building; or
14 c. A building operated by the university system.
15 2. This section does not apply to:
16 a. A law enforcement officer, or a correctional officer employed by the department of
17 corrections and rehabilitation or by a correctional facility governed by chapter
18 12-44.1. A correctional officer employed by the department of corrections and
19 rehabilitation may carry a firearm only as authorized in section 12-47-34. A
20 correctional officer employed by a correctional facility governed by chapter
21 12-44.1 may carry a firearm or dangerous weapon only as authorized in section
22 12-44.1-30;
23 b. An individual who is on an ambulance or firefighter crew while the individual is on
24 duty if:
25 (1) The individual has written permission from the governing body or owner of
26 the fire department or ambulance service;
27 (2) The individual possesses a valid class 1 concealed weapons license;
28 (3) The individual has successfully completed a weapons training course
29 developed by the North Dakota private investigative and security board; and
30 (4) The governing body or owner of the fire department or ambulance crew
31 provides written notice to the bureau of criminal investigation of the

- 1 individuals authorized or no longer authorized to carry a firearm or
2 dangerous weapon under this section, including that all training and
3 certification requirements have been satisfied;
- 4 c. A member of the armed forces of the United States or national guard, organized
5 reserves, state defense forces, or state guard organizations, when on duty;
- 6 d. A competitor participating in an organized sport shooting event;
- 7 e. A gun or antique show;
- 8 f. A participant using a blank cartridge firearm at a sporting or theatrical event;
- 9 g. A firearm or dangerous weapon carried in a temporary residence or motor
10 vehicle;
- 11 h. A student and an instructor at a hunter safety class;
- 12 i. Private and public security personnel while on duty;
- 13 j. A state or federal park;
- 14 k. An instructor, a test administrator, an official, or a participant in educational,
15 training, cultural, or competitive events involving the authorized use of a
16 dangerous weapon if the event occurs with permission of the person or entity
17 with authority over the function or premises in question;
- 18 l. An individual in a publicly owned or operated rest area or restroom;
- 19 m. An individual who is authorized under section 62.1-04-02 to carry a firearm or
20 dangerous weapon concealed or who has reciprocity under section 62.1-04-03.1
21 authorizing the individual to carry a firearm or dangerous weapon concealed if
22 the individual is in a church building or other place of worship and the primary
23 religious leader or the governing body of the church or other place of worship
24 approves the individual or group of individuals to carry a firearm or dangerous
25 weapon through a policy or any other means;
- 26 n. A state, federal, or municipal court judge, a district court magistrate judge or
27 judicial referee, and a staff member of the office of attorney general if the
28 individual maintains the same level of firearms proficiency as is required by the
29 peace officer standards and training board for law enforcement officers. A local
30 law enforcement agency shall issue a certificate of compliance under this section
31 to an individual who is proficient;

4 of 4

- 1 o. An individual's storage of a firearm or dangerous weapon in a building that is
2 owned or managed by the state or a political subdivision, provided:
3 (1) The individual resides in the building;
4 (2) The storage is inside the individual's assigned residential unit; and
5 (3) The storage has been consented to by the state, the governing board, or a
6 designee; and
7 p.k. An individual authorized to carry a concealed weapon on school property under
8 section 62.1-02-14.
9 3. This section does not prevent any political subdivision from enacting an ordinance that
10 is less restrictive than this section relating to the possession of firearms or dangerous
11 weapons at a ~~public gathering school or school-sponsored event on school property.~~
12 An enacted ordinance supersedes this section within the jurisdiction of the political
13 subdivision.
14 4. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a church or place of worship may not be
15 held liable for any injury or death or damage to property caused by an individual
16 permitted to carry a dangerous weapon concealed under this section.
17 5. This section does not prevent the governing body of a school or the entity exercising
18 control over a publicly owned or operated building or property from authorizing the use
19 of a less than lethal weapon as part of the security plan for the school, building, or
20 property.
21 6.5. An individual who knowingly violates this section is guilty of an infraction.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1365 ([25.0508.03000](#))

Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Rep. Porter, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** (10 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 1 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1365 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE

Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly

* * * * *

Bismarck, February 21, 2025

The House convened at 12:30 p.m., with Speaker Weisz presiding.

The prayer was offered by Deacon Brent Naslund, Bismarck Diocese.

The roll was called and all members were present except Representatives Klemin, Mitskog, Morton, and M. Ruby.

A quorum was declared by the Speaker.

CORRECTION AND REVISION OF THE JOURNAL

MR. SPEAKER: Your **Committee on Correction and Revision of the Journal (Rep. B. Anderson, Chairman)** has carefully examined the Journal of the Thirty-first Day and recommends that it be corrected as follows and when so corrected, recommends that it be approved:

Page 728, line 29, after "failed" insert "for want of a constitutional majority"

Page 741, line 9, after "recommends" insert "**AMENDMENTS (25.0506.02001)**" and when so amended, recommends"

Page 741, line 14, after "recommends" insert "**AMENDMENTS (25.0508.03001)**" and when so amended, recommends"

REP. B. ANDERSON MOVED that the report be adopted, which motion prevailed on a voice vote.

MOTION

REP. BOSCH MOVED that HB 1531, which is on the Eleventh order, be laid over one legislative day, which motion prevailed on a voice vote.

MOTION

REP. BOSCH MOVED that Engrossed HB 1458 be rereferred to the **Human Services Committee**, which motion prevailed. Pursuant to Rep. Bosch's motion, Engrossed HB 1458 was rereferred.

MOTION

REP. BOSCH MOVED that HB 1296, HB 1326, HB 1350, and HB 1411, which are on the Eleventh order, be laid over two legislative days, which motion prevailed on a voice vote.

SIXTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

SPEAKER WEISZ DEEMED approval of the amendments to Engrossed HB 1086, Engrossed HB 1191, Engrossed HB 1249, HB 1307, HB 1375, HB 1429, HB 1431, HB 1454, HB 1465, HB 1489, HB 1514, HB 1527, and HB 1537.

Engrossed HB 1086, Engrossed HB 1191, Engrossed HB 1249, HB 1307, HB 1375, HB 1429, HB 1431, HB 1454, HB 1465, HB 1489, HB 1514, HB 1527, and HB 1537, as amended, were placed on the Eleventh order of business on the calendar.

SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL

HB 1556: A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 5 of section 27-20.3-01, and sections 27-20.3-15 and 27-20.3-21 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to a child in need of protection and termination of parental rights; and to declare an emergency.

ROLL CALL

The question being on the final passage of the amended bill, which has been read, and has