

2025 HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

HB 1589

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1589

2/6/2025

Relating to standards for qualification in firearms training for retired officers.
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3:35 p.m. Chairman Porter opened the hearing.

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

Discussion Topics:

- Law Enforcement
- Test administrators

3:36 p.m. Representative Heinert introduced the bill.

3:37 p.m. Sheriff Kelly Leben, Burleigh County Sheriff's Department, testified in favor and submitted testimony #35578.

3:41 p.m. Stephanie Dassinger Engebretson, Chief of Police Association of ND, testified in favor.

3:41 p.m. Kelvin Benson, ND Peace Officers Association, testified in favor.

3:42 p.m. Casy Miller, Chief Agent, ND BCI, testified in favor.

3:44 p.m. Chairman Porter closed the hearing.

3:44 p.m. Representative Headland moved a Do Pass.

3:44 p.m. Representative J. Olson seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Chairman Todd Porter	Y
Vice Chairman Dick Anderson	Y
Vice Chairwoman Anna Novak	Y
Representative Liz Conmy	Y
Representative Jason Dockter	Y
Representative Austin Foss	Y
Representative Jared Hagert	Y
Representative Craig Headland	Y
Representative Pat Heinert	Y
Representative Jorin Johnson	Y
Representative Andrew Marschall	Y

Representative Jeremy Olson	Y
Representative Matthew Ruby	Y

3:45 p.m. Motion passed 13-0-0.

3:45 p.m. Representative Novak moved to place on the Consent Calendar.

3:45 p.m. Representative Heinert seconded the motion.

3:45 p.m. Voice vote - motion passed.

3:45 p.m. Representative M. Ruby will carry the bill.

3:45 p.m. Chairman Porter closed the meeting.

Janae Pinks, Committee Clerk for Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1589 ([25.1202.01000](#))

Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Rep. Porter, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** and **BE PLACED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1589 was placed on the Tenth order on the calendar.



BURLEIGH COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

KELLY LEBEN
SHERIFF

Testimony Prepared for the
House Energy and Natural Resources Committee

February 4, 2025

By: Kelly Leben, Sheriff

RE: Supportive Testimony for House Bill 1589

My name is Kelly Leben and I currently serve as the elected Sheriff of Burleigh County. HB 1589 is a bill that will assist law enforcement agencies and retired/separated law enforcement officers with navigating the requirements of the Law Enforcement Officer's Safety Act (LEOSA).

LEOSA is a federal law that was enacted in 2004 and has since been amended several times. LEOSA is a law that gives retired and separated law enforcement officers that meet the requirements of the law, with the ability to carry concealed in the United States. There are two main requirements of LEOSA. The first is that the officer separated in good standing, meeting separation requirements, and received credentials from the agency that they separated from indicating so. The second main requirement is that the separated officer successfully completed an approved qualification course within the last year. The purpose of LEOSA is spelled out in the name as it truly is a Law Enforcement Officer's Safety Act. By nature of the work of law enforcement, many of the threats and risks don't end at retirement or separation.

The purpose of this bill is to assist those officers that meet the first requirement of LEOSA, in the fact that they are a credentialed, separated officer, with meeting the second requirement of obtaining annual qualifications for proficiency and having the required proof. Although most agencies willingly conduct LEOSA qualifications for their former members, logistics can sometimes be cumbersome for both the agency and the individual. Another scenario that plays out often is when a separated law enforcement officer (LEO) that meets the LEOSA requirements, moves to a new area and is unable to return to their home agency for qualifications. These individuals often seek out a local agency to qualify them. This again creates logistical issues along with the decision to offer this service to an individual that the agency has no relationship with.

COURTHOUSE

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What this bill will do is create an opportunity that other states have already done and that is to allow for the privatization of LEOSA qualifications. This bill would allow concealed weapons instructors that are approved by the ND Attorney General, that wish to offer this service, the opportunity to do so. Law enforcement agencies could still offer the qualifications if they wish, but separated LEO's needing the qualification and agencies would both have options.

Although I only speak as the Sheriff of Burleigh County on this bill, we have vetted this bill with the ND Chiefs of Police Association, the ND Sheriffs and Deputies Association, and the North Dakota Peace Officers Association. We have received positive feedback and no concerns.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,



Kelly Leben, Sheriff
Burleigh County

2025 SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

HB 1589

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

HB 1589

3/14/2025

10:15 AM

Relating to law enforcement agency and concealed weapons test administrator certifications and firearm proficiency qualification course records and to standards for qualification in firearms training for retired officers.

10:15 a.m. Chairman Patten opened the hearing.

Members present:

Chairman Patten, Vice Chairman Kessel, Senators: Beard, Boehm, Enget, Gerhardt, and Van Oosting.

Discussion Topics:

- Qualifications for concealed weapons training
- Requirements for retired law enforcement officers
- Privatization of firearm qualification services

10:17 a.m. Representative Porter, District 34, introduced the bill.

10:20 a.m. Trent Wangen, Sheriff's Department Major of Burleigh County, testified in favor and submitted testimony #41263.

10:27 a.m. Kelvin Benson, ND Police Officers Association, testified in favor.

10:27 a.m. Casey Miller, Chief Agent, NDBCI, testified in favor.

10:30 a.m. Chairman Patten closed the hearing.

Kendra McCann, Committee Clerk



BURLEIGH COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

KELLY LEBEN
SHERIFF

Testimony Prepared for the
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

March 14th, 2025

By: Trent Wangen, Major

RE: Supportive Testimony for House Bill 1589- Relating to standards for qualification in firearms training for retired officers.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chair Patten and Committee Members

My name is Trent Wangen and I serve as a Major with the Burleigh County Sheriff's Department. My primary duty is to serve as the Assistant Jail Administrator of the Burleigh Morton Detention Center, a 555 bed facility located in Bismarck.

I am testifying in support of HB1589, relating to standards for qualification in firearms training for retired officers.

HB 1589 is a bill that will assist law enforcement agencies and retired/separated law enforcement officers with navigating the requirements of the Law Enforcement Officer's Safety Act (LEOSA).

LEOSA is a federal law that was enacted in 2004 and has since been amended several times. LEOSA is a law that gives retired and separated law enforcement officers that meet the requirements of the law, with the ability to carry concealed in the United States. There are two main requirements of LEOSA. The first is that the officer separated in good standing, meeting separation requirements, and receive credentials from the agency that they separated from indicating so. The second main requirement is that the separated officer successfully completed an approved qualification course within the last year. The purpose of LEOSA is spelled out in the name as it truly is a Law Enforcement Officer's Safety Act. By the nature of the work of law enforcement, many of the threats and risks don't end at retirement or separation.

The purpose of this bill is to assist those officers that meet the first requirement of LEOSA, in the fact that they are a credentialed, separated officer, with meeting the second requirement of obtaining annual qualifications for proficiency and having the required proof. Although most agencies willingly conduct LEOSA qualifications for their former members, logistics can sometimes be cumbersome for both the agency and the individual.

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BURLEIGH COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

KELLY LEBEN
SHERIFF

Another scenario that plays out often is when a separated law enforcement officer (LEO) that meets the LEOSA requirements, moves to a new area and is unable to return to their home agency for qualifications. These individuals often seek out a local agency to qualify them. This again creates logistical issues along with the decision to offer this service to an individual that the agency has no relationship with.

What this bill will do is create an opportunity that other states have already done and that is to allow for the privatization of LESO qualifications. This bill would allow concealed weapons instructors that are approved by the ND Attorney General, that wish to offer this service, the opportunity to do so. Law Enforcement agencies could still offer the qualifications if they wish, but separated LEO's needing the qualification and agencies would both have options.

Although I only speak representing Burleigh County on this bill, we have vetted this bill with the ND Chiefs of Police Association, the ND Sheriffs and Deputies Association, and the North Dakota Peace Officers Association. We have received positive feedback and no concerns.

I will stand for any questions.

Sincerely

Trent Wangen, Major
Burleigh County

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2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

HB 1589

3/14/2025

11:09 AM

Relating to law enforcement agency and concealed weapons test administrator certifications and firearm proficiency qualification course records and to standards for qualification in firearms training for retired officers.

11:09 a.m. Chairman Patten opened the hearing.

Members present:

Chairman Patten, Vice Chairman Kessel, Senators: Beard, Boehm, Enget, Gerhardt, and Van Oosting.

Discussion Topics:

- Committee Action

11:09 a.m. Senator Van Oosting moved a Do Pass.

11:09 a.m. Senator Boehm seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Dale Patten	Y
Senator Greg Kessel	Y
Senator Todd Beard	Y
Senator Keith Boehm	Y
Senator Mark Enget	Y
Senator Justin Gerhardt	Y
Senator Desiree Van Oosting	Y

Motion Passed 7-0-0

11:10 a.m. Senator Van Oosting will carry the bill.

11:10 a.m. Chairman Patten closed the hearing.

Kendra McCann, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1589 ([25.1202.01000](#))

Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Sen. Patten, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (7 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1589 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.