

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF:

Major Aaron Hummel, North Dakota Highway Patrol

Chairman Wobbema, and members of the committee, my name is Aaron Hummel and I serve as chief of staff for the North Dakota Highway Patrol. The Highway Patrol supports the passage of HB 1279 as amended in the House Political Subdivisions committee for a couple of reasons. First, the addition of the ability to meet the five-year service requirement by using employment outside the state of North Dakota is an incentive to attract out of state talent to North Dakota. Second, the addition of language providing coverage related to an incidental cardiac event even if the individual has less than five years of service is a positive step and provides peace of mind to the individual and their families. The language providing coverage retroactive to 2021 is a positive step to show the state's dedication to providing support in the particular examples that were provided in testimony out of West Fargo. Regarding additional changes this bill makes, it may be beneficial for the committee to know that there is neither a negative or positive impact to the Highway Patrol. Specifically, to the topic of requiring an employer to provide a medical exam at no expense, the Highway Patrol has funding for these exams and does already meet the requirements this bill would add.