

Testimony
House Bill 1276
Senate Human Services Committee
Health Resources Division
Monday, March 18, 2013; 10:30 a.m.
North Dakota Department of Health

Good morning, Chairman Lee and members of the committee. My name is Darleen Bartz, PhD, and I am the Health Resources Section Chief for the North Dakota Department of Health. I am here today to propose amendments to the engrossed House Bill 1276.

This bill relates to medication administration in primary or secondary schools and provides an exemption from the Nurse Practice Act. However, as written, this bill does not provide an exemption from the Department of Health's Nurse Aide Registry requirements, which includes medication assistants. The amendment that we propose would provide for that exemption.

Representatives from the Department of Health met with members of the School Board Association and other school representatives prior to the legislative session. The school representatives were given information about requirements for registration as a medication assistant on the Department of Health's Nurse Aide Registry, including the requirement to be under the supervision of a licensed nurse to perform delegated medication administration.

The individuals representing the schools indicated that was not the model for medication administration they intended to use in the school systems, as nurses are not present in every school. However, an exemption to the Nurse Aide Registry was not included when the bill was introduced.

Guidance from the Department of Health's legal counsel was to add an exemption to the Nurse Aide Registry requirements for individuals administering medications in a primary or secondary school under a program established under section 15.1-19-23. A copy of the proposed amendments is attached.

That concludes my testimony. I would be happy to respond to any questions you may have.