

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF

Colonel Brandon Solberg, Superintendent

Chair Roers and members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee, my name is Brandon Solberg, and I serve as the superintendent of the North Dakota Highway Patrol. I am opposed to House Bill 1285 which would eliminate an executive branch agency's ability to submit a legislative bill without a sponsor from the legislative assembly.

The highway patrol does work with members of the legislative assembly to sponsor and introduce bills, and we value those partnerships and relationships. But we also submit bills directly when the intent is to clean up specific areas of the North Dakota Century Code that impact the agency. Three examples from the current session are below:

- HB 1060 – added additional options for commercial motor vehicle permits
 - Passed the House 90-0
 - Passed the Senate 45-0
- SB 2053 – changes “patrolman” to “trooper” and “accident” to “crash”
 - Passed the Senate 47-0
 - Pending amendments for insurance sections in the House
- SB 2054 – clarifies the highway patrol's dignitary protection and door security responsibilities
 - Passed the Senate 47-0
 - Passed the House 84-0

The ability for state agencies to submit bills directly, especially bills that have a minor impact, creates efficiencies for the agency and members of the legislative assembly. Efforts such as locating a potential sponsor, connecting with the legislator to explain why a change is needed, preparing and reviewing draft bills for submission, and participating in each step of the legislative session all take up valuable time.

Ultimately, the legislative assembly retains the ability to vote down any bill that is introduced. I would urge the committee to consider a “do not pass” recommendation on HB 1285.