

Minutes January 31, 2017, Telephone Conference Call


The NDPI SB held a special teleconference meeting to discuss Senate Bill 2329. The proposed bill is an amendment to Section 43-30-04 of the ND Century Code to state that all military personnel can be granted armed certification regardless of their previous rank, experience or service.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman, John Shorey. Board members present: Mike Stensrud, Randy Ziegler, Michael Wetsch, Ernie Thurman, and Nancy Miller. Board member absent: Rick Schuh. Others present: NDPI SB Executive Director, Francine Johnson and NDPI SB Office Assistant, Cheryl Kruger.

Francine Johnson informed the Board that the office received an email from Dallas Carlson, of NDBCI, inquiring if the NDPI SB was aware of SB 2329. Francine Johnson informed him we were not aware of the bill and asked if his agency intended to support or oppose it. He indicated they do not support the bill.

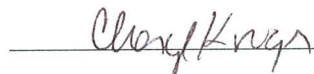
Randy Ziegler informed the members that he had spoken with the bill's sponsor, Diane Larson, NDPOA, and Bismarck Police Chief, Dan Donlin, NDBCI. He shared that Diane Larson had not read the bill and the others contacted indicated they were opposed to the bill as written. General discussion and consensus among board members was the proposed bill does not reflect the standards of the board nor the industry it serves. It was also noted that there are equivalency standards in place to satisfy the concern of acceptance of the military qualifications and experience. There was concern expressed by all members that allowing this bill to proceed or be passed would be detrimental to the industry and general public. It was noted that this matter was also discussed at the February 2016 board meeting whereby Steve Kilde of 10 Code requested this same type of waiver. He was informed at that meeting of the equivalencies in place and if he wished to utilize those equivalencies, or present the military standards, he needed to present them for the board's review. He has never followed through and done so. The board's consensus was that the standards currently required of armed certifications would not be met by allowing this proposed bill to move forward. There were concerns about mental health of the military applicant, honourable or dishonourable discharges, criminal records, or skill set and proficiencies with weapons. As a whole, the board deemed this blanket waiver as extremely problematic.

Mike Stensrud made the motion to oppose SB 2329 with no addendum. Ernie Thurman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and it was unanimous. M/S/C. The board directed Francine Johnson to testify in opposition of the bill on Friday, 2-3-17 before the committee. It was also discussed that there should be a weapons instructor present to provide testimony and field questions at this committee hearing. John Shorey indicated he would travel to Bismarck to testify due to the fact that no other board members would/could attend. Randy Ziegler indicated he would contact Diane Larson to inquire if the bill could be killed prior to Friday. He will inform the board (through Francine) of the result. If the bill cannot be killed, Francine Johnson and John Shorey will testify opposing SB 2329 on 2-3-17 at 9:00 a.m. Nancy Miller made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Michael Wetsch seconded. A roll call vote was taken and it was unanimous. M/S/C. The meeting was concluded at 10:30 a.m.



Chairman, John Shorey

3-8-17
Date



Cheryl Kruger

3/8/17
Date