



# NORTH DAKOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## Representative Corey Mock

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**COMMITTEES:**  
Appropriations

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## HB 1278 – Unemployment Compensation for Military Spouses

Chairman Mike Lefor and members of the House Industry, Business and Labor Committee. My name is Corey Mock, Representative for District 18 in Grand Forks and sponsor of HB 1278.

This legislation comes at the specific request of military families stationed at Grand Forks and Minot Air Force Bases and has the full-throated support of our nation's Department of Defense and other military organizations.

As of today, North Dakota is one of only two states in the United States that does not allow military spouses to qualify for unemployment insurance when relocating due to a permanent change of station (PCS).

Our state law is fairly clear: voluntary separation between an employee and their employer would not qualify for unemployment. Despite military spouses not having a choice when their family receives new orders, we still consider this lapse of employment a "voluntary" separation.

HB 1278 closes this gap by allowing military spouses transferring away from a North Dakota base to qualify for limited unemployment benefits.

A qualifying applicant would adhere to all other existing unemployment requirements and practices:

- Notify their employer of the separation
- Exhaust all options to maintain employment with their employer
- Satisfy the one-week mandatory waiting period
- Report weekly job search progress to Job Service ND

Unemployment benefits under this section would end after twelve weeks or upon beginning a new job, whichever occurs first. It should be noted this bill was amended prior to introduction to limit eligible benefits from the standard 26 weeks to 12 weeks, reducing potential costs to employers.

We hope you'll stand with military families fortunate enough to be stationed in our beautiful state. By giving HB 1278 a do pass recommendation, you're reinforcing that North Dakota is an ideal home for our armed services.

Thank you for your time and consideration.