

MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

2243

2001 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

SB 2243

2001 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2243

Senate Human Services Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date January 23, 2001

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	X		44.6
1		X	
January 30, 2001 2		X	18.7
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Paul Tolsony clerk</i>			

Minutes:

The hearing on SB 2243 was opened by SENATOR LEE.

SENATOR THANE introduced the bill as a request of the people involved - marriage therapists.

At the present time you can hang up a shingle and get clients with no licensing or special education. This bill will make the licensing of marriage and family therapists effect.

Opposition.

REBECCA McCONNACHIE, Mental Health Counselor, opposes bill. (Written testimony)

SENATOR KILZER: Are you certified by some board? MS. McCONNACHIE: Yes, the Board of Councilors.

DAN ULMER, BCBS, opposes bill. What normally happens (1) licensure create reimbursement.

(2) Beginning to license a treatment modality, not a profession. We reimburse for family

concealing, not marriage concealing. SENATOR MATHERN: On the issue of consumer

protection, what is there to prevent anybody from doing this. DAN ULMER: There is under

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Senate Human Services Committee

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Clinical Practitioners. You need to understand the difference between licensing a modality and a profession. The profession is already licensed. This is a modality within that profession.

BONNIE LARSON STAIGER, Executive Director of the ND Psychological Assoc, opposes this bill. (Written testimony)

KEN STONE, Clinical psychologist at South Central Human Service Center, Jamestown, opposes bill. (Written testimony). SENATOR KILZER: How many people are licensed in your organization? MR. STONE: 85 members in NDPA. SENATOR KILZER: Is that a large enough group to discipline any bad apples or carry out duties. MR. STONE: There are 300 members governed by the licensing board. MS. STAIGER: Yes, the board is adequately funded.

CONNIE HILDEBRAND, Legislative Chair of the ND Chapter of the National Assoc of Social Workers, is opposed to bill. (Written testimony).

GAYLYNN BECKER, Past president of the ND Counseling Association, opposes the bill. (Written testimony)

TIM AUSTIN, ND Board of Counselor Examiners, opposes bill. (Written testimony)

The hearing was closed on SB 2243.

January 30, 2001, Tape 2, Side B, Meter 18.7

Discussion resumed on SB 2243.

SENATOR FISCHER moved a DO NOT PASS. SENATOR ERBELE seconded the motion.

Discussion. Roll call vote carried 6-0. SENATOR FISCHER will carry the bill.

Roll Call Vote #: 2

Date: 1/30/01

2001 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2243

Senate HUMAN SERVICES Committee

Subcommittee on _____
or
 Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do not Pass

Motion Made By Sen Fischer Seconded By Sen Erbele

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Lee, Chairperson	✓		Senator Polovitz	✓	
Senator Kilzer, Vice-Chairperson	✓		Senator Mathern	✓	
Senator Erbele	✓				
Senator Fischer	✓				

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Sen Fischer

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
February 6, 2001 2:35 p.m.

Module No: SR-21-2508
Carrier: Fischer
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2243: Human Services Committee (Sen. Lee, Chairman) recommends DO NOT PASS
(8 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2243 was placed on the
Eleventh order on the calendar.

2001 TESTIMONY

SB 2243

**Testimony on Senate Bill 2243
Human Services Committee
January 23, 2001
Rebecca McConnachie, MA/LPC/LPCC
Mental Health Counselor
(701) 222-2543**

Madame Chairman and members of the Senate Human Services Committee;

My name is Rebecca McConnachie and I am a counselor in Bismarck, and a member of the North Dakota Counseling Association. I am opposed to Senate Bill 2243.

This bill will create a roadblock for professionals who are already practicing in the field of marriage and family therapy. Marriage and family therapy crosses all disciplines in the mental health profession. To only allow one group to practice and advertise, would limit other professionals ability to provide marriage and family services. This is especially true for mental health professionals in private practice, who rely heavily on advertising.

This bill will make it more difficult for consumers in our state, especially those in rural areas, to find mental health professionals to help with marital and family issues. It will limit access to services for consumers in these rural areas, and they may have to travel further than necessary to obtain services.

As a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor, I am trained to provide marital and family therapy, as are other mental health professionals. My training

program had marriage and family therapy as part of its core curriculum, and I have four years experience in providing marriage and family therapy. However, it appears in this bill, I would be unable to provide marital and family therapy services if I were in private practice. The exemptions in this chapter to practice and advertise marriage and family services seem vague and open to different interpretations.

In addition, this bill creates an additional licensing board, which is not necessary, as other licensing boards for mental health professionals currently exist.

In conclusion, I urge you to vote DO NOT PASS on Senate Bill 2243. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.