

2023 SENATE EDUCATION

SB 2223

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

SB 2223
1/18/2023

Relating to the residency requirement for military installation school board members.

9:30 AM Chair Elkin opened the hearing. Present: Chair Elkin, Vice Chair Beard, Sen Axtman, Sen Conley, Sen Lemm, and Sen Wobbema.

Discussion Topics:

- Community relations

Sen Scott Meyer, bill sponsor and testified in support with amendment #16132.

Sen Wobbema moved the amendment LC 23.0299.03001. Sen Axtman seconded.

Senators	Vote
Senator Jay Elkin	Y
Senator Todd Beard	Y
Senator Michelle Axtman	Y
Senator Cole Conley	Y
Senator Randy D. Lemm	Y
Senator Michael A. Wobbema	Y

VOTE: YES 6 NO 0 Absent – 0

Motion PASSED

Sen Wobbema moved a DO PASS as Amended. Sen Conley seconded.

Senators	Vote
Senator Jay Elkin	Y
Senator Todd Beard	Y
Senator Michelle Axtman	Y
Senator Cole Conley	Y
Senator Randy D. Lemm	Y
Senator Michael A. Wobbema	Y

VOTE: YES – 6 NO – 0 Absent – 0

Motion PASSED

Sen Conley will carry the bill.

Additional Testimony:

Amber Flynn, Grand Forks, ND in favor #14182

Nichole Deneseus, Grand Forks, ND in favor #14146

Michelle Shepperd, Grand Forks Air Force Base in favor #14062

Bruce Gjovig, Grand Forks, ND in favor #13992

9:40 AM Chair Elkin adjourned the meeting.
Pam Dever, Committee Clerk

January 18, 2023

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2223

Page 1, line 15, after the period insert "An individual who serves on the board of a school district in the district where they reside may not simultaneously be appointed to the board of a military installation."

DR
1-18-2023
1 of 1

Renumber accordingly

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2223: Education Committee (Sen. Elkin, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2223 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

Page 1, line 15, after the period insert "An individual who serves on the board of a school district in the district where they reside may not simultaneously be appointed to the board of a military installation."

Renumber accordingly

2023 HOUSE EDUCATION

SB 2223

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

SB 2223
3/7/2023

Relating to the residency requirement for military installation school board members.

Chairman Heinert opened the hearing at 10:01 AM

Members present: Chairman Heinert, Vice Chairman Schreiber-Beck, Representatives Conmy, Hager, Hauck, Heilman, Hoverson, Jonas, Longmuir, and Marschall. Absent: Representatives Hoverson, Novak, and Timmons.

Discussion Topics:

- Residency
- School Board Continuity
- Allowing Retired Military

Sen Meyer, District 18, introduced HB 2223, Testimony (#22391)

Alexis Baxley, Executive Director NDSBA, Verbally spoke in favor of SB 2223

Mark Vollmer, Superintendent, Minot School District and Minot Air Force District, Testimony (#22506)

10:12 AM Chairman Heinert closed the hearing.

Kathleen Davis, Committee Clerk

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

SB 2223
3/7/2023

Relating to the residency requirement for military installation school board members.

Chairman Heinert opened the hearing at 4:04 PM

Members present: Chairman Heinert, Vice Chairman Schreiber-Beck, Representatives Conmy, Dyk, Hager, Hauck, Heilman, Hoverson, Jonas, Longmuir, Marschall, Murphy, and Timmons. Absent: Representative Novak.

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

Representative Longmuir moved a Do Pass

Seconded by Representative Marschall.

Roll call vote:

Representatives	Vote
Representative Pat D. Heinert	Y
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	Y
Representative Liz Conmy	Y
Representative Scott Dyk	Y
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	Y
Representative Dori Hauck	Y
Representative Matt Heilman	Y
Representative Jeff A. Hoverson	Y
Representative Jim Jonas	Y
Representative Donald W. Longmuir	Y
Representative Andrew Marschall	Y
Representative Eric J Murphy	Y
Representative Anna S. Novak	AB
Representative Kelby Timmons	Y

Motion carried: 13-0-1.

Bill Carrier: Representative Marschall.

4:14 PM Meeting adjourned.

Kathleen Davis, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2223, as engrossed: Education Committee (Rep. Heinert, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SB 2223 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

SB 2223
3/14/2023

Relating to the residency requirement for military installation school board members.

3:57 PM Chairman Heinert opened the meeting.

Members present: Chairman Heinert, Vice Chairman Schreiber-Beck, Representatives Conmy, Hager, Hauck, Heilman, Hoverson, Jonas, Longmuir, and Marschall. Absent: Representatives Hoverson, Novak, and Timmons.

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

Rep Longmuir moved to Reconsider SB 2223, seconded by Rep Marschall. Voice vote, motion carried.

Rep Marschall moved to amend SB 2223 to add an Emergency Clause, seconded by Rep Heilman.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Pat D. Heinert	Y
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	Y
Representative Liz Conmy	Y
Representative Scott Dyk	Y
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	AB
Representative Dori Hauck	Y
Representative Matt Heilman	Y
Representative Jeff A. Hoverson	Y
Representative Jim Jonas	Y
Representative Donald W. Longmuir	Y
Representative Andrew Marschall	Y
Representative Eric James Murphy	Y
Representative Anna S. Novak	AB
Representative Kelby Timmons	Y

12-0-2 Motion carried.

Rep Marschall moved a Do Pass as Amended, seconded by Rep Hoverson.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Pat D. Heinert	Y
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	Y
Representative Liz Conmy	Y
Representative Scott Dyk	Y
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	AB
Representative Dori Hauck	Y
Representative Matt Heilman	Y

Representative Jeff A. Hoverson	Y
Representative Jim Jonas	Y
Representative Donald W. Longmuir	Y
Representative Andrew Marschall	Y
Representative Eric James Murphy	Y
Representative Anna S. Novak	AB
Representative Kelby Timmons	Y

12-0-2 Motion carried. Rep Marschall is carrier.

4:01 PM meeting adjourned.

Kathleen Davis, Committee Clerk

23.0299.04001
Title.05000

Adopted by the House Education Committee

March 14, 2023

DR
171
3-14-23

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2223

Page 1, line 2, after "members" insert "; and to declare an emergency"

Page 1, after line 21, insert:

"SECTION 2. EMERGENCY. This Act is declared to be an emergency measure."

Renumber accordingly

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2223, as engrossed: Education Committee (Rep. Heinert, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SB 2223 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 2, after "members" insert "; and to declare an emergency"

Page 1, after line 21, insert:

"SECTION 2. EMERGENCY. This Act is declared to be an emergency measure."

Renumber accordingly

TESTIMONY

SB 2223

TO: Senate Education Committee

From: Bruce Gjovig, USAF & Space Force Civic Leader
701-739-3132

January 17, 2023

RE: For SB 2223 Residency Requirements for military installation school board members

SB 2223 amends current law to expand the pool of qualified school board members on a military installation to include not only those airmen, guardians and their spouses who live on the Air Force or Space Force Base, but also those who reside within 20 miles of the military base as well as those who are retired and closely connected to the base.

For example, according to the GFAFB website, there are 1,730 Airmen (plus spouses and children) attached to the base, but only about 500 active duty members who live on base (with spouses and children = 1,900 on base in 2022), with the rest living in surrounding communities, small and large. Thus two-thirds of the airmen live off-base. Their children attend school in Grand Forks or surrounding communities.

Quality of education is important to all of us, especially Airmen and their families. Children with parents in the military move on average six to nine times before graduating from high school. Military-connected students on average academically outperform their civilian peers. Nathan Twining Elementary & Middle School on GFAFB serves about 300 students in the first 8 grades. Though it is on base, the school is part of the Grand Forks School District, meaning the district provides the teachers, curriculum and other resources. The U.S. Department of Defense pays the school district for those services.

The GFAFB School Board has important input into the Grand Forks School Board and helps address the key issues encountered by military families — transferability, transitions, eligibility, enrollment, placement and graduation — and making sure that the school on the base has policies that accommodate airmen who move frequently, and ensuring the school is maintained, both the property and the quality of education. Across the country, military service members are choosing to live apart from their families for years at a time or, alternatively, quit the military altogether to avoid having to enroll their children in underperforming schools surrounding several military bases. Fortunately, North Dakota is not faced with that dilemma.

It is important that the base commanders can recommend the best candidates — on base or off base — for the superintendent to consider to work on the issues that are important and peculiar to children of airmen.

Good morning esteemed members of the North Dakota State Legislature;

I'm writing you today to present my strong support for Senate Bill 2223. The small change being proposed will immeasurably strengthen districts 140 & 160 school board's ability to build continuity and consensus by addressing board member attrition rates.

Currently board membership is restricted to service members and spouses who, specifically, reside on-installation. Under current ND Century Code's (15.1-08-02) provision for board membership, District 140's school board has experienced at least one mid-term vacancy per year for the last seven years due to members being exempted for retiring from service or voluntarily moving off-installation even though said members continued to reside in the area and had/have children attending the on-installation schools. Additionally, the board's applicant field is further narrowed due to the availability of on-installation housing. There are a limited number of houses (filled first-come first-served) which forces off-installation residency when full, and creates another population of installation-connected service members who are unable to serve on the school board.

By allowing installation-connected service members/spouses and retirees/spouses who reside off-installation to serve on the school board will provide stability and continuity for the board, the district and most importantly for our students.

Thank you for your consideration and time,
Michelle Shepperd

Testimony in Support of SB 2223 - January 18th, 2023

I am a current member of the Grand Forks AFB School Board (District 140). I believe that this board and other base boards in the state of North Dakota would benefit from the passing of this bill.

Our board is currently limited to applicants who reside on the installation. With the base offering a finite number of on-base homes, housing is often at full capacity and many incoming military members are unable to live on-base. This restricts District 140 to a small pool of applicants, which has historically made it difficult to maintain a full board. Many off-base residents, with ties to both District 140 and District 1, are interested in serving, but are disqualified.

The mobile nature of the military also leads to an unstable board, with constant turnover. On-base residents are prone to regular moves and deployments, cutting their term short. Having the option to include retirees and their spouses on the board would provide much needed continuity.

I greatly appreciate you all considering this bill and the impact it can have on the children of our military communities.

To: Senate Education Committee

From: Amber Flynn, Vice-President Grand Forks Public Schools

January 18, 2023

RE: For SB 2223 Residency Requirements for military installation school board members

Members of the Senate Education Committee,

I write to you today in support of SB 2223. In Grand Forks, ND, we have the privilege of being served by the GFAFB and welcoming their members and families into the Grand Forks and surrounding communities. In Grand Forks, we are unique in that our district has two school districts, the Grand Forks Public Schools and the Grand Forks AFB school. Many families like to live on base because of the small K-8 school and find it a benefit for their children. Others, choose to live in town, pay property taxes, and attend Grand Forks public schools. Also, most children in high school living on the base attend high school at Grand Forks public schools in town.

I have served on the Grand Forks public school board for 7+ years. During that time, we have found it necessary and important to seek the input of our military partners as it related to partnering on initiatives, making district wide decisions, and implementing curriculum. For example, the STEM camp grant that is received every year through the DoD is a partnership that has served students in a variety of ways and provides a bridge between military life and civilian life.

As a dependent to two Air Force parents, I understand the unique challenges that military families face. Often, one or more parents are serving on deployment, students have move multiple times in their educational career, parents may be navigating a different style of education (ex. Overseas education vs. American education), transportation from "out of town" to attend high school each morning (ie. possible transportation barriers), and the list goes on and on.

We are thankful for the perspectives of the GFAFB board members, and this bill will help expand representation. It has been a struggle over the years to keep individuals on the board given the requirements of only living on base. Their perspective is valuable and a much-needed asset. Thank you for your time.

SB 2223 - School Board Membership Requirements for Military Installations

From: Meyer, Scott scottmeyer@ndlegis.gov

To: jayelkin@nd.gov

Date: Thu, Jan 12, 2023, 1:09 PM

Mr. Chairman,

Current language in 15.1-08-02 states a school board member must reside on the military installation.

However, more and more military members and their families live off the base and commute to work. Many times these people bring their children with them to work, and drop them off at the base school. Just like in many other elected positions, it has become harder and harder to find quality candidates who are willing to run and serve. This bill now allows an active member or spouse of the military installation, and retired member or spouse of the military installation whose permanent residence is within 20 miles of the military installation.

Through discussion with Alexis Baxley, School Board Association, she recommended the 20 mile radius, because 20 miles east of the Grand Forks Air Force Base puts you in Minnesota.

I was first informed of this bill through Congressman Armstrong after a school board member from GFafb contacted him for support.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Scott

Senator Scott Meyer

District 18

Grand Forks, ND

(C) 218.791.7655

(E) ScottMeyer@ndlegis.gov

From: Meyer, Scott scottmeyer@ndlegis.gov

To: Meyer, Scott scottmeyer@ndlegis.gov

Date: Wed, Jan 18, 2023, 9:15 AM

I think we could just add "No individual who serves on the board of the schools district in which they reside may simultaneously be appointed to the board of a military installation." After "twenty miles from the military installation."

Scott Meyer
State Senator District 18
Grand Forks, ND
218.791.7655
scottmeyer@ndlegis.gov

Mr. Chairman and members of the Education committee,

Current language in 15.1-08-02 states a school board member must reside on the military installation.

However, more and more military members and their families live off the base and commute to work. Many times, these people bring their children with them to work, and drop them off at the base school. Just like in many other elected positions, it has become harder and harder to find quality candidates who are willing to run and serve. This bill now allows an active member or spouse of the military installation, and retired member or spouse of the military installation whose permanent residence is within 20 miles of the military installation.

Through discussion with the School Board Association, they recommended the 20 mile radius, because 20 miles east of the Grand Forks Air Force Base puts you in Minnesota.

I ask for a do pass recommendation, and I'll stand for any questions.

House Education Committee**Rep. Heinert, Chair****March 7, 2023****SB 2223**

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee, my name is Mark Vollmer. I proudly serve as Superintendent of Minot Public School District #1 and Minot Air Force Base #160. I stand in front of you today to offer our support for SB 2223, a bill relating to the residency requirements for military installation school board members

SB 2223 is a good bill. The bill allows flexibility in appointing school board members and supports stability among the board.

The current policy for appointment of board members is good, and in general, the process works well. We enjoy building stronger relationships with our military families and are happy when our board is complete, with five active members.

Our primary concern centers on periods of time when we either cannot fill open positions, or times when we operate with less than a full board.

It is rare when a school board member can complete a full term. SB 2223 allows a district to also consider retired military members, most of which have retired from the military, have a strong connection with our local military base, and have chosen to stay in our great state.

Allowing retired military personnel to serve on the board will bring stability to the board. Therefore, I offer my support of SB 2223 and will stand for any questions you may have.