

2023 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

SB 2379

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee
Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2379
2/14/2023

Relating to homeless youth access to birth records.

9:04 AM **Madam Chair Lee** called the hearing to order. **Senators Lee, Cleary, Clemens, K. Roers, Weston, Hogan** were present.

Discussion Topics:

- Birth certificate access
- Homeless youth advocates
- Sports physical vital records
- Youth under sixteen vital records
- Youth Works intervenes
- Driver's license

9:04 AM **Senator Weston** introduced SB 2379 #20602 in favor

9:08 AM **Darin Meschke, Director Vital Records, ND Department of Health and Human Services** verbally provided information in favor.

9:10 AM **Christine Sambor, Youthworks board member**, verbally testified in favor.

9:18 AM Madam Chair Lee closed the hearing.

9:19 AM Madam Chair Lee reconvened hearing.

Senator K. Roers moves **DO PASS**.

Senator Westin seconded.

Roll call vote.

Senators	Vote
Senator Judy Lee	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	Y
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Kathy Hogan	Y
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Kent Weston	Y

Motion passed 6-0-0.

Senator Lee will carry SB 2379

9:21 AM **Madam Chair Lee** closed the hearing.

Patricia Lahr, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2379: Human Services Committee (Sen. Lee, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2379 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

2023 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

SB 2379

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee
Pioneer Room, State Capitol

SB 2379
3/6/2023

Relating to homeless youth access to birth records.

Chairman Weisz called the meeting to order at 3:41 PM.

Chairman Robin Weisz, Reps. Karen A. Anderson, Mike Beltz, Clayton Fegley, Kathy Frelich, Dawson Holle, Dwight Kiefert, Carrie McLeod, Todd Porter, Brandon Prichard, Karen M. Rohr, and Gretchen Dobervich present. Vice Chairman Matthew Ruby and Rep. Jayme Davis not present.

Discussion Topics:

- Barriers to success
- Identity theft

Sen. Weston introduced SB 2379, speaking in support.

Christina Sanbor, Lobbyist on behalf of Youth Works, spoke in support and introduced Mark Heinert.

Mark Heinert, Assistant Director of Youth Works, supportive testimony (#22247).

Chairman Weisz adjourned the meeting at 3:48 PM.

Phillip Jacobs, Committee Clerk

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

SB 2379
3/6/2023

Relating to homeless youth access to birth records.

Chairman Weisz called the meeting to order at 4:18 PM.

Chairman Robin Weisz, Reps. Karen A. Anderson, Mike Beltz, Clayton Fegley, Kathy Frelich, Dawson Holle, Dwight Kiefert, Carrie McLeod, Todd Porter, Brandon Prichard, Karen M. Rohr, and Gretchen Dobervich present. Vice Chairman Matthew Ruby and Rep. Jayme Davis not present.

Discussion Topics:

- Committee work
- Emergency clause

Chairman Weisz called for a discussion on SB 2379.

Rep. Porter moved to adopt amendment (#23.1104.01001) to SB 2379.

Seconded by Rep. Anderson.

Motion carries by voice vote.

Rep. Porter moved a do pass as amended on SB 2379.

Seconded by Rep. McLeod.

Roll Call Vote:

Representatives	Vote
Representative Robin Weisz	Y
Representative Matthew Ruby	AB
Representative Karen A. Anderson	Y
Representative Mike Beltz	Y
Representative Jayme Davis	AB
Representative Gretchen Dobervich	Y
Representative Clayton Fegley	Y
Representative Kathy Frelich	Y
Representative Dawson Holle	Y
Representative Dwight Kiefert	Y
Representative Carrie McLeod	Y
Representative Todd Porter	Y
Representative Brandon Prichard	Y
Representative Karen M. Rohr	Y

House Human Services Committee
SB 2379
3/6/2023
Page 2

Motion carries 12-0-2.

Carried by Rep. Kiefert.

Chairman Weisz adjourned the meeting at 4:20 PM.

Phillip Jacobs, Committee Clerk

23.1104.01001
Title.02000

Adopted by the House Human Services
Committee

March 6, 2023

DR
1/21
3-6-23

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2379

Page 1, line 3, after "records" insert "; and to declare an emergency"

Page 3, after line 30, insert:

"SECTION 3. EMERGENCY. This Act is declared to be an emergency
measure."

Renumber accordingly

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2379: Human Services Committee (Rep. Weisz, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2379 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 3, after "records" insert "; and to declare an emergency"

Page 3, after line 30, insert:

"SECTION 3. EMERGENCY. This Act is declared to be an emergency measure."

Renumber accordingly

2023 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

SB 2379

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee
Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2379
3/29/2023

Relating to homeless youth access to birth records.

11:50 AM **Madam Chair Lee** called the hearing to order. **Senators Lee, Cleary, Clemens, K. Roers, Weston, Hogan** were present.

Discussion Topics:

- House amendment concurrence
- Conference committee

The committee concurred.

11:51 AM **Madam Chair Lee** closed the hearing.

Patricia Lahr, Committee Clerk

TESTIMONY

SB 2379

Testimony
Health and Human Services Committee
SB 2379
February 14, 2023
Senator Kent Weston

Madam Chair Lee and committee members. I am Senator Kent Weston from District 9. I am here to introduce SB 2379.

The purpose of this bill is to allow homeless youth access to their birth records. This is accomplished by amending North Dakota Century Code section 23-02.1-01 section 1 page 2 lines 13-17 and in section 2 page 3 line 25 and line 27.

Thank-you committee and I'll stand for any questions.

Mark Heinert

Assistant Executive Director, Youthworks

Testimony in support of SB 2379

House Human Services Committee

March 6, 2023

Chairman Weisz and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mark Heinert, and I am here today to provide information on SB 2379. I have been a licensed social worker in North Dakota for 30 years, serving runaway and homeless youth for the last 24 years. I am the Assistant Executive Director at Youthworks, a private, non-profit, youth serving agency serving Runaway and Homeless Youth in North Dakota. I am also part of the Missouri Valley Coalition for Homeless People, Inc.

SB 2379 would eliminate barriers to homeless youth's success by allowing the birth certificates of unaccompanied homeless youth to be provided to a homeless youth provider. Homeless youth and parents often need basic vital documents like a birth certificate to access employment, education, health, housing, and other needed services. The current process to get a birth certificate leads to a catch-22: people need a birth certificate to get an ID, and an ID to get a birth certificate. This challenge is one of the most common barriers that Youthworks sees young people experience that prevents them from

obtaining their goals. SB 2379 will eliminate this problem while adequately protecting against identity theft.

SB 2379 also makes sure that youth who are no longer staying with their parents can access their birth certificates. Youthworks serves over 100 youth each year who are runaway or homeless and are under the age of 18. Currently, ND law allows vital records to be issued to individuals who are at least sixteen years old. SB 2379 would ensure this is not a barrier for youth under 16 who need a birth certificate to get a job or access education, housing, or other services. Better access to birth certificates will help homeless youth access basic services and benefits, keeping them safer and healthier, which will empower them to access education and employment that can end their homelessness.

This bill was the result of listening sessions with homeless youth across the state of North Dakota. They have shared what have been barriers to their success, and SB 2379 would help reduce those barriers.