

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Requested by Legislative Council**  
**12/20/2014**

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1050

- 1 A. **State fiscal effect:** *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2013-2015 Biennium		2015-2017 Biennium		2017-2019 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
<b>Revenues</b>						
<b>Expenditures</b>			\$516,092		\$516,092	
<b>Appropriations</b>			\$166,092		\$516,092	

- 1 B. **County, city, school district and township fiscal effect:** *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

	2013-2015 Biennium	2015-2017 Biennium	2017-2019 Biennium
<b>Counties</b>			
<b>Cities</b>			
<b>School Districts</b>			
<b>Townships</b>			

- 2 A. **Bill and fiscal impact summary:** *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

HB1050 provides for the establishment of volunteer-based services through one-time incentive grants.

- B. **Fiscal impact sections:** *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

HB1050 provides for \$350,000, which is appropriated in the bill, to assist in providing one-time incentive grants for community-based organizations to establish programs to provide volunteer-based services for elderly and disabled persons. The bill also provides for an FTE for the Department of Human Services; the cost for this being \$166,092, all of which would be general fund. The funding for the FTE is not appropriated in the bill.

For the 2017-2019 biennium, the fiscal impact would be \$516,092, all of which would be general fund, to fund the grants and the continuation of the FTE.

3. **State fiscal effect detail:** *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

- A. **Revenues:** *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

- B. **Expenditures:** *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

The fiscal impact for the Department of Human Services for the 2015-2017 biennium is \$516,092 all of which is general fund, which would fund the grant costs and an FTE authorized by the bill. The fiscal impact for the 2017-2019 biennium is \$516,092, all of which is general fund, to fund the grants as well as to continue the funding of the FTE.

C. **Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation or a part of the appropriation is included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

In addition to the \$500,000 appropriated in the bill, the Department will need an appropriation increase of \$166,092 all of which would be general fund, for the 2015-2017 biennium. The Department will need an appropriation increase of \$516,092, all of which would be general fund, for the 2017-2019 biennium to fund the grants as well as the continuation of the FTE.

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**Agency:** Human Services

**Telephone:** 328-3695

**Date Prepared:** 01/06/2015

**2015 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES**

**HB 1050**

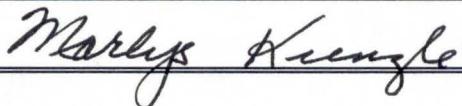
# 2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Human Services Committee**  
Fort Union Room, State Capitol

HB 1050  
1/14/2015  
Job # 21966

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



**Minutes:**

Attachment #1, 2 ,3

Chairman Weisz opened the hearing on HB 1050.

Rep. Damshen: Representative from District 10 testified in support of this bill. This appropriates money to the DHS to set up the needs of the elderly. It should save the state money in the long run.

Chairman Weisz: The bill says a there is a onetime grant, but it seems to imply it will keep going because of the Fiscal Note, which is it?

Rep. Damschen: This was to help start programs in communities and there probably will be needs to keep it going. This was to prime the community with funds and then continue with volunteers.

Rep. Seibel: What types of volunteer based services are we talking about?

Rep. Damschen: This would include volunteers that would not need professional training. There are people that need their meds administrated or rides to doctor's office.

Chairman Weisz: Did you have a discussion in committee if the Department would need a full FTE to implement this program? This would be the largest part of the cost to implement this program.

Rep. Damschen: I know I had thoughts because I fear the FTE. My opinion it could be done without an additional FTE.

Rep. Fehr: Would this money be for existing volunteer groups or create new ones?

Rep. Damschen: The intent was to create new ones.

Rep. Fehr: Are there any models in other states and are there some that are more self-sustaining?

Rep. Damschen: The people that are going to testify will address this issue.

Tracy Ekeren: Program Director of Helping Enderlin Area Residents Thrive (HEART) from Enderlin, ND testified in support of the bill. (Testimony #1)

Rep. Keifert: There is a program in Casselton, ND that DHS receives funding already?

Ekeren: Community Care as Representative Damschen had mentioned funding from DHS every biennium. I believe it is approximately about \$120,000. The Heart Program doesn't have any funding from the State. We are completely funded by memorials, grants, fund raiser and donations.

Rep. Keifert: Then DHS may be able to handle this program without adding another FTE.

Ekeren: Something that is very important when you start a new program is to have the resource to help with fund raising, organizing an office, having people get to know the community and so forth. Having these resources is very helpful and made the HEART program successful.

Rep. Damschen: Are you asking that Social Services be the mentoring group to play the part that the group you hired played?

Ekeren: Lutheran Services has quite a large knowledge and resource to be able to assist communities to begin programs like HEART.

Rep. Damschen: Is Eldiberry the group that assisted you still in existence?

Ekeren: The Eldiberry Group is no longer in existence.

Rep. Hofstad: Do you have any collaboration with DHS?

Ekeren: We do not. We do have a great relationship with Ramsey County Health.

Linda Reinicke: Testified on behalf of Lutheran Social Services of ND. (See Testimony #2)

Josh Askvig: Associate State Director of Advocacy for AARP of ND testified in support of the bill. (See Testimony 3)

Rep. D. Anderson: You recommended background checks. Do these Community Agencies have the authority to do background checks?

Askvig: I would assume they could do that, but there will be an expense.

Rep. D. Anderson: You said employer, but these are volunteers.

Askvig: We suggestion some measure to make sure of no elderly abuse.

Karen Tescher: From DHS Assistant Director of Long Term Care. We were asked to speak with the interim Human Committee in April. I administer the contract of giving money to Community Care. There was discussion of a FTE and what it would be used for. Currently what we are doing with the Community of Care is simply administrating that contract. It does not include site visits or going out and helping set up their programs in any way. We would be happy to administer the program if the bill would go through.

Chairman Weisz: The Fiscal Note states that it would include \$166.00 for another FTE beyond administrating the programs and the bill states \$100,000 to administrate the program. It appears that there is an overlap.

Tescher: I would need to go back and clarify that.

No Opposition

Chairman Weisz closed the hearing on HB 1050.

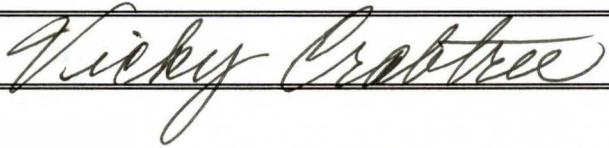
# 2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee  
Fort Union Room, State Capitol

HB 1050  
2/4/2015  
Job #23235

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Chairman Weisz: Let's look at HB 1050.

Rep. Muscha: We spent a lot of time in our interim committee on this. It is not a perfect bill, but we would like to keep it alive. Is there something on the Senate side?

Chairman Weisz: I'm not aware of it. Where did Enderlin get their funding from?

Rep. Muscha: It came from Minnesota.

Chairman Weisz: They provided the funding for the Enderlin program.

Rep. Muscha: Correct, for the first two years until we became self-sufficient. What is lacking in this bill is that it makes it look like the Human Service Center is in charge of it. Lutheran Social Services came and testified in the interim committee and they would be a willing partner.

Rep. Damschen: We saw this as an alternative to more expensive types of care. My preference would be some independent mentoring body that would oversee it. I don't want the concept lost into something that is already there.

Rep. Rich Becker: Reading through Section 1 and seeing all the dollars there is nowhere that tells you where it is going to come from. Where is the money going to come from?

Chairman Weisz: From one of the testimonies, "incorporating funds for volunteer home repair services (inaudible) in this proposed legislation." Do we provide any funding now for home repair services? If this goes down to Appropriations there is a resistance to combining and funding volunteer services. We have done it in the past.

Rep. Muscha: One of the questions to the heart program from a legislator on the committee was, "In Enderlin you don't have any QSPs?" They didn't know what a QSP was because they don't exist. Financially the state would be better off investing x amount

of dollars in perpetuating self-reliant communities versus reaching out and saying they would like state help.

Rep. Hofstad: I sat in on the committee and listened to the testimony too. This is a great idea and probably has some real merit. I realize the hurdles we have and I don't think this is the fight we want to pick right now. The hurdles in Appropriations would be unsurmountable. I move a Do Not Pass.

Rep. D. Anderson: Second.

Rep. Damschen: I am not going to support the motion. One of the groups we heard from was still getting money from DHS. This money was just an incentive.

Rep. Kiefert: This is my district too. We want them to succeed, but I don't know if this is the way to do it. I should probably vote against it.

Rep. Muscha: It is the Casselton Community of Care that receives \$69,000 annually. Enderlin doesn't receive anything.

Rep. Kiefert: Will this help Enderlin and will they get money from this. Well, I'll vote against it then.

Chairman Weisz: Enderlin could apply for further correct, Rep. Muscha?

Rep. Muscha: We are already totally self-sufficient and independent so no.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 9 y 4 n 0 absent

Bill Carrier: Rep. B. Anderson

Date: 2-4-15  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1050**

House Human Services Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description:

Recommendation:  Adopt Amendment  
 Do Pass  Do Not Pass  Without Committee Recommendation  
 As Amended  Rerrefer to Appropriations  
 Place on Consent Calendar

Other Actions:  Reconsider  \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By *[Signature]* Seconded By *[Signature]*

Total (Yes) 9 No 4

Absent 30 21 1

Floor Assignment *Rep. D. Anderson*

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

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1050: Human Services Committee (Rep. Weisz, Chairman) recommends DO NOT PASS (9 YEAS, 4 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).** HB 1050 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

**2015 TESTIMONY**

**HB 1050**

Legislative testimony on HB 1050 - Presented to the House Human Services Committee  
January 14, 2015

Good Morning Chairman Weisz and members of the committee.

Tracy Ekeren, Program Director, Helping Enderlin Area Residents Thrive(HEART) Program, Enderlin ND

We are supporting this bill. These are some items that we feel are very important to ensure pilot programs such as these experience the same success that we have over the past 12 years.

- This bill suggests that 5 programs be funded during the 2015-16 biennium.
  - This is a good number to start with but we suggest a change to line 15 to read that no more than \$50,000 can be allocated over the biennium.
- Include an additional \$35,000 on line 12 to include volunteer home repair services as suggested by Luther Social Services of ND.
  - This is something that as an established organization we would find extremely helpful for the community members we serve.
- It is our opinion that an agency such as Lutheran Social Services be considered to manage this initiative. Lutheran Social Services is involved in numerous communities throughout North Dakota and they would be able to assist in finding appropriate communities as pilot programs as well as providing functional office space and resources.

I would be more than happy to answer any questions.

I will leave you with this story to stress the importance of these programs to elders of our North Dakota.

Sally and Tom are life-long residents of Enderlin. They went to school, got married, worked on the railroad, raised a family and retired all in Enderlin. During that time they also were extremely active volunteers for the VFW, VFW auxiliary, Maryhill Nursing Home, church, school, Enderlin Sunfest (community days), Lions Club and HEART. In the first 5 years of HEART's operation they gifted over 2000 hours. We cannot fathom how many total hours they paid forward to our community. Now Sally and Tom are in their mid-90's, their kids are all in other towns or live states away, but Sally and Tom still live at home. Sally's memory is starting to fail so she can no longer drive and after years of getting on and off the train, Tom is no longer able to have good use of his legs. This is where a program like HEART comes in to help. If they need a friendly visit, we can arrange for that. If they need a ride to the doctor or therapy, we can arrange for that. If they want to keep their weekly hair appointment, come to the Senior Center daily for meals, or go to church, we can arrange for that because this is a grass-roots, neighbor-helping-neighbor program and we will be there for them as they have been there for others.

HB 1050  
1/14/15 #2

## Legislative testimony on HB 1050

Presented to the House Human Services Committee January 14, 2015

Good Morning Representative Weisz and committee members. My name is Linda Reinicke. I am presenting testimony on behalf of Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota, My colleague Shirley Dykshoorn, who handles senior services for our agency, had a prior commitment out of state, so I am presenting her testimony. If there are questions for her, she will follow up with this committee to provide answers and any further clarification needed.

We are supporting this bill. In earlier testimony before the Interim Human Services committee chaired by Rep Damschen, our agency had suggested incorporating funds for volunteer home repair services for vulnerable seniors in this proposed legislation. That could be accomplished by increasing the total amount for the department's use from \$100,000 to \$135,000 on line 12 and adding the word coordination, before the word mentoring on that same line 12.

The language in this bill would allow an agency such as ours, to respond to an RFP that the Department of Human Services would entertain, in looking for ways to mentor and assist with program establishment. Our agency is an existing 501c3, with 95 years of experience in serving North Dakotans throughout the state. We have many physical properties, and could provide some in kind support for new programs when available, and have extensive grant management experience. We have ready access to other agency services and links to faith based partners of all denominations, especially with our prior work with volunteers responding to disasters.

This bill with amendments, would allow us to provide home repair services that utilize several agency tool trailers and our volunteer network to be put to good use. We would actively coordinate with our existing senior companion program efforts and volunteer stations throughout the state.

We would suggest deleting the language on line 15 of "no more than \$25,000 awarded to a single organization each fiscal year." We feel that allowing a maximum of \$50,000 per program for a two year period allows for maximum flexibility for the local programs as well as the department.

We support the expansion of volunteer based services that are community driven and based with local governing boards. Direct mentoring is very important to program success. We feel that we have opportunities as a statewide nonprofit to leverage other foundation and grant dollars.

We stand ready to respond to any requests for proposals issued by the department and to implement pilot grants as needed. Seniors will benefit from getting more sustainable community based services, established to help them overcome obstacles of living in their own homes as long as possible such as transportation, grocery shopping, chore services and home repair/light housework. Those services will end up costing the seniors and the taxpayers far less than assisted living and nursing home care. Those options would allow many to stay where they want to live, with support, until the next level of care and services are required.

HB1050  
1/15/15 #3



Real Possibilities in

# North Dakota

HB1050- SUPPORT

Wednesday January 14, 2015  
House Human Services Committee  
Josh Askvig- AARP-ND  
[jaskvig@aarp.org](mailto:jaskvig@aarp.org) or 701-989-0129

Chairman Weisz, members of the Human Services Committee, I am Josh Askvig, Associate State Director of Advocacy for AARP ND.

Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, a retired educator and AARP's founder, became an activist in the 1940's when she found a retired teacher living in a chicken coop because she could afford nothing else. Dr. Andrus couldn't ignore the need for health and financial security in America and set the wheels in motion for what would become AARP. We are a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization with nearly 86,000 members in North Dakota and 37 million nationwide. We understand the priorities and dreams of people 50+ and are committed to helping them discover their real possibilities, including here in North Dakota.

As previous speakers have testified, this bill aims to create a grant opportunity for local communities to establish volunteer-based services for aged individuals. At AARP, we know from asking our members that the number one concern as they age is how they will safely stay in their homes. This bill looks to aid in addressing that aim and is modeled after the highly successful Community of Care in Arthur and the HEART Program in Enderlin. We support volunteer based efforts as a supplement to services like qualified service providers, and Medicaid reimbursed services for activities of daily living assistance. We support HB1050 as long as it is used to establish programs that are wrap around supports and do not intend to replace necessary services by professionals.

Additionally, to ensure that the appropriate protections are in place for vulnerable adults, we recommend that the committee consider adding language into the bill requiring these community agencies to do appropriate security and background checks on volunteers. Elder abuse should not be tolerated and we believe providing a background check is appropriate.

We support HB1050 as stated above and encourage you to give it a DO PASS RECOMMENDATION.