

1999 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

HB 1119

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1119

House Human Services Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date 01-06-99

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1		x	19
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Annun A. Skeris</i>			

Minutes:

Chairwoman Price opened the hearing on HB 1119 at 2:00 p.m.

Ms. Julie Hoffman, Administrator of Adoption Services and the supervisor of Coordinator of Services to Birth and Adoptive Families for the Children and Family Services Division of the Department of Human Services.

(see attached written testimony)

Motion by Representative Kliniske to approve and do pass HB 1119, Second by Representative Jensen.

By voice vote, all representatives voting yes, 0 voting no. Motion passed.

Representative Niemeier will carry the bill.

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House Human Services Committee
Bill/Resolution Number Hb 1119
Hearing Date 01-06-98

Hearing was closed by Chairwoman Price.

Date: 1-6-99
Roll Call Vote #: 1

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1119

House Human Services Committee

Subcommittee on _____
or

Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken do pass

Motion Made By _____ Seconded By _____

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Clara Sue Price - Chairwoman	X		Bruce A. Eckre	X	
Robin Weisz - Vice Chairwoman	X		Ralph Metcalf	X	
William R. Devlin	X		Carol A. Niemeier	X	
Pat Galvin	X		Wanda Rose	X	
Dale L. Henegar	X		Sally M. Sandvig	X	
Roxanne Jensen	X				
Amy N. Kliniske	X				
Chet Pollert	X				
Todd Porter	X				
Blair Thoreson	X				

Total (Yes) 15 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Amy N. Kliniske

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
January 7, 1999 10:04 a.m.

Module No: HR-03-0356
Carrier: Kliniske
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1119: Human Services Committee (Rep. Price, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS**
(15 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1119 was placed on the
Eleventh order on the calendar.

1999 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

HB 1119

1999 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB1119

Senate Human Services Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date MARCH 1, 1999

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	X		1,362
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Carol Kolodziejchuk</i>			

Minutes:

The hearing was opened on HB1119.

JULIE HOFFMAN, Dept of Human Services, explained the bill in written testimony.

No opposition.

The hearing was closed. Informal questions were asked.

SENATOR LEE moved a DO PASS on HB1119. SENATOR FISCHER seconded it. Roll call vote carried 6-0-0. SENATOR DEMERS will carry the bill.

Date: 3/1/99
Roll Call Vote #: 1

1999 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1199

Senate HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE Committee

Subcommittee on _____
or
 Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass

Motion Made By Sen Lee Seconded By Sen Fischer

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Thane	✓				
Senator Kilzer	✓				
Senator Fischer	✓				
Senator Lee	✓				
Senator DeMers	✓				
Senator Mutzenberger	✓				

Total 6 (yes) 0 (no)

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Sen DeMers

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
March 1, 1999 1:04 p.m.

Module No: SR-36-3754
Carrier: DeMers
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1119: Human Services Committee (Sen. Thane, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS**
(6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1119 was placed on the
Fourteenth order on the calendar.

1999 TESTIMONY

HB 1119

HB 1119

House Human Services Committee

January 6, 1999

Good morning Chairman Price and members of the House Human Services Committee. My name is Julie Hoffman and I serve as the Administrator of Adoption Services and the supervisor of the Coordinator of Services to Birth and Adoptive Families for the Children and Family Services Division of the Department of Human Services. I am here today to provide testimony in support of House Bill Number 1119, specifically related to the reporting of births out of wedlock.

House Bill 1119 would repeal the existing law in NDCC 50-20 which requires hospitals to report to the Department of Human Services, both births out of wedlock and births with congenital deformities. Again, I am speaking specifically to the section of the law which relates to births out of wedlock. I have however, had discussion with the Division of Children's Special Health Services of the Department who have responsibility for the section related to the reports of births with congenital deformities, and they, as well, support the passage of this bill.

Reports of births out of wedlock are made by local hospitals to our Division, by law within 24 hours of the birth. By policy, the Department has delegated the responsibility of following up on this report to the local county social services office in the county in which the birth parent resides. That agency then makes contact with the birth parent, familiarizing them with services which may be available to them and completing a data reporting card regarding that birth situation. This reporting of information by the birth parent is voluntary. In practice, many counties have requested social workers at the hospitals to complete this card since their ability to make contact with the parent is more immediate. The Department then aggregates this data on a yearly basis and publishes a report based on the data. This reporting process is separate from, and in addition to any reports which are required by the

Division of Vital Records of the Department of Health.

The Department supports the repeal of NDCC 50-20 since we feel the reporting process in the Department is duplicating the efforts of the Department of Health, Division of Vital Records. Since ours is a voluntary report of information by the birth parents, our response rate to certain questions has traditionally been low, yielding less than reliable data. The Division of Vital Records collects its data from the birth certificate which is a mandated reporting process. Additionally, our data is reported differently from the data reported by the Division of Vital Records since it is collected in different ways. This causes confusion for those using the data. The Department has also found that there seems to be resistance from birth parents and local workers which identify the presumed "stigma" attached to the phrase "births out of wedlock" and the implication then that these births were not planned and prepared for.

Currently there exists a Department data sharing agreement which allows the Department of Human Services to access data collected through the Department of Vital Records regarding out of wedlock births. Much of this data is already available on an Internet web cite for the Department of Health and can easily be accessed by anyone requiring the information. Contact with Vital Records would give us access to additional information which would be useful in program planning and administration. Our contacts with the Division of Vital Records have been very positive. They are more than willing to cooperate in fulfilling our data needs through the information they collect from the birth certificate.

In summary, the Department supports the repeal of NDCC 50-20 as it is a duplication of data collection efforts. We would encourage your support of HB 1119. Thank you for your time and attention. I am available to answer your questions, should there be any at this time.

HB 1119

Senate Human Services Committee

March 1, 1999

Good morning Chairman Thane and members of the Senate Human Services Committee. My name is Julie Hoffman and I serve as the Administrator of Adoption Services and the supervisor of the Coordinator of Services to Birth and Adoptive Families for the Department of Human Services. The Department supports House Bill Number 1119.

House Bill 1119 repeals NDCC 50-20 which requires hospitals to report births out of wedlock and births with congenital deformities to the Department of Human Services. Two additional statutes govern the reporting of these types of births. NDCC 23-02.1, the Health Statistics Act, requires all births to be registered and reported to the division of vital records of the state Health Department. NDCC 50-10-07 also requires reporting of births of children with visible congenital deformities and is not proposed for repeal.

Currently, reports of births out of wedlock must be made by local hospitals to the Department within 24 hours of the birth. The Department has delegated the responsibility of following up on these reports to the local county social services office in the county in which the birth parent resides. The county social worker then makes contact with the birth parent, familiarizing them with services which may be available to them and completing a data reporting card regarding that birth situation. This reporting of information by the birth parent is voluntary. Many counties ask hospital social workers to complete this card. The county forwards the data card to the Department. The Department then aggregates the data received on a yearly basis and publishes a report based on the data. This reporting process is separate from, and in addition to any reports of birth registration to the Health Department.

This reporting process duplicates the efforts of the Health Department. Since ours is a voluntary report of information by the birth parents, our response rate to certain questions has traditionally been low, yielding less than reliable data. The Health Department collects data from the mandated birth registration. The Department of Human Services has also encountered resistance from birth parents and local workers which identify the presumed "stigma" attached to the phrase "births out of wedlock".

Currently the Department of Human Services and the Health Department have a data sharing agreement which allows us to access data regarding out of wedlock births. Much of this data is already available on an Internet web site for the Health Department and can easily be accessed by anyone requiring the information. The Health Department is fulfilling our data needs through the information they collect from the birth registration.

We encourage your support of HB 1119. Thank you for your time and attention. I am available to answer your questions, should there be any at this time.