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2003 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

HB 1245

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2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1245

House Human Services Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date 1-22-03

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	X		0-60.2
1		X	0.2-43.5
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Sharon Kenyon</i>			

Minutes: **CHAIR PRICE:** Opened hearing on HB 1245

REP. KEISER (Sponsor of bill): Bill is designed to transfer the regulation of nursing education from the state licensing board to the higher education system or to the national nursing accreditation programs in nursing. This is a quality issue.

REP. WEISZ: How many states have this curriculum?

REP. KEISER: Does not know nor does he want to speculate.

MARY SMITH (Pres. of ND Nurses Assoc.): Supports with written testimony.

REP. PORTER: Which higher education institution is MedCenter through?

SMITH: Through a vocational board.

REP. AMERMAN: Who does the board consist of and do they other responsibilities other than licensing?

SMITH: Other responsibilities, but there are representatives here who will speak to that.

KAREN MacDONALD: Supports with written testimony.

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REP. PRICE: In the amendment, will it address issues concerning the transitional licensing?

SMITH: Believes the amendment will negate the issues. Will definitely license people who graduate from programs.

REP. AMERMAN: Was there a study done on nurses needs?

SMITH: The study was actually a workforce issue. They are still data-gathering. This is not a workplace issue.

REP. KREIDT: If you get a nursing degree and go to on to a PA or NP?

SMITH: Regulated by different boards. Not the nursing board?

REP. PORTER: Who regulates the advanced programs?

SMITH: Regulated by various associations. All have national accreditation, but law.

REP. DEVLIN: The licensing board is on record that continuing education does not promote safety? When was that on the record?

SMITH: Can provide that information for the committee.

POTTER: Pointed out areas of concern via e-mail about page 1, lines 21 and 22, and then page 2, lines 19-21. Would this be going backwards rather than forwards?

SMITH: Does not believe the Board of Higher Ed will go backwards.

REP. NIEMEIER: Has heard concerns about clinicals. Will that change if the Board of Higher Ed takes over?

SMITH: Does not believe that is the focus of this bill.

REP. PORTER: How do we proceed if this issue is nurse v. nurse?

SMITH: Nurses do not always agree. It's not a turf battle. This is a battle of how best to lead nursing into the 21st Century.

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DONNA THIGPEN (former nurse): Supports with written testimony.

REP. AMERMAN: How can 2 and 4 year degrees be the same? Do you get the same care?

THIGPEN: The 4 yrs have other classes, for example, leadership and problem solving.

SHARON ETMAT (Lake Region): In support of bill. There is a shortage of nurses, yet ND students go over to MN to get their education in two years. This is unfair to ND.

REP. DEVLIN: This bill does not make a change between 2 or 4 years of education.

ETMAT: This makes it more permissive. Then the institutions have to make the case that the curriculum is meeting the needs so the students pass the exam.(end of tape 1, side A)

DR. CONNIE KALANEK (Exec Dir. of the Brd of Nursing): Opposes with written testimony

REP. WEISZ: No one educated in a foreign country can practice here?

KALANEK: Now have a licensed exam. Understand that they are not approved by higher education or accredited.

REP. DEVLIN: There seems to be a difference of opinion on section 2. Can you talk about the differences?

KALANEK: Believe the definition lowers the standards of the minimum requirements.

REP. DEVLIN: What special interests would the Nurses Assoc. have to lower the standards?

KALANEK: They represent a small number of nurses.

REP. SANDVIG: Can we afford to wait to do something about the shortage problem?

KALANEK: It's a distribution issue. Will make study results available as soon as she gets something.

REP. PORTER: Duplication in approval process. What is the site process and the fees charged to the education programs?

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KALANEK: The cost of the salary for the nurse who does the site visits as well as the other duties she does is covered by the \$200.

REP. PORTER: How often is the site visited and charged the fee? And what is done to assure public safety that isn't performed through a national accreditation process, which both are through the same organization (the safety and accreditation).

KALANEK: Approval by board is 2-4 years. When a site visit is conducted, a report is provided to board. The clinical studies are part of process.

REP. PORTER: Where does the accreditation process differ?

KALANEK: It's an 8-10 yr.. process. Require interim reports. While the board is look at public safety and protection and they are looking at meeting standards at a certain level.

REP. PORTER: If nursing is the only area of health care that regulates itself though a board, are the other programs wrong then?

KALANEK: No. Pharmacy (NDSU) requires national accreditation, however, but then they also have additional requirements of their board.

PORTER: Should all of health care go back to their boards and take the approval from higher education? Should we not just do them one way or the other?

KALANEK: Nursing is different in terms of clinical experience. Safety is the issue.

MARY ANNE MARSH (Chair of the Dpt of Nursing @ Dickinson State): Opposes with written testimony.

REP. PRICE: How many slots are available for RNs and LPNs?

