

**2019 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**SB 2112**

# 2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Human Services Committee**  
Red River Room, State Capitol

SB 2112  
1/9/2019  
Job # 30593

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Justin Velez / Florence Mayer
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## **Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:**

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 50-09-02.2 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to adoptive placement of children with special needs.

## **Minutes:**

Testimony Attached #1
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**Chair Lee:** Opened the hearing for SB 2112 and asked for testimony.

**(00:24-2:22) Julie Hoffman, Adoptions Administrator for the Department of Human Services.** Please see **Attachment #1** for testimony.

**(02:36) Senator Hogan:** How many people currently get subsidized adoption?

**Julie Hoffman:** 1,400 applications in the last month.

**Senator Hogan:** This is a really great program and alleviates some of the financial responsibility from the parents.

**Julie Hoffman:** We just see this becoming more of an issue in the future. We have had some situation where children have not been able to carry that high risk diagnosis because they were being seen for care by a physician's assistant or a nurse practitioner. Before we only allowed for physicians.

**Chair Lee:** Closed the hearing on SB 2112.

**Senator Hogan: Moved a Do Pass**

**Senator Larsen: Seconded.**

**A Roll Call Vote Was Taken: 6 YEA, 0 NAY, 0 ABSENT. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Senator Roers will carry the bill.**

2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE  
 ROLL CALL VOTES  
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2112

Senate Human Services Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Motion Made By Hogan Seconded By Larsen

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chair Lee	X		Senator Hogan	X	
Vice Chair Larsen	X				
Senator Anderson	X				
Senator Clemens	X				
Senator Roers	X				

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Sen. Roers

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

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2112: Human Services Committee (Sen. J. Lee, Chairman) recommends DO PASS**  
(6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2112 was placed on the  
Eleventh order on the calendar.

**2019 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES**

**SB 2112**

# 2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

SB 2112  
3/4/2019  
33164

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Nicole Klaman

## **Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:**

Relating to adoptive placement of children with special needs.

## **Minutes:**

1

**Chairman Weisz:** Opened hearing on SB 2112.

**Julie Hoffman,** Administrator of Adoption Services for the Department of Human Services: In support of SB 2112, written testimony provided see **attachment 1**.

This bill would amend the definition of special needs to allow additional medical professionals to diagnose a child at high risk for developmental or mental, including physician assistant and advanced practice registered nurse. (1:15-3:09)

**Representative Karen Rohr:** The PA's and PRNs aware of the changes this bill would implement?

**Julie Hoffman:** I'm not sure if they are or not. We have had situations where children are regularly seen by PAs and they can't make this diagnosis.

**Chairman Weisz:** Further support? Seeing none. Any opposition?

**Opposition:** None

**Chairman Weisz:** Closed hearing.

# 2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

SB 2112  
3/5/2019  
33306

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Nicole Klaman by Donna Whetham

## **Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:**

Relating to adoptive placement of children with special needs.

## **Minutes:**

**Chairman Weisz:** Opened hearing on SB 2112. All we are doing with this bill is adding physician assistant (PA) and advanced practice registered nurse (APRN)'s.

**Rep. Schneider:** I move a Do Pass on SB 2112.

**Rep. D. Anderson:** Seconded.

**Chairman Weisz:** Any discussion? Seeing none.

**Roll call vote taken:** Yes 14 No 0 Absent 0. Motion carries on a Do Pass on SB 2112.

**Rep. Schneider:** Will carry the bill.

Hearing closed.

**2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE  
 ROLL CALL VOTES  
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2112**

House Human Services Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation:  Adopt Amendment  
 Do Pass     Do Not Pass     Without Committee Recommendation  
 As Amended     Rerefer to Appropriations  
 Place on Consent Calendar  
 Other Actions:  Reconsider     \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By Rep. Schneider Seconded By Rep. D. Anderson

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Robin Weisz - Chairman	X		Gretchen Dobervich	X	
Karen M. Rohr – Vice Chairman	X		Mary Schneider	X	
Dick Anderson	X				
Chuck Damschen	X				
Bill Devlin	X				
Clayton Fegley	X				
Dwight Kiefert	X				
Todd Porter	X				
Matthew Ruby	X				
Bill Tveit	X				
Greg Westlind	X				
Kathy Skroch	X				

Total (Yes) 14 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep. Schneider

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



**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2112: Human Services Committee (Rep. Weisz, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS**  
(14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2112 was placed on the  
Fourteenth order on the calendar.

**2019 TESTIMONY**

**SB 2112**

SB 2112  
1-9-19  
#1 pg 1/1

**Testimony**  
**Senate Bill 2112 - Department of Human Services**  
**Judiciary Committee**  
**Senator Judy Lee, Chairman**

January 9, 2019

Chairman Lee and members of the Judiciary Committee, I am Julie Hoffman, Administrator of Adoption Services for the Department of Human Services (Department). I appear today to support passage of Senate Bill 2112.

Senate Bill 2112 was submitted at the request of the Department in order to allow medical professionals in addition to a licensed physician to diagnose a child at high risk for a physical, emotional or mental disability for the purposes of adoption assistance. These additional medical professionals would include a physician's assistant or an advanced practice registered nurse.

Many children today receive their primary care in clinics which use physicians' assistants or advanced practice registered nurses to provide ongoing preventative and regular care. In such cases, the statute currently does not allow for such professionals to make this diagnosis. If the child would not meet any of the other special need criteria, it may then make that child ineligible for adoption subsidy supports, including medical assistance. In the case of very young children being placed for adoption who may have a maternal history of alcohol or drug usage in utero, these physical, mental or emotional difficulties may not surface till later in their childhood. In such cases, the diagnosis of high risk is helpful in providing the subsidy supports a family may later require to assist in meeting the child's needs. Allowing additional medical professionals who regularly see these children for care to make this diagnosis is supported by the Department.

This concludes my testimony, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

#1  
SB 2112  
3/4/19  
Pg. 1

**Testimony**  
**Senate Bill 2112 - Department of Human Services**  
**Human Services Committee**  
**Representative Robin Weisz, Chairman**

March 4, 2019

Chairman Weisz and members of the Human Services Committee, I am Julie Hoffman, Administrator of Adoption Services for the Department of Human Services (Department). I appear today to support passage of Senate Bill 2112.

Senate Bill 2112 was submitted at the request of the Department in order to allow medical professionals in addition to a licensed physician to diagnose a child at high risk for a physical, emotional or mental disability for the purposes of adoption assistance. These additional medical professionals would include a physician's assistant or an advanced practice registered nurse.

Many children today receive their primary care in clinics which use physicians' assistants or advanced practice registered nurses to provide ongoing preventative and regular care. In such cases, the statute currently does not allow for such professionals to make this diagnosis. If the child would not meet any of the other special need criteria, it may then make that child ineligible for adoption subsidy supports, including medical assistance. In the case of very young children being placed for adoption who may have a maternal history of alcohol or drug usage in utero, these physical, mental or emotional difficulties may not surface till later in their childhood. In such cases, the diagnosis of high risk is helpful in providing the subsidy supports a family may later require to assist in meeting the child's needs. Allowing additional medical professionals who regularly see these children for care to make this diagnosis is supported by the Department.

This concludes my testimony, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.