

Good morning, Chairwoman Roers and members of the State and Local Government Committee. I am Julie Wagendorf and I serve as the Director of Food and Lodging for the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services. I am here to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 2082 which updates two definitions and general housekeeping of the North Dakota Century Code chapter 23-09.

Senate Bill 2082 provides changes to two definitions in Section 23-09-01 of the North Dakota Century Code. The first change is to update the definition of the existing term "lodging establishment" to exclude small lodging establishments with five or fewer sleeping rooms, and ten or fewer guests from state licensure and inspection. The second change is to include a definition for a transient guest since this was not previously defined and this updated language clarifies that long-term rental properties do not require licensure under this law.

The proposed changes primarily impact small, residential-style homes held out for lease or rent to transient guests. Typically, these settings are privately-owned vacation rentals in residential neighborhoods. Local zoning, building and fire codes apply in these settings.

Senate Bill 2082, if enacted, would decrease the burden of regulation through licensure and inspections and result in fewer state resources needed for conducting inspections.

Amendments to Sections 23-09-03, 23-09-05, and 23-09-07 offer clear and standard language for commercial building codes and fire codes and were added for consistency.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I would be happy to respond to any questions you may have.