

**2023 HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**HB 1134**

# 2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Energy and Natural Resources Committee Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1134  
1/19/2023

Relating to hunting and fishing license, permit, and application fees for out-of-state national guard members
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2:32 PM

Chairman Porter opened the hearing. Members present: Chairman Porter, Vice Chairman D. Anderson, Representatives Bosch, Conmy, Dockter, Hagert, Heinert, Ista, Kasper, Marschall, Novak, Olson, Roers Jones, and Ruby.

### **Discussion Topics:**

- Former members parity
- Relocated Guard members
- Honorable Service
- Fiscal Note

Representative Steve Vetter, bill sponsor, Testimony #14640

Chuck Votava, Exec. Director, ND National Guard Enlisted Association, Testimony #14355

Wallace Keller, Testimony #14357

John Bradley, Executive Director, ND Wildlife Federation, Testimony #14487

Scott Peterson, Deputy Director, ND Game and Fish Department, oral testimony

Hearing closed at 3:04 PM

Kathleen Davis, Committee Clerk  
By Bev Monroe

# 2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Energy and Natural Resources Committee Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1134  
1/27/2023

A bill relating to hunting and fishing license, permit, and application fees for out-of-state national guard members and relating to hunting and fishing license, permit, and application fees for out-of-state national guard members.

**Chairman Porter** opened the meeting at 10:23 AM. (No video available until 10:26AM)

**Members present:** Chairman Porter, Vice Chairman Anderson, Representatives Bosch, Conmy, Dockter, Hagert, Heinert, Ista, Marschall, Novak, Olson, and Ruby.

**Members absent:** Representatives Kasper and Roers Jones

### **Discussion Topics:**

- Definition of former guardsmen
- Resident status of guard members

**Representative Porter** began committee discussion going over the bill as introduced and the wording on page 4 line 29 and page 9 lines 19-21 regarding out-of-state guard members and residency.

The decision was made to hold off on acting on the bill until Representative Porter could get clarity on terminology from the Game and Fish Department.

**Chairman Porter** closed the meeting at 10:31 AM.

*Kathleen Davis, Committee Clerk*

# 2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Energy and Natural Resources Committee Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1134  
2/10/2023

A bill relating to hunting and fishing license, permit, and application fees for out-of-state national guard members and relating to hunting and fishing license, permit, and application fees for out-of-state national guard members.

**Chairman Porter** opened the meeting at 10:16AM.

**Members present:** Chairman Porter, Vice Chairman Anderson, Representatives Bosch, Conmy, Dockter, Hagert, Heinert, Ista, Kasper, Marschall, Novak, Roers Jones, Olson, and Ruby. No members absent.

**Discussion Topics:**

- Proposed amendment
- Committee vote

**Representative Ruby moved an amendment** to include the definition of who is a resident so it takes care of a current member in the national guard.

**Representative Olson** seconded the motion.

**Voice vote-motion carried**

**Representative Novak moved a Do Pass as Amended.**

**Representative Ruby** seconded the motion.

**Roll call vote:**

Representatives	Vote
Representative Todd Porter	Y
Representative Dick Anderson	Y
Representative Glenn Bosch	Y
Representative Liz Conmy	Y
Representative Jason Dockter	Y
Representative Jared Hagert	Y
Representative Pat D. Heinert	Y
Representative Zachary Ista	Y
Representative Jim Kasper	Y
Representative Andrew Marschall	Y
Representative Anna S. Novak	Y
Representative Jeremy Olson	Y
Representative Shannon Roers Jones	Y
Representative Matthew Ruby	Y

**Motion carried 14-0-0**

**Representative Heinert** is the bill carrier.

**Chairman Porter** adjourned at 10:18AM.

*Kathleen Davis, Committee Clerk*  
*Minutes by Mary Brucker, Committee Clerk*

February 10, 2023

At  
2-10-23  
(1-1)

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1134

Page 1, line 1, after "A BILL" replace the remainder of the bill with "for an Act to amend and reenact subdivision c of subsection 12 of section 20.1-02-05 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to hunting and fishing license for national guard members.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subdivision c of subsection 12 of section 20.1-02-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- c. An individual who is a member of the United States armed forces and who is within the state on duty or leave or nonresident current North Dakota national guard member."

Renumber accordingly

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1134: Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Rep. Porter, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1134 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 1, after "A BILL" replace the remainder of the bill with "for an Act to amend and reenact subdivision c of subsection 12 of section 20.1-02-05 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to hunting and fishing license for national guard members.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subdivision c of subsection 12 of section 20.1-02-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

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Renumber accordingly

**2023 SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**HB 1134**



# 2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Energy and Natural Resources Committee Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

HB 1134  
3/2/2023

A bill relating to hunting and fishing license for national guard members.

1:04 PM Chairman Patten opened the meeting.

Chairman Patten and Senators Kessel, Kannianen, Boehm and Beard are present. Senator Magrum is absent.

### **Discussion Topics:**

- Parity
- Residence hunting license
- Residence fishing license

1:04 PM Representative Steve Vetter introduced the bill and provided oral testimony.

1:06 PM Charles Votava, Executive Director, North Dakota Guard Enlisted Association, testified in favor of the bill and provided written testimony #21325.

1:14 PM Scott Peterson, Deputy Commissioner, North Dakota Game and Fish Department, spoke neutral on the bill.

1:15 PM Senator Patten closed the public meeting.

### **Additional written testimony:**

John Bradley #21597

Steve Vetter #21784

1:15 PM Chairman Patten closed the meeting.

*Rick Schuchard, Committee Clerk*

# 2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Energy and Natural Resources Committee Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

HB 1134  
3/2/2023

A bill relating to hunting and fishing license for national guard members.

2:06 PM Chairman Patten opened the meeting.

Chairman Patten and Senators Kessel, Kannianen, Boehm and Beard are present. Senator Magrum is absent.

### Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

2:06 PM Senator Boehm moves to Do Pass the bill. Motion seconded by Senator Kessel.

2:07 PM roll call vote was taken.

Senators	Vote
Senator Dale Patten	Y
Senator Jeffery J. Magrum	AB
Senator Todd Beard	Y
Senator Keith Boehm	Y
Senator Jordan L. Kannianen	Y
Senator Greg Kessel	Y

Motion passes 5-0-1

Senator Beard will carry the bill.

This bill does not affect workforce development.

2:07 PM Chairman Patten closed the meeting.

*Rick Schuchard, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1134, as engrossed: Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Sen. Patten, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HB 1134 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

**TESTIMONY**

**HB 1134**



**NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED ASSOCIATION**  
3298 SHEENA COURT  
GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA 58201

January 18, 2023

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Chuck Votava and I represent the members of the North Dakota National Guard Enlisted Association (NDNGEA). Our organization consists of members of the North Dakota National Guard who promote the interest and maintain the professionalism of the National Guard.

The NDNGEA would like to express support of HB 1134 Relating to hunting and fishing license, permit and application fees for out of state national guard members and submit the following justification:

- 1. Parity with Active-Duty counterparts and order status.** Current state law allows military service members from any branch who are on active-duty orders within the state of North Dakota to apply for and purchase hunting and fishing licenses at the resident rate. Airmen who are residents of other states but stationed at Grand Forks or Minot can purchase North Dakota resident hunting and fishing licenses. Another example would be, Regular Army, Army Reserve, or National Guardsmen from any state who come to the Regional Training Institute in Devils Lake, ND for 2 or 4 weeks on active-duty orders for training can purchase a fishing license, at the resident rate, to enjoy the wonderful fishing that Devils Lake provides. When our own North Dakota National Guardsmen come to North Dakota for Inactive Duty Training periods each month of the year, they are not on an active-duty order and do not qualify for these benefits. When The Governor of North Dakota orders the National Guard on State Active Duty for reasons of floods, blizzards, protests, and other emergencies, they do not qualify for these benefits because "State Active-Duty" does not qualify as an "Active-Duty order". It is odd that we offer this benefit to servicemembers who are passing through our state and will likely never return, but do not offer it to servicemembers of the National Guard who are likely to return monthly for the majority of their career.
- 2. Retention of Airmen and Soldiers within the North Dakota National Guard.** 2022 marked a historically low year for recruiting across all branches of the Armed Services. Our own state's National Guard only recruited to 59% of it's goal. Sadly, this number was significantly better than most of the other states National Guards. Attrition, or the loss of Guardsmen is a natural process and things like retirement, Ending Time in Service (ETS), Inter-State Transfers (IST) impact the end strength of our National Guard as well. Last year, amidst all of the

struggles with recruiting and retention nationally, North Dakota was rated #1 out of the 54 National Guard organizations in the United States in retention. This speaks to the quality of our organization and the people in it. While it is commonplace for National Guardsmen to complete an Inter-State Transfer when they move out of state, members of the North Dakota National Guard tend to travel back, at their own expense, for required training rather than serve in another state's organization. Allowing these members to retain the ability to hunt and fish at the resident cost is a small token of appreciation for their enduring service to our state and retention tool that comes at very little cost.

### 3. Specific Examples.

- a. Daniel Strehlow joined the Minnesota National Guard in 1999 after serving in the Marine Corps. As he moved throughout the course of his civilian career, he Inter-State Transferred from state to state 6 times before ending up in the North Dakota National Guard in 2010. Despite moving to California, he chose to remain in the North Dakota National Guard. He travels back to North Dakota for Inactive Duty Training each month (at his own cost) and is currently representing the North Dakota National Guard in Washington D.C. on his 6<sup>th</sup> deployment total and 4<sup>th</sup> deployment with the North Dakota National Guard. California resident, North Dakota Guardsmen.
- b. Jacob Kipp was born in Michigan and joined the North Dakota National Guard in 2014 when he moved to Grand Forks to attend the University of North Dakota. While there, he enrolled in ROTC and accepted his commission as a Second Lieutenant in 2019 when he graduated from UND. He deployed with the 1-188<sup>th</sup> ADA from June of 2021 through September of 2022. Upon return home, he moved to Colorado with his wife (also a North Dakota Guardsmen) for employment. He and his wife continue to serve in the North Dakota National Guard while living in Colorado. Colorado resident, North Dakota Guardsmen.
- c. Hector Pastor transferred to the North Dakota National Guard in 1996 after leaving the active-duty Air Force and being stationed at Grand Forks Air Force Base. He was assigned to Detachment 2 of the 142<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Combat Battalion in Mayville, ND. He moved to Saint Cloud, MN for work, but remained in the North Dakota National Guard. On Martin Luther King Day in 2003, he was called and given 10 days' notice that his Battalion would be deploying to Iraq, and he was to report to Mayville, ND. He deployed three times in total and ended his career by sharing his experiences as an instructor at the Regional Training Institute before retiring from the North Dakota National Guard in 2018. Minnesota resident, North Dakota Guardsmen.

I could fill pages of testimony with examples of Soldiers and Airmen who have served the North Dakota National Guard from other states. From the floods of 2007 and 2011, to Dakota Access Pipeline protests, to the COVID pandemic, North Dakota Guardsmen

have been called upon by our state to be there when needed. From Federal deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Kosovo, the National Capital Region, and the Southwest Border, “non-resident” Guardsmen have answered the call when North Dakota was asked to defend our nation. For the reasons listed above and because they’ve earned it, I ask the committee to support the recommendation of HB 1134.

Respectfully submitted,

 Digitally signed by  
VOTAVA.CHARLES.ANDREW.1146  
502748  
Date: 2023.01.18 15:51:05 -06'00'

**CHARLES A. VOTAVA**  
Executive Director, NDNGEA

Good afternoon,

My name is Wallace Keller, and I am resident of Burleigh County.

I am here today to testify in support of HB 1134.

I will be up front with you; I do have some selfish reasons for supporting HB 1134. Two of my children are currently serving in the National Guard (NG). My son lives in Pennsylvania and is currently a member of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. Prior moving to Pennsylvania, my son served with the NDNG for approximately 9 years. He did two deployments to Afghanistan with the North Dakota National Guard. My daughter a member of the North Dakota National Guard and works full time for the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, VA. She keeps her residency in North Dakota, so this bill would not affect her at this time. She has 22 years of service and a deployment to Afghanistan with the North Dakota National Guard.

According to the number provided by the NDNG there are 1454 current members of the NDNG that have out of state home of records. These members respond with the North Dakota National Guard to floods, fires, domestic issues and, if called, to overseas deployments – many of which are in unstable areas or outright wars. Yet, they cannot come to ND and purchase a resident hunting or fishing licensed. I do not know how many of those personnel hunt or fish so I cannot give you an accurate number on how many would come take advantage of the fee change. They are serving our state and should have the opportunity to be able to purchase hunting and fishing licenses at the resident rate if they are a current member of the North Dakota National Guard.

There are no numbers on how many former North Dakota National Guard members live out of state. The lower license fees may bring back some of our past North Dakota National Guard residents. If drawn, they would come home and possibly bring their family with. They will eat here, purchase gas and sporting good items here and maybe realize they should have never left and decide to move back home.

It is my opinion that if an individual has served honorably with the North Dakota National Guard and is a past resident of North Dakota or, is currently serving with the North Dakota National Guard and has an out of state home of record, they have earned the privilege of purchasing a hunting and fishing license at the resident rate.

The members – past and present- of the North Dakota National Guard have served with distinction and honor time after time. Some have made the ultimate sacrifice. I am asking you to make the opportunity to enjoy the natural resources of our state a little more affordable for those who have given so much. Sometimes it's not all about the money and it's just the right thing to do!

In closing I would recommend a change to, "a member would have had to have served "honorably".

Pending any questions, I thank you for your time and urge a "do pass' on this bill.



Wallace Keller

**TESTIMONY OF JOHN BRADLEY  
NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION  
HOUSE BILL 1134  
HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCE  
COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 19, 2023**

Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resource Committee:

For the record, I am John Bradley, Executive Director of the North Dakota Wildlife Federation. Since 1935, we have advocated for the conservation of wildlife, habitat and access for North Dakota's hunters, anglers, and other outdoor users. I'm here today representing our 1,500 members in 15 affiliated wildlife and sportsmen's clubs across North Dakota that make up the North Dakota Wildlife Federation.

NDWF opposes HB 1134. The North Dakota Wildlife Federation has had a long history of opposing additional hunting licenses, expanded seasons or less restricted licenses for non-resident hunters. An increase in liberal and favorable non-resident hunting privileges lessen the opportunity for North Dakota's resident hunters. HB 1134, is the newest iteration of past bills that seek to reward a specific sub-set of the population for their civic duty work with resident rates to hunt and fish the public's fish and game.

License fees paid by hunters and anglers (and trappers and boaters, as well) combined with federal excise taxes disbursed to states, account for almost all the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's budget. Giving reduced rates to specific adult user groups sets a dangerous precedent and could hamstring the Department's funding source long term.

In addition, NDWF believes that season setting, license allocation, and bag limits should be based on scientific wildlife management by the Game and Fish Department - in this case, what the habitat and population numbers can support. NDWF has a major concern around the language defining "Out-of-state guard member." To allow current and former members these license rates create an administrative nightmare for the Department and a potential ever-growing group of non-residents who can "double dip" by receiving resident rates in multiple states.

We request a Do Not Pass vote on HB 1134. Thank you and I would stand for any questions that the Committee may have.



# North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL  
600 EAST BOULEVARD  
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



## Representative Steve Vetter

District 18  
804 South 17th Street  
Grand Forks, ND 58201-4241

[smvetter@ndlegis.gov](mailto:smvetter@ndlegis.gov)

## COMMITTEES:

Judiciary  
Government and Veterans Affairs

01/19/2023

Chairman Porter and members of the Energy and Natural Resources. My name is Steve Vetter representing District 18.

This bill allows members of the North Dakota National Guard members that live outside of state to have the in-state hunting/ fishing rights. The North Dakota National is basically the state's militia, our defenders of the state. The mindset behind this type of law is that because if they are willing to fight for the state they should be allowed to take part in the hunting throughout the state. This is not a new concept as this is already a law for active military members.

The biggest reason for this bill is parity. Parity with active members of the military. ND National Guard members just want what federal military members already receive. For example an Airman serving in Minot or Grand Forks even though he/she has residency in another state they are allowed to have in state hunting privileges. Any active military member working in the state is allowed in-state hunting privileges. I would think because we are a very pro-military state, and we should treat our guard members the same as the other armed forces members.

I received the total amount of members of the National Guard that live outside of the state. Which is provided below. However, it is impossible to know how many of these members that live outside of the state that will hunt or fish inside the state if this bill were passed. There will be someone coming after me to confirm the numbers.

This bill originated from a constituent request and a request from a group of National Guard members stationed near me. I believe those that are willing to fight for us should have the ability take advantage of the hunting in our state. This isn't a new concept as this is how federal military members are already treated.

Chairman Members of the Energy & Natural resources committee I would ask for a Do Pass recommendation. Thank you. I will stand for questions.

NDNG members out of ND with Home of Residence with a total of 727 with 561 in Minnesota and 38 in South Dakota.

## Fwd: out of state guard members hunting and fishing licenses

Vetter, Steve M. <smvetter@ndlegis.gov>

Fri 1/6/2023 8:56 PM

To: Steve Vetter <steve@eappraisaloffice.com>

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**From:** Sheldon, Jay G MAJ USARMY NG NDARNG (USA) <jay.g.sheldon.mil@army.mil>

**Sent:** Friday, January 6, 2023 4:23 PM

**To:** Vetter, Steve M. <smvetter@ndlegis.gov>; Kary, Kim K. <kkary@nd.gov>

**Subject:** out of state guard members hunting and fishing licenses

Rep. Vetter and Kim,

I am including both of you on this email as to ensure you both get identical information. Kim works for Game and Fish and contacted me about data to produce a fiscal note.

I saw the out of state guard member hunting and fishing bill and worry that the inclusion of "former members" is too vague. We do not track former members home of record so to even began to estimate how many people this includes is very difficult.

Did they serve an initial contract and get out or did they serve 20 years and retire?

What was the categorization of the former members separation? Did they separate amicably (honorably) or were they separated for poor behavior or violation of a policy? There are numerous types of military discharge. This could be remedied by including language, "with a discharge categorization of honorable, general, or medical".

Below are the current stats for number of current NDNG members who have a Home of Record (HOR) outside of ND, specifically highlighting surrounding states. I am not sure of anywhere that we could get data on former members living out of ND.

Current members would have a military ID and DOD ID # to prove their membership and past members/retirees would have a DD-214 or NGB 23 as documentation of their service.

Army National Guard

Total – 352 w/HOR outside ND

MN = 258

SD = 22

MT = 17

Other = 55

Air National Guard

Total = 375

MN = 303

SD = 16

MT = 3

NDNG Members with HOR out of ND and in surrounding states

Total = 727

MN = 561

SD = 38



**NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED ASSOCIATION**  
 3298 SHEENA COURT  
 GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA 58201

February 27, 2023

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Chuck Votava and I represent the members of the North Dakota National Guard Enlisted Association (NDNGEA). Our organization consists of members of the Army, Air Force, Retirees, and civilian employees of the North Dakota National Guard who promote the interest and maintain the professionalism of the National Guard.

The NDNGEA would like to express support of HB 1134 Relating to hunting and fishing license, permit and application fees for out of state national guard members and submit the following justification:

1. **Parity with Active-Duty counterparts and order status.** Current state law allows military service members from any branch who are on active-duty orders within the state of North Dakota to apply for and purchase hunting and fishing licenses at the resident rate. Airmen who are residents of other states but stationed at Grand Forks or Minot can purchase North Dakota resident hunting and fishing licenses. Another example would be, Regular Army, Army Reserve, or National Guardsmen from any state who come to the Regional Training Institute in Devils Lake, ND for 2 or 4 weeks on active-duty orders for training can purchase a fishing license, at the resident rate, to enjoy the wonderful fishing that Devils Lake provides. When our own North Dakota National Guardsmen come to North Dakota for Inactive Duty Training periods each month of the year, they are not on an active-duty order and do not qualify for these benefits. When The Governor of North Dakota orders the National Guard on State Active Duty for reasons of floods, blizzards, protests, and other emergencies, they do not qualify for these benefits because "State Active-Duty" does not qualify as an "Active-Duty order". It is odd that we offer this benefit to servicemembers who are passing through our state and will likely never return, but do not offer it to servicemembers of the National Guard who are likely to return monthly for the majority of their career.

Although it is not possible to say exactly how many people would use this benefit if they were allowed to, there are currently 727 Soldiers and Airmen in the North Dakota National Guard who live outside of North Dakota.

2. **Retention of Airmen and Soldiers within the North Dakota National Guard.** 2022 marked a historically low year for recruiting across all branches of the Armed Services. Our own state's National Guard only recruited to 59% of it's

goal. Sadly, this number was significantly better than most of the other states National Guards. Attrition, or the loss of Guardsmen is a natural process and things like retirement, Ending Time in Service (ETS), Inter-State Transfers (IST) impact the end strength of our National Guard as well. Last year, amidst all of the struggles with recruiting and retention nationally, North Dakota was rated #1 out the 54 National Guard organizations in the United States in retention. This speaks to the quality of our organization and the people in it. While it is commonplace for National Guardsmen to complete an Inter-State Transfer when they move out of state, members of the North Dakota National Guard tend to travel back, at their own expense, for required training rather than serve in another state's organization. Allowing these members to retain the ability to hunt and fish at the resident cost is a small token of appreciation for their enduring service to our state and retention tool that comes at very little cost.

### **3. Specific Examples.**

- a. Daniel Strehlow joined the Minnesota National Guard in 1999 after serving in the Marine Corps. As he moved throughout the course of his civilian career, he Inter-State Transferred from state to state 6 times before ending up in the North Dakota National Guard in 2010. Despite moving to California, he chose to remain in the North Dakota National Guard. He travels back to North Dakota for Inactive Duty Training each month (at his own cost) and is currently representing the North Dakota National Guard in Washington D.C. on his 6<sup>th</sup> deployment total and 4<sup>th</sup> deployment with the North Dakota National Guard. California resident, North Dakota Guardsmen.
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have been called upon by our state to be there when needed. From Federal deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Kosovo, the National Capital Region, and the Southwest Border, “non-resident” Guardsmen have answered the call when North Dakota was asked to defend our nation. For the reasons listed above and because they’ve earned it, I ask the committee to support the recommendation of HB 1134.

Respectfully submitted,

 Digitally signed by  
VOTAVA.CHARLES.ANDREW.1146  
502748  
Date: 2023.01.18 15:51:05 -06'00'

**CHARLES A. VOTAVA**  
Executive Director, NDNGEA

**TESTIMONY OF JOHN BRADLEY  
NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION  
HOUSE BILL 1134  
SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCE  
COMMITTEE  
MARCH 2, 2023**

Chairman Patten and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee:

For the record, I am John Bradley, Executive Director of the North Dakota Wildlife Federation. Since 1935, we have advocated for the conservation of wildlife, habitat and access for North Dakota's hunters, anglers, and other outdoor users. I'm here today representing our 1,500 members in 15 affiliated wildlife and sportsmen's clubs across North Dakota that make up the North Dakota Wildlife Federation.

NDWF supports HB 1134 in its current form. The North Dakota Wildlife Federation has had a long history of opposing additional hunting licenses, expanded seasons or less restricted licenses for non-resident hunters. However, as this bill would simply achieve parity between current non-resident guard members with other non-resident military service members.

We request a Do Pass vote on HB 1134. Thank you and I would stand for any questions that the Committee may have.





# North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL  
600 EAST BOULEVARD  
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



## Representative Steve Vetter

District 18  
804 South 17th Street  
Grand Forks, ND 58201-4241  
[smvetter@ndlegis.gov](mailto:smvetter@ndlegis.gov)

**COMMITTEES:**  
Judiciary  
Government and Veterans Affairs

03/02/2023

Chairman and members of the Energy and Natural Resources. My name is Steve Vetter representing District 18.

This bill allows members of the North Dakota National Guard members that live outside of state to have the in-state hunting/ fishing rights. The North Dakota National is basically the state's militia, our defenders of the state. The mindset behind this type of law is that because if they are willing to fight for the state they should be allowed to take part in the hunting & fishing throughout the state. This is not a new concept as this is already a law for active military members.

The biggest reason for this bill is parity. Parity with active members of the military. ND National Guard members just want what federal military members already receive. For example an Airman serving in Minot or Grand Forks even though he/she has residency in another state they are allowed to have in state hunting privileges. Any active military member working in the state is allowed in-state hunting privileges. I would think because we are a very pro military state and we should treat our national guard members the same as the other armed forces members.

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Chairman Members of the Energy & Natural resources committee I would ask for a Do Pass recommendation. Thank you. I will stand for questions.