

Legislative Review

NORTH DAKOTA
UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
The Vital Link to a Brighter Future

A Look at Higher Education in Week 3: Jan. 15–19, 2007

Interim Economic Development Committee Bill Receives First Hearing

HB 1027, a bill sponsored by the interim Economic Development Committee, was heard by the House Industry, Business and Labor Committee Monday, Jan. 15.

Chancellor Eddie Dunn testified the bill has a number of elements that encourage closer connections between economic development initiatives, primarily within the Department of Commerce and the University System. He also said HB 1027 was discussed at a recent meeting of the Chancellor's Cabinet, and concerns about certain provisions in the bill

were expressed. HB 1027 now is being reviewed at the campus level, and Dunn said it was his intent to discuss the recommended changes and amendments with Shane Goettle, Department of Commerce commissioner. Mark Nisbet, chair of the Centers of Excellence Commission, testified that some HB 1027 provisions would put limitations on future centers of excellence.

Rep. Keiser, committee chair, appointed a subcommittee to review the bill and address concerns over the next few weeks.

Deadline for Introduction of Senate bills

Monday, Jan. 22

(The deadline for introduction of House bills was Monday, Jan. 15.)

Citizens Night at the Legislature

Tuesday, Jan. 23

- 6 - 7 p.m. – Tours
- 7- 7:45 p.m. – Committee Hearings
- 7:45 - 8:30 p.m. – Floor Sessions

Division of House Appropriations Hears “Flexibility with Accountability” Bills

House Appropriations, Education and Environmental Division, heard testimony on three “flexibility with accountability” bills Jan. 16. Chancellor Eddie Dunn provided testimony in continuing support of this legislation first adopted in 2001, based on the recommendation of the Roundtable on Higher Education. The committee took no action on the bills.

A brief description of each “flexibility with accountability” bill follows:

HB 1030: Tuition revenues would continue to be appropriated in the same way all other institutional funds, such as grants and contracts, auxiliary revenues and private funds, are appropriated for another two-year period through June 30, 2009.

HB 1031: The bill continues the current 2005–07 appropriation bill format of two line items, operations and capital assets, for another two-year period through June 30, 2009.

HB 1032: This bill would permit continuation of carryover of unexpended funds from one biennium to the next.

Support Higher Education Funding – Wear a Green Ribbon!

The Green Ribbon Campaign is a North Dakota Student Association movement to support adequate and equitable state funding for North Dakota institutions of higher education.

The mission of the campaign is to motivate students, faculty, administration, staff and those interested in the benefits of higher education to call upon the state of North Dakota for adequate and equitable funding. The campaign proposes that a minimum of 21 percent of state general funds should be provided to the North Dakota University System.

To receive a green ribbon pin, contact an NDSA member or stop by the NDUS Office.



Community Matching Loan Forgiveness Bill Heard

HB1125, a bill related to community matching loan forgiveness for optometrists and veterinarians, was heard in House Education Jan. 9. NDUS staff testified in support of this SBHE-sponsored bill, which would create a community matching loan forgiveness program for optometrists and veterinarians.

A subcommittee of Rep. Lisa Meier, Phillip Mueller and John Wall was formed and has sought additional input from the NDUS Office about eliminating the match requirement, reducing the number of years these professionals must serve in a community from four years to two, increasing the community size criteria from 2,500 to 5,000, and administration of the programs.

House Education Committee has not taken formal action.

House IB & L Hears Proprietary Information Bill

On Jan. 15, the House Industry, Business and Labor Committee heard HB 1099, a bill related to confidentiality of trade secret, proprietary, commercial and financial information. The bill was introduced at the request of the SBHE to clarify application of open records laws to trade secret, proprietary, commercial and financial information. Vice Chancellor Michel Hillman presented testimony on behalf of the NDUS.

The committee has not acted on the bill.

On the Week Four Agenda

- HB 1461 Mon., Jan. 22, 3:30 p.m., H-APPGOV:** Assigns management of IT for the NDUS to the SBHE
- HB 1385 Tues., Jan. 23, 8 a.m., H-IBL:** Eligibility to receive workforce 20/20 training
- HB 1521 Tues., Jan. 23, 9 a.m., H-APPEDU:** Prohibit increases in tuition
- SB 2249 Tues., Jan. 23, 9 a.m., S-EDU:** Provide \$8 and \$2 million GF appropriation to CTE for NDUS workforce curriculum development and supplemental workforce training grants
- HB 1395 Tues., Jan. 23, 10 a.m. H-EDU:** Provide financial assistance to tribal controlled community colleges
- HB 1518 Wed., Jan. 24, 1:30 p.m., H-IBL:** Relating to profits of the Bank of North Dakota

NDSU Agriculture Budget Bill Heard

HB 1020, the NDSU Extension and Research appropriation bill, was heard in House Appropriations, Education and Environmental Division, Jan. 15. Testimony was provided by D.C. Coston, vice president for Agriculture and University Extension; Ken Grafton, director of the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station; Duane Hauck, director of NDSU Extension Service; and the branch research center directors or their representatives.

No committee action was taken.

Passed Bills:

HB 1087: A bill to amend and reenact section 39-01-01 of NDCC related to authorized emergency vehicles to include the state forester was passed by the House on a vote 93-0 Jan. 8.

SBHE Position on 2007 Legislation

Oppose

HB 1194 Requires 3-tier K-12 instruction with standard, advanced and basic courses of instruction

Oppose (unless amended to exclude NDUS)

SB 2047 Provides for auto enrollment of employees in deferred comp program of \$25 per month

Support with Amendment

HB 1003 NDUS appropriation

HB 1027 Interim Economic Development Committee bill: additional NDUS accountability measures; SBHE new program startup; COE designations and funding restriction for workforce and infrastructure; expanded DOC division of workforce development duties, including administration of a HE internship program; required SBHE report on CCBenefits implementation; Job Service soft skills study; DOC internship study

HB 1125 Create loan repayment fund for vets and optometrists

HB 1249 Amendments to teacher loan forgiveness program

HB 1395 Provides a \$700,000 GF appropriation to SBHE for grants to tribally controlled colleges for non-Indian students

HB 1521 Freezes tuition rates at Spring 2007 rates and appropriates \$20 million in general funds

SBHE Position, from Page 2

SB 2023 Deficiency appropriation, including NDSU, UND and Forest Service

SB 2037 Interim IT Committee- changes to IT planning and reporting, including changes to the definition of a large project

Support

HB 1014 Industrial Commission appropriation; \$1.5 million for lignite marketing study; \$15.8 million for NDUS capital bond payments

HB 1016 Job Service appropriation; workforce 20/20 funding

HB 1018 Dept. of Commerce appropriation, including Centers of Excellence

HB 1019 Career and Tech Ed appropriation; workforce training

HB 1020 NDSU Extension and Research appropriation

HB 1030 Flexibility with accountability legislation – special revenue funds

HB 1031 Flexibility with accountability legislation – budget request and block grant appropriations

HB 1032 Flexibility with accountability legislation – carryover or unexpended appropriations

HB 1065 Changes membership of the advisory transportation council of the UGPTI

HB 1066 Increases the state forester reserve account balance from \$500,000 to \$1 million

HB 1067 State Forester cooperation with other agencies

HB 1087 State Forester emergency vehicles

HB 1091 Creates \$5,000 single and \$10,000 joint tax deduction for state HE savings plan

HB 1099 Confidentiality of trade secret, proprietary, commercial and financial information

HB 1102 Increases to \$25,000 architect, engineer fee that requires formal proposal

HB 1385 Eligibility for workforce 20/20 training, defines “skill training”

HB 1461 Assigns management of IT for the NDUS to the SBHE

HB 1487 Transfers \$3.1 million from the student loan trust fund to a new low-interest student loan fund for loans to ND residents at 2 percent per year

HB 1518 Requires BND to transfer 75 percent of profits of student loans to trust fund with interest earnings transferred annually to SBHE for distribution on a per student basis to the campuses.

SB 2015 OMB appropriation; state employee compensation; COE funding

SB 2016 Adjutant General appropriation; including tuition assistance program funding

SB 2028 Budget Section approval on state forester reserve account

SB 2160 NDUS foundation donor records exempt from open records

SB 2184 Increases required K-12 days to 176 (by 2010); increases compulsory attendance age to 18

SB 2249 Provides \$8 and \$2 million GF appropriation to CTE for NDUS workforce curriculum development and supplemental workforce training grants

SB 2260 Authority for criminal history records checks

SB 2306 \$20 million appropriation from BND profits to SBHE for 1/3 match for endowed scholarships