

HB 1027 Testimony

Chairman Schaible and members of the committee, for the record my name is Brandt Dick, Superintendent of Underwood School District, North Dakota Small Organized Schools' Board President, and North Dakota Association of School Administrators Legislative Focus Group finance chair. I am here to speak in support of HB 1027 with an idea for consideration that would clarify a question that has arisen from the field concerning this bill, which is when is the mileage determined?

2018-19 is the last year of accurate data for most school districts as many schools started the 2020-21 year in distance learning, or hybrid learning system which would adjust the normal miles and ridership of students for payments. A suggestion would be to insert the following language on line 20 of page 1, For the 2021-2022, and 2022-2023 school years, ridership and mileage payments shall reflect the better of the 2018-19 school year or the prior school year, whichever is greater.

This language would make it clear and provide the most accurate data that is available to school districts for payments for this next biennium and would be beneficial to those districts that did open with full face to face learning during the 2020-21 school year. Normally, miles and ridership has been based on the prior school year.

In conclusion, I feel this is a good bill, the one proposed amendment for consideration would more accurately reflect transportation expenses for the next two school years. I will stand for questions.