



North Dakota Senate

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COMMITTEES:

Education
Workforce Development

SB 2239 Testimony Senate Appropriations Committee - HR Division March 18, 2025

Chair Warrey and Members of the House Industry Business & Labor Committee,

SB 2239 creates a grant program to support apprenticeships throughout the state.

During the 2023 legislative session, the Assembly supported the expansion of the North Dakota Scholarship to cover expenses related to North Dakota students enrolling in approved apprenticeships in North Dakota. This was to support students who followed their Choice Ready plan to enter the workforce through a registered apprenticeship. It also supported the goal of the Workforce Development Council to grow apprenticeship opportunities to train qualified workers for North Dakota businesses, which continues to be a priority of the WDC.

As the newly enacted statute was implemented, it was realized that many of the students who wished to access the North Dakota Scholarship for their registered apprenticeship did not qualify for the Scholarship. In an effort to continue to support the Workforce Development Council's goal to grow registered apprenticeship opportunities and assist individuals of any age level with the ability to afford the startup costs associated with many apprenticeships, the creation of this grant program is before you.

As written, the funding would be appropriated to the Department of Labor & Human Rights as we thought a Division of Apprenticeships would have been created in the Department. With HB 1036 not passing the House, I think it would be appropriate to determine if there is another agency to host the grant program.

I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.