

Chairman Holmberg and Senate Appropriations committee. For the record, I am Representative Brandy Pyle from district 22. I am here today to introduce HB 1375.

HB 1375 is a bill that opens potential and possibility for our hardworking ND high schoolers. Under this legislation, students who choose to take Dual Credit courses during their high school career can earn a scholarship.

As a refresher, dual credit is a class where students can earn both high school and college credit at the same time. They must be committed and work hard as these are more difficult classes.

In this piece of legislation, a student or learner who completes dual credit cases, then successfully graduates high school and goes on to complete a semester of college in a ND institution, can qualify for a scholarship up to \$750. Section 1 sub 3 describes that students or learners earn up to ½ of what they spend on dual credit classes up to \$750. Basically, it's like a buy one get one ½ off type of deal!

This bill arose from many conversations of interested parties in how to improve the transition to higher education and financial costs of higher ed.

I have identified 9 areas that if passed, has a compounding effect on the future on North Dakota.

1. College graduation rates improve.
2. Cost of higher education reduced.
3. Reduction of college remedial classes. (no sluff year during the senior year)
4. Potentially gets our students into the workforce.
5. Not mandating which DC class they can take, so if they want to do a CTE DC class, they can and if they want to do College algebra or English they have that option as well.
6. Recruitment/retention tool of ND graduating seniors to ND institution.
7. Brings our graduates on par with our neighboring states like MN. Many of their high school seniors have their associate's degree when they graduate high school.
8. This is aimed for average families looking for an affordable way to pay for college.
9. This limits the state's fiscal liability to the program. And if they student goes out of state a for college, the state won't reimburse. It's still college credit earned at a reduced cost.

I did visit with the BND regarding this idea and discussed their program for free and reduced lunch students who qualify for up to 2 DC classes in grades 10, 11 and 12. This legislation would not interfere with this existing program if the funding source is the earnings from BND.

My personal goal was to find a finding source that didn't create a new expenditure, but to use funds in a more efficient manner. These funds work with the skilled workforce retention loan program.

We have also added a study for all our scholarship programs as we as a state spend about \$55 million on scholarships. It's time to ensure that we are getting the best bang for our buck as a state and for our students. I have others here to go over more details if needed. Thank you committee and I stand for questions.