



1 HB 1028 – Transfer of School District Funds Between General Fund and Building Fund

2 Chairman Schaible, members of the committee. For the record my name is Dr. Aimee Copas – I  
3 am the Executive Director for the North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders) working with all  
4 of our educational leaders in the state – including school administrators and directors.

5 This bill comes to you as an emergency request directly relating to COVID pandemic the spring  
6 of 2020. During this time, districts had a variety of new costs that were directly related to COVID,  
7 and some areas of typical school expenditure that were not seen due to the change in modality of  
8 instruction. Because of this, some of our smaller districts were looking directly at having to make  
9 a decision – that decision was whether they could choose to be thoughtful and prudent with any  
10 excess funds and save them for later in the summer and for the costs they anticipated to ramp up  
11 in-person learning, or to spend those dollars to ensure they were within the EFB limitations and  
12 potentially spending those dollars in a way not needed by the district that spring. This impacted  
13 approximately

14 In April and May NDCEL requested that the Governor provide an executive order to waive the  
15 EFB rule for one year. Understandably, the legislature appropriately wanted to weigh in. As an  
16 alternative, we recommended to districts to be prudent with their dollars. In consult with  
17 legislative leaders in education we resolved that the appropriate concept would be to have school  
18 boards experiencing this issue a ONE-TIME temporary transfer of funds to their building funds  
19 and then to transfer it back into the general fund, so taxpayer’s dollars were spent wisely and ask  
20 for an emergency measure for an allowance of this and to not reduce the school district’s  
21 foundation aid payment.

22 This bill does not cost our state any money and rather serves as an appropriate tax SAVINGS for  
23 our patrons in that the dollars are appropriately and prudently spent in this school year.

24 We ask that you consider this information and promote the positive passing of this bill with the  
25 emergency clause in place.

*NDCEL is the strongest unifying voice representing and supporting administrators and educational leaders in pursuit of quality education  
for all students in North Dakota.*

*Executive Director: Aimee Copas-----Assistant Director: Russ Ziegler*