

**House Education
HB1178**

January 18, 2023

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee, my name is Wayde Sick, State Director for the Department of Career and Technical Education. I am here to testify in support of HB1178 and offer amendments to clarify the bill.

Currently, the state's Area Career and Technology Centers are governed by Boards, comprised of the representation from each of its participating school districts. Each school district is allowed at least one Board member, with a maximum of three for larger school districts.

In the November 2021 Special Legislative Session, the Department of Career and Technical Education was appropriated \$88.3 million dollars for new and expanding Area Career and Technical Centers. Preference was given to applications that include post-secondary partnerships. The grant also required a one-to-one match.

Because of the grant, and deeper involvement of partners outside of public K12 Education, there may be a need to revisit the makeup of a CTE Center Board. HB1178 would allow a Center Board the ability to include up to three community Board members, representing higher education, a parochial or private school and the private sector. Currently Area Career and Technical Centers serve private schools. This would allow a representative from the Private School to also serve on the Board.

I do have a few amendments for consideration.

Page 1, line 10, after "members" insert "."

Page 1, line 10, remove "and"

Page 1, line 10, replace “no” with “No”

Page 1, line 11, remove “;”

Renumber accordingly.

The bill would then read as follows:

- 1. An area career and technology center must be operated by a center board of at least five members. No more than one member for each participating district provided, however, that each participating school district with three hundred or more high school students must be allowed one member for each three hundred high school students or fraction thereof with no more than three members from any one school district. The terms of office of the school district members of center boards must be for at least one year and terminate upon the expiration of the member's terms on the member's respective school boards. Members are eligible for reappointment to center boards.*

This simply clarifies the bill, to simplify how large the Board must be and who can serve. It does not change the intent of HB1178.

Also, this amendment could be considered.

Page 1, line 23, replace “university” with “Institutions of higher education including institutions under the control of the state board of higher education, North Dakota nonpublic accredited institutions of higher education or tribally controlled community colleges;

Renumber according.

The current word “university” implies a 4-year institution and may inadvertently imply a community college is not eligible. I believe it is important to clarify that it may include all the institutions of higher education, located in the state.

Finally, I believe it is worth mentioning HB1348 also amends the Governance of CTE Center Boards. I wanted to ensure the Committee is aware so both bills can amend CTE Center Governance structure and not inadvertently contradict each other.

This concludes my testimony, and I am happy to stand for any questions.