

Engrossed HB1392

Senate Education Committee

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Dennis Johnson, Speaker of the House of Representatives

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Chair Elkin and members of the Senate Education Committee. My name is Dennis Johnson, and I serve as Speaker of the House of Representatives and represent District 15. I am here to introduce HB1392 and request your approval of the bill.

Section 1 of HB1392 would allow North Dakota higher education institutions to deposit funds received from their nonprofit organization or foundation in the institution's Bank of North Dakota account. Institutions would also be able to spend those dollars without the funds being considered a gift under Article X, Section 18 of the ND Constitution.

Currently, the foundations can only spend those dollars from the foundation's bank account. Many of the smaller institutions have limited foundation staff and would like to provide funds directly to the institution for the President to use in fund-raising activities with donors. This change would allow the institution to accept and spend funds received from its foundation for the foundation-specified purposes.

Section 2 provides the same flexibility for student organization funds. Many of the smaller institutions have students on their campuses for less than two years. This makes it difficult for the student organizations to maintain checking accounts due to frequent turnover. The proposed language would allow the institutions to deposit student organization funds and spend the dollars for the intended purpose.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill. I will gladly answer any questions you may have.