

**1999 HOUSE EDUCATION**

**HB 1361**

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1361

House Education Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date 2-8-99

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
Tape # 1	x		32.0 to end
Tape # 1		x	0.1 to 5.3
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Joan Diers</i>			

Minutes:

Chairman R. Kelsch , Vice-Chair Drovdal, Rep Brandenburg , Rep Brusegaard, Rep. Haas , Rep. Johnson , Rep. Nelson , Rep. Nottestad , Rep. L. Thoreson , Rep. Grumbo , Rep. Hanson , Rep. Lundgren , Rep. Mueller , Rep. Nowatzki , Rep. Solberg .

Chairman R. Kelsch : We will open the hearing on HB 1361 and ask the clerk to read the title.

Rep Brandenburg : sponsor of the bill. District 26. This bill would remove qualification requiring who ever runs for the office of North Dakota superintendent of public instruction would not need to be the holder of a teacher's certificate of the highest grade issued in this state.

Rep. Lundgren : Does the Attorney General have to be an attorney?

Rep Brandenburg : Yes, he does.

Rep. Mueller : Clarification, we have removed the four years, what are we talking about for the length of term for the office?

Rep Brandenburg : The only thing that is being taken out of the requirement is the requirement of the teachers certificate of highest grade.

Vice-Chair Drovdal : cosponsor of the bill District 39. Gave examples of other states who do not have this requirement. spoke in favor of the bill.

Kent Olson: spoke in support of HB 1361.

Mark Johnson: from Oakes, North Dakota. spoke in support of HB 1361.

Chairman R. Kelsch : Anyone wishing to speak in opposition of HB 1361.

Dr Sanstead: North Dakota Superintendent of Schools. spoke in opposition of HB 1361. Gave several examples of reasons for keeping the office and its requirements intact.

End of Tape # 1 side A

Begin Tape #1 side B

Dr Sanstead's testimony continues.

Rep Brusegaard : You stated that this requirement is essential to be an effective policy setter, does this committee then need to be certified to the highest degree?

Dr Sanstead: That should not be the case. We need the cross section of representation that this committee has.

Chairman R. Kelsch : Do all state elect their superintendents or are some appointed?

Dr Sanstead: About one third are elected and the other two thirds are appointed.

Chairman R. Kelsch : How many of the states require a teaching certificate for either the elected or the appointed official?

Dr Sanstead: I would have to look that up. The elected chiefs it is one hundred per cent.

Chairman R. Kelsch : You alluded to the fact that a true education advocate can only be one who has been in the trenches?

Dr Sanstead:No , that would not be my view.

Chairman R. Kelsch : The Insurance Commissioner has no insurance background, but has run that office very well, could you comment on that?

Dr Sanstead: I believe it would a matter of priorities. It is not dealing with the lives and the fortunes and futures of the state in the same regard.

Rep Brandenburg : How many departments are there in DPI, that you oversee?

Dr Sanstead: We have about fifteen units.

Rep Brandenburg : You have fifteen different departments, and the person in charge relies on those people to do their job, why is it necessary to have a life time teaching certificate, because it is a managing job?

Dr Sanstead: Units in the department all require teaching degrees. Anyone dealing with teachers have a background in education.

Rep. Mueller : Can you talk to us about parallels between those who hold teaching backgrounds of those who are in the kind of position you are in and those states student academic achievement levels.

Dr Sanstead: I hesitate to give advise and counsel from other states.

Rep. Nelson : What is a teacher certificate of the highest grade?

Dr Sanstead: The highest grade is a life time certificate.

Rep. Nelson : Anyone who holds a current teaching certificate in the state of North Dakota, can run for the office. If anyone would loose their certificate, can they continue on in the job.

Dr Sanstead: All this would go if this bill passes.

Rep. Nelson : Could you continue to serve?

Dr Sanstead: We would have to take that to the Attorney General for an opinion, but I believe you could continue in office until you leave the office.

Bev Nielson: North Dakota School Board Association, appeared neutral.

Vice-Chair Drovdal : This bill does not make the office an appointed position. Do we have a problem with letting the voters making the choice?

Bev Nielson: I understand that this bill does not make it an appointed position, our association has a position on this bill.

Janet Placek: Executive Director of the Education Standards and Practices Board. (see written attached)

Joe Westby:Executive Director of NDEA spoke in opposition of HB 1361.

Chairman R. Kelsch : Anyone else wishing to speak in opposition of HB 1361. Hearing none we will close the hearing on HB 1361.

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1361-2-9-99

House Education Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date 2-9-99

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	x		55.9--end
		x	0.1--8.2
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Joan Diers</i>			

Minutes: Chairman R. Kelsch : Let's take up HB 1361.

Rep Brusegaard made a motion of DO PASS and Vice-Chair Drovdal seconded the motion.

tape 1, side B: 0.1--8.3 A long discussion took place by all members concerning this bill.

Rep Brusegaard asked to withdraw his DO PASS motion and Vice-Chair Drovdal seconded the motion.

ACTION: Rep. Solberg made a motion of DO NOT PASS and Rep. Mueller seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 11 YES and 4 NO with 0 ABSENT. Passed. Rep. Mueller will carry the bill.

Date: 2-9-99  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1361

House Education Committee

Subcommittee on \_\_\_\_\_  
or  
 Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken Do Not Pass

Motion Made By Solberg Seconded By Mueller

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Rep. ReaAnn Kelsch-Chairperson		✓	Rep. Dorvan Solberg	✓	
Rep. David Drovdal-Vice Chair		✓			
Rep. Michael D. Brandenburg		✓			
Rep. Thomas T. Brusegaard		✓			
Rep. C. B. Haas	✓				
Rep. Dennis E. Johnson	✓				
Rep. Jon O. Nelson	✓				
Rep. Darrell D. Nottestad	✓				
Rep. Laurel Thoreson	✓				
Rep. Howard Grumbo	✓				
Rep. Lyle Hanson	✓				
Rep. Deb Lundgren	✓				
Rep. Phillip Mueller	✓				
Rep. Robert E. Nowatzki	✓				

Total (Yes) 11 No 4

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Mueller

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)  
February 9, 1999 2:21 p.m.

Module No: HR-26-2359  
Carrier: Mueller  
Insert LC: . Title: .

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1361: Education Committee (Rep. R. Kelsch, Chairman) recommends DO NOT PASS**  
(11 YEAS, 4 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1361 was placed on the  
Eleventh order on the calendar.



**1999 TESTIMONY**

**HB 1361**

Testimony of  
Janet L. Placek  
On  
House Bill 1361

M. Chair and members of the committee. For the record, I am Janet L. Placek, the Executive Director of the Education Standards and Practices Board. I am here to testify in opposition of HB 1361.

House Bill 1361 effectively takes away the top educational leader in North Dakota. To be a certified teacher in ND, you must have graduated from an approved teacher education program, have completed a four-year baccalaureate program in a subject content area, have completed ten weeks of student teaching, possess a 2.50 grade point average and go through the criminal history background check.

Through this process of a four-year degree and student teaching, the teacher has demonstrated their skills in the content area, pedagogical content knowledge, understanding strategies for managing student behavior, understanding curriculum, student learning theories, and other educational aims and values. These are the minimum standards with which a teacher can receive a certificate.

This teaching certificate is then used as the stepping stone for an administrator's credential. To possess an administrator's credential, you must have taught in a classroom for three years and completed advanced educational administration courses.

As we work in North Dakota to educate our students to the best of their ability, we need people who understand and can interpret the educational process as well as possess the seven skills of an effective leader as provided in research by Allan A. Glatthorn which includes:

1. Content knowledge (knowing math);
2. Pedagogical Content knowledge (knowing how to make math understandable and interesting to children);
3. General pedagogical knowledge (knowing strategies for managing student behavior);
4. Curriculum knowledge (knowing the content of the district and state curricula);
5. Knowledge of learners and their characteristics;
6. Knowledge of educational contexts (knowing how schools and classrooms work);
7. Knowledge of educational aims, values, and their philosophical and historical grounds.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction is the top leader of education in North Dakota. In this position, we need to have someone who understands the process of effective student learning so we are able to move our students into the 21<sup>st</sup> century prepared for those careers of tomorrow.

*Quality Counts '99* published by Education Week on January 7, 1999 shows that North Dakota students are at the top of the list in many content areas. There is a reason for this. Our system of education is working in North Dakota. Yes, we can do better and we need to continually look for ways to improve.

But before we make drastic changes, let's base those changes on research. How have these changes affected other states, what are their test scores, what is happening to their students? Lowering standards of our educators is not the way to improve education. There is much research to that affect.

The Education Standards and Practices Board asks for a DO NOT PASS on HB 1361. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I would entertain any questions at this point. For further information, I can be reached at 328-1659 or [jplace@state.nd.us](mailto:jplace@state.nd.us).