

# MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

4021

2001 SENATE FINANCE AND TAXATION

SCR 4021

2001 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 4021

Senate Finance and Taxation Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date 2/7/01

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
2	x		10-12.4
2/7/01 - 2	x		32.5-34.6
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Lynelle N. Kraft</i>			

Minutes:

Senator Urlacher: Opened the hearing on SCR 4021, directing LC to study individual income tax laws with the objective of determining appropriate measures to enhance the attractiveness of living in ND for young working people.

Senator Michael Polovitz: Co-sponsored the bill, testified in support. I'm asking that we look at the possibility of something coming from the study. We need to do anything we possibly can to keep the young people in the state.

Senator Urlacher: Closed the hearing. Action delayed.

Discussion held 2/7/01 Meter number 32.5-34.6.

COMMITTEE ACTION: 2/7/01

Motion made by Senator Kroeplin for a DO PASS, Seconded by Senator Stenehjem.

Vote was 5 yeas, 1 nay, 0 absent or not voting. Bill carrier was Senator Stenehjem.

Date: 2/7/01  
Roll Call Vote #: )

2001 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 4021

Senate Finance and Taxation Committee

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

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

Action Taken Do Pass

Motion Made By Kroeplin Seconded By Stenehjem

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Urlacher-Chairman	✓				
Senator Wardner-Vice Chairman	✓				
Senator Christmann		✓			
Senator Stenehjem	✓				
Senator Kroeplin	✓				
Senator Nichols	✓				

Total (Yes) 5 No 1

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Stenehjem

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

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)**  
**February 7, 2001 12:35 p.m.**

**Module No: SR-22-2580**  
**Carrier: Stenehjem**  
**Insert LC: . Title: .**

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SCR 4021: Finance and Taxation Committee (Sen. Urlacher, Chairman) recommends DO PASS (5 YEAS, 1 NAY, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SCR 4021 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.**

2001 HOUSE FINANCE AND TAXATION

SCR 4021

2001 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SCR 4021

House Finance and Taxation Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date March 19, 2001

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1		X	2,971
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Janice Stein</i>			

Minutes:

**REP. AL CARLSON, CHAIRMAN** Opened the hearing.

**SEN. MIKE POLOVITZ, DIST. 42.** Introduced the resolution. The reason I am here before you is to try to impress upon the state, I think, the importance of retention of our young people and the people we have here. Submitted a newspaper article which appeared in the Grand Forks Herald, written by Jason Bernhardt, a student at the University of North Dakota, and is also the student representative of the State Board of Higher Education. In reading that, this is what we should be looking at. The resolution studies the affects of not only young people, but, those under thirty who are here, I am interested in keeping what we have. He felt the fiscal note was on the high side. They actually don't know what affect it will have. It is basically based on date of birth. I talked to the tax commissioner and see if we couldn't have that date of birth on the tax statements. It would give you a wealth of information as to where the money comes from and how you might even, in the future, develop some tax reform. The method they used, was not too

scientific. He stated there were thirty six hundred less students in our schools this year. The projections for the next four to five years is losing over sixteen thousand students, which will have a tremendous impact on our state. He related back to the newspaper article that he submitted stating we could learn from what the young people are thinking regarding our state. He felt in the study, wages, tax credits, etc., could be discussed.

**REP. HERBEL** With all your years of wisdom, and considering the way of retaining young people, in your opinion, would you feel the tax rate or a lack of higher paying jobs, is the cause of young people leaving?

**SEN. POLOVITZ** It is hard for me to say which is more important, higher paying jobs, I would say yes, but in other cases, I think the way of life we have in this state, can play into it. I don't think there is one answer. There is a combination of a lot of things. I was tickled pink when I read that letter to the editor, by a student, who has a lot of wisdom and recognition of how the business community can relate to the students before they even graduate. It does give both sides. I have no problem with better paying jobs. Related to when he was the mayor, and how he focused on new businesses and employees, etc.

With no further testimony, the hearing was closed.

**COMMITTEE ACTION 3-19-01, TAPE #2, SIDE A, METER #64**

**REP. WINRICH** Made a motion for a **DO PASS**

**REP. KELSH** Second the motion. **MOTION FAILED**

Committee members felt that income tax is not the problem in keeping our young people staying in the state of North Dakota. This resolution would be sending the wrong message.

**REP. DROYDAL** Made a motion for a **DO NOT PASS**



Page 3  
House Finance and Taxation Committee  
Bill/Resolution Number SCR 4021  
Hearing Date March 19, 2001

REP. LLOYD Second the motion. **MOTION CARRIED**

10 YES

4 NO

1 ABSENT

REP. CARLSON will take the floor assignment.

Date: 3-19-01  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2001 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SCR 4021

House FINANCE & TAXATION Committee

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

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_ *Failed*

Action Taken De passed

Motion Made By Rep. Lamm Seconded By Rep. Lamm

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
CARLSON, AL, CHAIRMAN		✓	NICHOLAS, EUGENE	✓	
DROVDAL, DAVID, V-CHAIR		✓	RENNER, DENNIS		✓
BRANDENBURG, MICHAEL		✓	RENNERFELDT, EARL		✓
CLARK, BYRON		✓	SCHMIDT, ARLO	✓	
GROSZ, MICHAEL		✓	WIKENHEISER, RAY		✓
HERBEL, GIL		✓	WINRICH, LONNY	✓	
KELSH, SCOT	✓				
KROEBER, JOE	✓				
LLOYD, EDWARD		1			

Total (Yes) 4 No 10

Absent \_\_\_\_\_

Floor Assignment Rep

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

Date: 3-19-01  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2001 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SCR 4021

House FINANCE & TAXATION Committee

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

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

Action Taken Do Not Pass

Motion Made By Rep. Dvordal Seconded By Rep. Lloyd

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
CARLSON, AL, CHAIRMAN	✓		NICHOLAS, EUGENE	✓	
DROVDAL, DAVID, V-CHAIR	✓		RENNER, DENNIS	✓	
BRANDENBURG, MICHAEL	✓		RENNERFELDT, EARL	✓	
CLARK, BYRON	✓		SCHMIDT, ARLO		✓
GROSZ, MICHAEL	✓		WIKENHEISER, RAY	✓	
HERBEL, GIL	✓		WINRICH, LONNY		✓
KELSH, SCOT		✓			
KROEBER, JOE		✓			
LLOYD, EDWARD	✓				

Total (Yes) 10 No 4

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Rep. Carlson

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

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)**  
**March 19, 2001 4:43 p.m.**

**Module No: HR-47-6080**  
**Carrier: Carlson**  
**Insert LC: . Title: .**

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SCR 4021: Finance and Taxation Committee (Rep. Carlson, Chairman)** recommends **DO NOT PASS** (10 YEAS, 4 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SCR 4021 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2001 TESTIMONY

SCR 4021

2-7-2001

Chairman Urlicher,

I am unable to attend  
your hearing on SCR 4021 as  
I have another bill before the  
Human Services Committee at the  
same time.

Please accept this as  
assurance of my support for SCR4021.  
We must be creative and bold  
in considering initiatives to retain  
young adults in our state. This  
resolution sets up a process to  
consider such proposals in an  
orderly manner.

I ask for a Do Pass  
recommendation on this study resolution.

Thank you,

Tim Mathern

Senator District 11 Fargo  
Cosponsor

3/18/01

3D

## VIEWPOINT

# Tear down walls to keep our youth

By Jason Bernhardt

GRAND FORKS — North Dakotans talk a lot about the need to keep young people here. However, as a member of this "cherished" generation, I want to know: Where is the action behind these impassioned pleas?

Adults regularly declare that, "We are the future." But they serve this message on the same old platter: "This is what you get." It's a vision of the future that doesn't match our dreams and desires. So, many of us leave. And we don't have to look hard to find brighter opportunities and more interesting lifestyles elsewhere.

So, what does it take to keep young people here? Involving us would be a big first step. Ask us why we are leaving and what specifically can be done to keep us here. We hear business and community leaders complaining about the lack of young workers, but I don't know anyone who has been asked what will entice them to stay in North Dakota.

Fortunately, there is a movement afoot to change that. Last month, members of the North Dakota Student Association talked to the business leaders who are coordinating the statewide New Economy Initiative. We shared our ideas about recruiting young people and improving the state's economy.

The good news is that the challenges are surmountable. I believe North Dakota could have great success attracting and keeping young people with just a few, meaningful initiatives.

For starters, businesses should work harder to grab students before we leave. The university system is a great resource for North Dakota. Higher education generates talent. Businesses should be working more closely with colleges and universities to recruit students before we move out of state.

Internships, co-ops, special training seminars, meaningful summer jobs and holiday programs could involve us in your business and give you first dibs on recruiting us when we graduate. The options are endless — businesses just need to be more proactive in involving young workers before someone else does.

Second, students have a strong perception that salaries in North Dakota are much lower than national or regional averages. At some point, companies must decide what is more important: paying the wages needed to keep good, young talent or continuing to struggle with an inadequate work force.

At the same time, money is not everything. Benefits such as stock options, equity in a company, training or education can be just as important as money.

Loosen up the dress codes. Try some unusual perks. Businesses should be creative with their incentive packages — use them to demonstrate your commitment to recruiting young people.

A fun work environment that rewards innovation also is important to young people. Involve us in leadership positions, and let us try to make a difference in your company. Students want opportunities for advancement.

And in today's tight labor market, we have the luxury of going where we feel the most valued.

Finally, North Dakota must get serious about stimulating diversity. The quality of life here is high. Our communities are safe. Traffic is light. All these are valuable assets, but they are not top priorities for new college grads who feel invincible.

The reality is North Dakota is rather dull for young, single people who don't have kids, and much of that is caused by a lack of cultural diversity.

Young people are open-minded. We want to learn and explore new things. The foods, customs, languages, accents and fashions of different cultures create a dynamic and energy that is sorely missing here. The lack of diversity makes North Dakota generic compared to other regions.

But we can change that. North Dakota should launch a deliberate, highly visible campaign to entice immigrants to our state. Offer incentives to get them here, and help them succeed when they arrive. Let's make North Dakota the most welcoming state in the nation and declare this to the world.

North Dakotans have created walls around this state — walls built on outdated traditions, low expectations, resistance to change, stubbornness. These walls are driving young people away and discouraging new people from entering.

If leaders are serious about preserving and revitalizing North Dakota, tear down these walls, get creative and aggressive and make every attempt to welcome new ideas and new people. Then, you will create the atmosphere and opportunities needed to convince a lot more young people to make North Dakota their home.

But don't just take my word for it, ask some students yourself.

*Bernhardt is a Taylor, N.D., native. He is a senior at UND, majoring in pre-law and political science. He also serves as the student representative on the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education.*