

2011 HOUSE EDUCATION

HCR 3029

# 2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Education Committee  
Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HCR 3029  
02/09/11  
13357

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



## MINUTES:

**Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch:** We will open the hearing on HCR 3029.

**Rep. Dave Weiler:** Sponsor. The North Dakota Close-Up is something they do so kids can learn how government works. This is a resolution to proclaim February 14<sup>th</sup> as North Dakota Close-Up Day. It is a great program and I hope you will support it.

**Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch:** Why did you pick Feb 14<sup>th</sup>? It is Valentine's Day and I was wondering how it fit with that or was it just a random day you picked?

**Rep. Dave Weiler:** Every year leading up to session the person in charge of the program calls me up and asks me to sponsor this piece of legislation. They already have the dates chosen. You will have to ask him that.

**Rick Heidt – Coordinator, North Dakota Close-Up Program:** I am the coordinator for the North Dakota Close-Up Program and the reason for choosing that day was because of the scheduling conflicts with state basketball etc.

**Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch:** I think the only committee that has any hearings on Monday is the finance and tax committee. Otherwise everyone is done with their hearings. You might want to think about that in getting them in earlier.

**Rep. Dennis Johnson:** That was going to be my thoughts on picking a specific date. Rather than a specific date maybe the first Monday or the second Tuesday could work better.

**Vice Chair Lisa Meier:** Can you tell us a little history on Close-Up?

**Rick Heidt – Coordinator, North Dakota Close Up Program:** We are usually limited because of hotel space and activities. One time we were close to 200 kids coming. We have to look at that. Testimony attachment .

**Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch:** Questions? Seeing none thank you.

**Doug Johnson – Executive Director, NDCEL:** We are here to support HCR 3029. The NDCEL has sponsored this for the last ten years. DPI had run the program prior to that and decided they could no longer afford to take that on so we decided to take that on as a responsibility. It is a very comprehensive program that the kids are exposed to. You brought up the scheduling of this. We have had numerous discussions about this. Particularly on the odd number years we want to get to town and we realize it is important to get them here early but there are hotel conflicts and things like that. This is a very good exposure for the students that get together.

**Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch:** Questions?

**Rep. Mike Schatz:** I find it unusual that DPI doesn't sponsor this anymore. They claim they don't have the money. I bring this up because they used to also sponsor a quiz program for social studies and they got rid of that too. I'm looking at their budget and I think these were important things to me as a social studies teacher. Why has DPI chosen to get rid of them?

**Doug Johnson – Executive Director, NDCEL:** My understanding is the administrative side of that and costs they have incurred. We are getting some money but that money doesn't come directly to the NDCEL. I think there was a staffing issue for DPI. They are still deeply involved with sending people there help out with the program.

**Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch:** I can probably tell you a number of reasons and one was that we, starting in the 90s and 2000s, started cutting back and cutting back in that department and cutting staff from that department.

**Rep. Mike Schatz:** If I were going to remove some of those things those are some of things I would not remove because that affects kids.

**Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch:** And we had no authority on what they decided to give up. We as legislators took FTEs away from them.

**Rep. Dennis Johnson:** When we were considering changing the time frame when we were going to have this, what should we be looking at? Or what are your thoughts on that?

**Doug Johnson – Executive Director, NDCEL:** I think it will be driven by available hotel space here in Bismarck. We book those two years in advance. We've been backing up the dates. We were later in February and have moved up.

**Rep. Bob Hunsakor:** Is there a National Close-Up Program and if so does each of our schools communities send delegates and how many?

**Doug Johnson – Executive Director, NDCEL:** Yes they do have National Close-Up. Any district is eligible to do that. We do have a fairly large contingency of students that go out to DC. More students went to the nation than the state.

**Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch:** It must be that not everyone goes at the same time.

**Rick Heidt – Coordinator, North Dakota Close-Up Program:** There are weekly programs and they sign up for a week. There are programs that last a little longer that include trips to New York and things like that. That is part of why we lose students in the state program. They make a choice because of money and other factors. I think we lost 20-30 students when they found out when regional basketball was. We've looked at other times and it hasn't worked.

**Rep. Bob Hunsakor:** The expense for these kids to come here is taken care of by the district and when they go to Washington D.C. the district doesn't pay for any of that. Is that correct?

**Rick Heidt – Coordinator, North Dakota Close-Up Program:** Yes the school usually takes care of that. The money they send us for an enrollment fee goes to the fees. They get hotels for two nights and meals for Sunday, Monday, and until noon on Tuesday. All transportation is included in that. The national program is quite a bit more expensive so the kids do fundraising within their school district for that.

**Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch:** Questions? Support? Opposition? What are the wishes of the committee?

**Rep. Phillip Mueller:** I move a do pass on HCR 3029.

**Rep. Joe Heilman:** Second.

**Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch:** We will take the roll. We will close on HCR 3029.

**15 YEAS 0 NAYS 0 ABSENT  
CARRIER: Vice Chair Lisa Meier**

**DO PASS**

Date: 62-09-11  
Roll Call Vote #: \_\_\_\_\_

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 3029

House EDUCATION Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

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

Action Taken:  Do Pass  Do Not Pass  Amended  Adopt  
Amendment

Rerefer to Appropriations  Reconsider

Motion Made By REP. MUELLER Seconded By REP. HEILMAN

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Kelsch	X		Rep. Hanson	X	
Vice Chairman Meier	X		Rep. Hunsakor	X	
Rep. Heilman	X		Rep. Mock	X	
Rep. Heller	X		Rep. Mueller	X	
Rep. Johnson	X				
Rep. Karls	X				
Rep. Rohr	X				
Rep. Rust	X				
Rep. Sanford	X				
Rep. Schatz	X				
Rep. Wall	X				

Total (Yes) 15 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment VICE CHAIR MEIER

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

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HCR 3029: Education Committee (Rep. R. Kelsch, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS**  
(15 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3029 was placed on the  
Eleventh order on the calendar.

2011 SENATE EDUCATION

HCR 3029

# 2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Education Committee  
Missouri River Room, State Capitol

HCR 3029  
March 2, 2011  
14844

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A concurrent resolution declaring Monday, February 14, 2011, "North Dakota Close-Up Day".

## Minutes:

No attachments

**Chairman Freborg** opened the hearing on HCR 3029; no fiscal note attached.

**Representative Weiler, District 30**, introduced HCR 3029 which is a resolution declaring Monday, February 14<sup>th</sup> as North Dakota Close-Up Day. Has sponsored this legislation for several sessions. Very worthwhile organization; bring kids in from all over the state to learn about the legislative process. Would appreciate the committees support.

**Senator Taylor, District 7**, testified in favor of the bill as a sponsor. Many legislators met with the students at the Doublewood Inn on Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup>; good opportunity to teach the next generation about the democratic process and how the legislature works. When they show an interest to come to Bismarck as a part of the program, the legislature ought to recognize that and reward it.

**Doug Johnson, North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders** testified in support of the resolution. It has been sponsored by this organization for the last 10 years and is run out of their office. Rick Height is the individual who sets the program up; very valuable program to understand the legislative process during the odd number years. Look at the judicial process and the governmental process in the even years through Close-Up. Very well attended and they enjoy the responsibility it gives to kids through the program.

No further testimony in favor; no opposition. Hearing closed.

Senator Flakoll moved a Do Pass to HCR 3029; second by Senator Luick. Motion carried 7-0-0. Carried by Senator Luick.



Date: 3/2/11  
Roll Call Vote # 1

2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HER 3029

Senate Education Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

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

Action Taken:  Do Pass  Do Not Pass  Amended  Adopt Amendment  
 Rerefer to Appropriations  Reconsider

Motion Made By Sen. Flakoll Seconded By Sen. Luick

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chairman Layton Freborg	X		Senator Joan Heckaman	X	
Vice Chair Donald Schaible	X		Senator Richard Marcellais	X	
Senator Tim Flakoll	X				
Senator Gary A. Lee	X				
Senator Larry Luick	X				

Total (Yes) 7 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Sen. Luick

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

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HCR 3029: Education Committee (Sen. Freborg, Chairman) recommends DO PASS**  
(7 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3029 was placed on the  
Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2011 TESTIMONY

HCR 3029

**TESTIMONY ATTACHMENT**  
**TESTIMONY FOR HCR 3029**

Madam Chairman and members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Rick Heidt, coordinator of the North Dakota Close Up Program. I am here to testify regarding the House Concurrent Resolution 3029. I would like to share some information about the Close Up program with you.

The North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders, in conjunction with the Tesoro Refinery and the National Close Up Foundation, are sponsoring North Dakota Close Up for its twenty-<sup>sixth</sup>~~fifth~~ program year.

Approximately 95 high school students and 17 teachers from around the state will be in Bismarck on Sunday, February 13 to participate in the 2 day event held at the State Capitol and the Doublewood Inn.

The purpose of the Close Up program, as this resolution states, is to ignite an interest in the democratic process and to instill young people with the desire to become active participants in government. Close Up North Dakota concentrates on the functions and structure of state government and defines the constitutional responsibilities assigned to each of the three branches of government. The media and special interest groups, both major influences affecting government policy, are also examined.

For democracy to succeed, it is vital for citizens to take an active interest in their government. One way to develop this relationship is by participating in Close Up programs. In 1972 the Close Up Foundation -- the nation's largest civic education organization -- began to sponsor such programs across the country and around the world, and has involved students, teachers, community leaders, and other adults. Close Up programs provide students and other participants with opportunities for citizenship education and direct involvement in the democratic process.

An impressive roster of speakers is scheduled to assist students to simulate the legislative process. Issues surrounding youth and their interest in North Dakota as a workplace and home are the basis for bills that are to be proposed to a mock legislative hearing committee on the final day of the program. The focus of the "mock hearing" this year will be the efforts of the legislature to address the "bullying" issue in ND schools and communities. A "Meet Your Legislators" hour will take place Sunday, February 13 at 7:00 PM at the Doublewood Inn; students will have a chance to meet and discuss these issues with their legislators.

Thank you very much for your involvement, your continuing support, and concern in this resolution and in the Close Up program.