

2015 HOUSE EDUCATION

HCR 3058

2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Pioneer Room, State Capitol


HCR 3058

3/11/2015

24594

☐ Subcommittee

☐ Conference Committee



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Directing the Legislative Management to study the use of attendance incentives by schools and school districts.

Chairman Nathe: Opened the hearing on HCR 3058.

Rep Mock: Introduced HCR 3058. It is a resolution to instruct Legislative management to study the use of attendance incentives by schools and school districts. As we are getting into the legislative session we are talking a lot about academic attendance and the importance of attendance and the creativities that some districts use or some of the incentives that they use to encourage students to intent. You wouldn't think you would actually have to incentives attending courses at the university level especially when you are paying a lot of money per course but it is amazing what some students both higher education and K-12 will use to encourage students to attend or to bring them there. One thing we have seen a lot of perfect attendance awards. Honor awards in some school districts we have seen there they have incentivized attendance by offering pizza parties for those who have a perfect attendance, that they are exempt from final examinations for perfect attendance, they get better parking permits, prizes etc. As you will heart there has been some interesting situations where students so committed to achieving perfect attendance but they will in some cases attend class when they shouldn't be for health reasons. One thing we want to do is ensure that students do attend all of their courses. This study is a shall consider study to study attendance incentives by schools and school districts whether they are increase attendance and whether they have any unattended or detrimental consequences regarding students and staff. We certainly think that the language is open enough. It is going to provide some pretty fascinating input if it is studied. I think there is good merit for doing so.

Nick Archuleta ~ President of North Dakota United: We were in fact at the beginning of the session talking about school in general and how important attendance is. Believe me when I tell you you cannot learn if you are not there so we take attendance very seriously. I

shared a story with Representative Mock about a student that I had in class, it was in the afternoon. He came to school he had a huge bandage on his neck and one on his arm that was visible under his shirt sleeve and I asked him what happened. I was in the shower and I wasn't feeling good last night when I went to bed, when I woke up this morning I still wasn't feeling good but I didn't want to miss school so I took a shower and I passed out. His fever was so high he lost consciousness on the way down to the shower floor he hit the hot water and the hot water ran on him for a considerable amount of time and burned him. There he was that afternoon in class, I told him if he wasn't feeling well he should be at home and he said well I don't want to have to take my finals. That's not good. Attendance is absolutely vital to a good education. We aren't talking about going fishing that day or going to a shoe sale. We are talking about being healthful, being in school and being in a condition that you are able to learn. We see it several times a year. I don't know that there is a source that you can go to right now to find out what every districts policies are right now or even if every district does have a policy on it. I rise in support of a study to make this happen.

Rep Hunsakor: In our school we had 91-92 percent attendance in and out from year to year and we started a policy of exempt from finals if you had no more than one or two absences in a year that were unexcused and our attendance rose to 98 percent. One of the problems with that is that kids would come to school sick, because they did not want to take those finals and they would drag themselves through the door. But it did make a huge difference in attendance. Then the argument was well if I don't take the final test they get to college and then they have to take tests and they are not experienced in taking a final test. So then we implemented that students could opt out of three of their finals but had to take two. It did make a difference in the attendance there is no question about that.

Nick Archuleta: The compromise at my school here in Bismarck was the students would take one final and the principles would get together and they would put one through seven in a hat and they would reach in and pull out a number and that would be the period for the final they had to take. You are right if you incentivize attendance it will come up. I think it made a difference of three percentage points in Bismarck when they did that. But then again we had the recent outbreak of measles in and around the country and I don't know if I want a kid sick with measles coming to school especially when we are not exactly certain as we should be about who has been vaccinated and who has not.

Rep Schreiber Beck: The study is more concerned with the detrimental effects and I am more concerned about the kids that go and fail every day. I just think there is so much more better things to study than this.

Nick Archuleta: We need a way to compare policy and to discuss them. It's not enough for the child to be in school. If the child is in physical shape to learn while they are in school.

Rep Schreiber Beck: Those are district policies we are intervening in district policies then.

Nick Archuleta: When I look at this bill it is just to study it. Maybe nothing will come of it maybe something will.

Rep Rohr: Why can't the REA's or school districts take on the study and do it?

Nick Archuleta: I don't know, if the REA's did it that would be great.

Rep Meier: Remind me what percentage of the final test is to a student's grade?

Nick Archuleta: I am going to guess 5-7 percent maybe more in another district and depending on the course.

Rep Meier: That is important to have that final that is a significant amount of points going toward an individual's grade.

Nick Archuleta: I know that in Bismarck if you chose to take a final that grade could only be used to help to your grade. If you didn't do well on it it couldn't be used to hurt your final grade.

Rep Mock: Could a district have a policy to exempt a test that we have put into statute?

Nick Archuleta: I don't think so.

Rep Mock: We have learned that they can opt out under current law so I'm not sure if there are any districts that have allowed that since it has to be provided.

Chairman Nathe: they could stay home

Rep Mock: I don't know if any of those incentives would extend to that.

No Opposition

Chairman Nathe: Closed the hearing on 3058

Rep Meier: Moved Do Pass on HCR 3058

Rep Kelsh: Second.

Rep B. Koppelman: If they have associations in every school district but I think generally speaking across the state North Dakota United represents the majority of teachers, has associations and the majority of districts and I would contend that one of their staff members could make 180 emails and probably find the answer to this and waste the tax payers time if we were to study this so I am going to vote against this.

Motion for a Do Pass.

Motion made by Representative Meier.

Seconded by Representative Kelsh.

Total Yes 5. No 7. Yes 1.

Motion Failed.

Rep Johnson: I move Do Not Pass and Place On Consent Calendar.

Rep. Looysen: Second.

Motion for a Do Not Pass and Place On Consent Calendar. Motion made by Representative Johnson.

Seconded by Representative Looysen.

Roll Call vote taken: Yes 8. No 4. Absent 1.

Motion passes.

Floor assignment Representative Schreiber Beck.

Date: 3-11-15
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 3058

House Education Committee

☐ Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: _____

Recommendation: ☐ Adopt Amendment
☒ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Without Committee Recommendation
☐ As Amended ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations
☐ Place on Consent Calendar
Other Actions: ☐ Reconsider ☐ _____

Motion Made By Rep. Meier Seconded By Rep. Kelsh

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Nathe		✓	Rep. Hunsakor	✓	
Vice Chairman Schatz		✓	Rep. Kelsh	✓	
Rep. Dennis Johnson		✓	Rep. Mock	✓	
Rep. B. Koppelman		✓			
Rep. Looyesen		✓			
Rep. Meier	✓				
Rep. Olson	A				
Rep. Rohr		✓			
Rep. Schreiber Beck		✓			
Rep. Zubke	✓				

Total (Yes) 5 No 7

Absent 1

Floor Assignment _____

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

motion failed.

Date: 3-11-15
Roll Call Vote #: 2

2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 3058

House Education Committee

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Amendment LC# or Description: _____

Recommendation: ☐ Adopt Amendment
☐ Do Pass ☒ Do Not Pass ☐ Without Committee Recommendation
☐ As Amended ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations
☒ Place on Consent Calendar
Other Actions: ☐ Reconsider ☐ _____

Motion Made By Rep. Johnson Seconded By Rep. Looyen

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Nathe	✓		Rep. Hunsakor		✓
Vice Chairman Schatz	✓		Rep. Kelsh		✓
Rep. Dennis Johnson	✓		Rep. Mock		✓
Rep. B. Koppelman	✓				
Rep. Looyen	✓				
Rep. Meier		✓			
Rep. Olson	A				
Rep. Rohr	✓				
Rep. Schreiber Beck	✓				
Rep. Zubke	✓				

Total (Yes) 8 No 4

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Rep. Schreiber Beck

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HCR 3058: Education Committee (Rep. Nathe, Chairman) recommends DO NOT PASS and BE PLACED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR (8 YEAS, 4 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3058 was placed on the Tenth order on the calendar.