

2017 HOUSE EDUCATION

HB 1420

2017 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Coteau A Room, State Capitol

HB 1420
1/25/2017
Job 27386

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to history majors at institutions under the control of the state board of higher education being required to take courses in United States History.

Minutes:

No attachments.

Chairman- Mark S. Owens: opens the hearing on HB 1420.

Representative Damschen: I bring a fairly simple bill forward, and I might add that I am going to offer some amendments. The new language to graduate any student seeking a major in history program at an institution under the control of the state board of higher education, shall enroll in and complete at least one course offering on the subject of United States History. For years I have had a concern about history, because if it is not accurate there is no point in teaching it, and it can get us off track, and there is some revisionist history out there, we all know that. But there is some that is not taught, I sight a study that was quoted in an article by George Will, the American council of trustees and alumni's study, and they found based on requirements and course offerings at 75 community colleges and universities, they found that the overwhelming majority of America's most prestigious institutions do not require even the students who major in history to take a single course on United States history or government. Often micro histories are offered to history majors at schools that require these major to take no US history course, modern addiction, cigarette smoking in the 20th century, long boy meets valley girl, witch craft and possession, at some schools that require history majors to take at least one US History course requirement can be fulfilled with courses like: mad men and mad woman, hip hop politics and youth culture in America, Jews in American entertainment, and Constitutional History is an afterthought. Mr. Chairman I sure appreciate helping me get this computer unplugged or else I would not have this information here. The article says, that a recent survey found that less than half of college graduates knew that George Washington was the commanding general at Yorktown, and nearly half did not know that Theodore Roosevelt was important to the construction of the Panama Canal. More than one third cannot place the civil war in a correct 20-year span, or identify Franklin Roosevelt as an architect of the new deal. 58% did not know that the battle of the bulge occurred in WW2, and nearly half did not know the length of the terms of US Senators and Representatives. These are few examples of why I introduce this bill, and I was happy to find out with very little research that our university system does often require

some courses in US History for history majors, which is good news. I did not think it would be bad to have it assured that that practice would continue in future years, that is why I offered it as a piece of legislation. I did have after I introduced the bill I had a very enjoyable and encouraging conversation with Dr. Rothoss, he is involved directly in this issue with history in the university system in North Dakota, and he assured me that all of our universities do require US History for history major, so after we talked and visited, it appeared that it would be wise to put it as a form of a resolution, I have an unofficial copy of that copy, proposal of that resolution, you may want to take it to legislative council, it was not authored by them, they may want to put their stamp on it. That will alleviate most conflict, and I was not trying to cause trouble.

Chairman- Mark S. Owens: We will be happy to look at the resolution, and converting the bill to a resolution, and we will utilize legislative council to ensure that it filters through the appropriate systems.

Representative Damschen: I would appreciate that Mr. Chairman, and I will try to answer any questions.

Chairman- Mark S. Owens: are there any questions for Representative Damschen.

Richard Rothoss: I am here to testify in support of the bill, with the amendments that have been proposed, we just had a vigorous discussion of the interaction between the legislature and curriculum at the K-12 level, does not work quite the same at the university level, but you do not want to hear it again, so I am not going to do it. I am just going to remark that, I certainly believe, there is a reason why these issues are coming up here in North Dakota and in other states. Both with concerns about the high school history curriculum, and also college history curriculum. We could saddle up and argue on who can do what, and who can say what, you may have noticed we just came through a rather contentious election, with a lot of people silo-ing up, I am kind of done with that for at least 4 to 8 perhaps 12 years. I do not want to do that, I want to instead engage in constructive dialog, I am happy to testify in support of this resolution on behalf of the university system, and also offer my assurance that I will walk this through and do it myself, it will not be a begrudging reply to the resolution, I will take it on personally.

Chairman- Mark S. Owens: any questions. Anyone else in support for HB 1420, any opposition for HB 1420, and neutral testimony for HB 1420. Closing the hearing on HB 1420.

2017 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Coteau A Room, State Capitol

HB 1420
1/25/2017
Job 27425

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature 

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to history majors at institutions under the control of the state board of higher education being required to take courses in United States History.

Minutes:

No attachments.

Chairman- Mark S. Owens: we talked about it this morning really quick, you have an amendment in front of you to turn it into a study, what is the committee's passion and desires.

Rep. Denton Zubke: I will move to adopt proposed amendments to HB 1420 to turn it into a study.

Chairman- Mark S. Owens: Rep. Denton Zubke has made a motion, and Rep. Bill Oliver seconds the amendment. Any discussion, hearing none I will do a voice vote to adopt the amendment. What is the committees desire now that we adopted the amendment?

Rep. Denton Zubke: I will move that we give HB 1420 a do pass as amended.

Chairman- Mark S. Owens: we have a motion for a do pass as amended from Rep. Denton Zubke, and seconded by Rep. Matthew Ruby. The clerk will call the roll when he is ready. Vote is 12-0-2, and Rep. Mary Johnson will carry this bill.

1/23/17 DO

17.0832.01001
Title.02000

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
Representative Owens
January 25, 2017

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1420

Page 1, line 1, after "A BILL" replace the remainder of the bill with "for an Act to provide for a study of the curriculum requirements of history majors at public institutions of higher education in the state.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION STUDY - UNITED STATES HISTORY COURSES. During the 2017-18 interim, the state board of higher education shall study the curriculum requirements of history majors at the eleven North Dakota colleges and universities under the control of the state board of higher education and the feasibility and desirability of mandatory inclusion of United States history courses in that curriculum. The North Dakota university system shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-sixth legislative assembly."

Renumber accordingly

Date: 1/25/17

Roll Call Vote # 1

2017 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1420

House Education Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: 17.0832.01001

- 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. Zubke Seconded By Rep. Oliver

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman- Mark S. Owens			Rep. Andrew Marschall		
Vice Chairman- Cynthia Schreiber-Beck			Rep. Bill Oliver		
Rep. Rich S. Becker			Rep. Brandy Pyle		
Rep. Pat D. Heinert			Rep. Matthew Ruby		
Rep. Dennis Johnson			Rep. Denton Zubke		
Rep. Mary Johnson			Rep. Ron Guggisberg		
Rep. Donald W. Longmuir			Rep. Corey Mock		

Total (Yes) _____ No _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment Rep. _____

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

Voice Vote to pass, and it was UNANIMOUS.

Date: 1/25/17

Roll Call Vote # 2

2017 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1420

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. Zubke Seconded By Rep. Ruby

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman- Mark S. Owens	✓		Rep. Andrew Marschall	✓	
Vice Chairman- Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	✓		Rep. Bill Oliver	✓	
Rep. Rich S. Becker	AB		Rep. Brandy Pyle	✓	
Rep. Pat D. Heinert	✓		Rep. Matthew Ruby	✓	
Rep. Dennis Johnson	AB		Rep. Denton Zubke	✓	
Rep. Mary Johnson	✓		Rep. Ron Guggisberg	✓	
Rep. Donald W. Longmuir	✓		Rep. Corey Mock	✓	
	5			7	

Total (Yes) 12 No 0

Absent 2

Floor Assignment Rep. Mary Johnson

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1420: Education Committee (Rep. Owens, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1420 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 1, after "A BILL" replace the remainder of the bill with "for an Act to provide for a study of the curriculum requirements of history majors at public institutions of higher education in the state.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION STUDY - UNITED STATES HISTORY COURSES. During the 2017-18 interim, the state board of higher education shall study the curriculum requirements of history majors at the eleven North Dakota colleges and universities under the control of the state board of higher education and the feasibility and desirability of mandatory inclusion of United States history courses in that curriculum. The North Dakota university system shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-sixth legislative assembly."

Renumber accordingly

2017 SENATE EDUCATION

HB 1420

2017 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Sheyenne River Room, State Capitol

HB 1420
3/7/2017
Job Number 28769

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Sandy Baumgartner

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A study of the curriculum requirements of history majors at public institutions of higher education in the state

Minutes:

Chairman Schaible: Call meeting to order for HB 1420.

Repr. Chuck Damschen: District 10, NE North Dakota. I introduced the bill as a requirement for history majors at our universities to take a course in US history. I did find out that it was already required. Talked about people who didn't know their history. I think it is important to teach the history and our foundation of our country. I hope we could support this study.

Chairman Schaible: Do our institutions require that?

Repr. Chuck Damschen: Yes, they do.

Chairman Schaible: What would a study do for us?

Repr. Chuck Damschen: Just to remind us that it is important.

Chairman Schaible: Since we are already doing this, I wonder what this study would provide.

Dr. Richard Rothus: Vice-Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs for the ND University System. I am here to support this bill. There is a strong concern at high school and college about students being taught US history. The value of the study is to get this on the table on a non-confrontational way. I stand for questions.

Chairman Schaible: The book Picking the President is on-line?

Dr. Richard Rothus: Yes, the book is free on-line at Digital Press @ University of North Dakota.

Senator Oban: My concern is that legislators continue to bring these bills forward without already knowing what is already on the books and what is already happening. Often times when I come up with an idea for a bill, I actually reach out to the people who have knowledge of what is already happening. I feel that this bill has already happened. Do you see that as a necessary thing to study?

Dr. Richard Rothus: This is such a hot button nationally. I think it is worth the legislature's time. More discussion happened.

Senator Kannianen: You would like to have a study for in the future there is protection against a bill that might do something you don't like?

Dr. Richard Rothus: It might strike a strong bill from someone who doesn't like this issue.

Chairman Schaible: Any other testimony? We will close the hearing.

2017 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Sheyenne River Room, State Capitol

HB 1420
3/7/2017
Job Number 28816

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Sandy Baumgartner

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A study of the curriculum requirements of history majors at public institutions of higher education in the state.

Minutes:

Chairman Schaible: Call the meeting to order for HB 1420.

Senator Davison: I would make a motion for "Do Not Pass" for HB 1420

Senator Oban: I second.

Chairman Schaible: Any discussion?

Senator Davison: I think it is a real narrow outcome and they are comfortable with what is being taught in the university system. I didn't think there was much of an outcome for the study.

Chairman Schaible: I agree with this. It looks like a study looking for a problem. There are more pertinent issues we need to discuss.

Chairman Schaible: Any other discussion? Seeing none. Clerk take the roll. 6 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 absent.

Senator Davison will carry.

Date: 3-07-17
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2017 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1420

Senate 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 Davison Seconded By Oban

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chairman Schaible	✓		Senator Oban	✓	
Vice-Chairman Rust	✓				
Senator Davison	✓				
Senator Kannianen	✓				
Senator Vedaa	✓				

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Davison

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

**HB 1420, as engrossed: Education Committee (Sen. Schaible, Chairman) recommends
DO NOT PASS (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).**
Engrossed HB 1420 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2017 TESTIMONY

HB 1420

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.

Introduced by

Representatives Damschen, Jones, Paur
Senators Myrdal, Rust

A concurrent resolution urging the North Dakota University System to study the teaching of U.S. History to history majors at the eleven public North Dakota public colleges and universities.

WHEREAS, the State of North Dakota funds and supports eleven public colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota college and universities are responsible for providing higher education in the area of history to the citizens of North Dakota; and

WHEREAS, civil informed discourse is essential in maintaining the government that makes possible public higher education; and

WHEREAS, informed discourse about government requires citizens with an understanding of U.S. History

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

That the North Dakota University System study the requirements for the study of U.S. history for majors in history programs at institutions under the control of the state board of higher education, and make recommendations to ensure the continuation of the study of U.S. History

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Dakota University System report its findings and Recommendations, to the Interim Higher Education Committee and/or the Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly.