2021 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

HB 1416

2021 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee
Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1416
2/2/2021

Relating to early childhood education programs; to provide a transfer of full-time equivalent positions; and to provide a statement of legislative intent

Vice Chair Rohr opened the hearing at 2:45 p.m.

Representatives	Attendance
Representative Robin Weisz	P
Representative Karen M. Rohr	P
Representative Mike Beltz	P
Representative Chuck Damschen	P
Representative Bill Devlin	A
Representative Gretchen Dobervich	P
Representative Clayton Fegley	P
Representative Dwight Kiefert	P
Representative Todd Porter	P
Representative Matthew Ruby	P
Representative Mary Schneider	P
Representative Kathy Skroch	P
Representative Bill Tveit	P
Representative Greg Westlind	P

Discussion Topics:

- Early childhood education provider coalition & eligibility
- North Dakota early childhood council
- Department of Human Services vs. Department of Public Instruction

Rep. Robin Weisz, District 14 (2:46) introduced the bill and testified in favor.

Tara Fuhrer, Director Office of Early Learning Department of Public Instruction (3:05) testified in favor and submitted testimony #4978.

Jessica Thomasson, Executive Policy Director Department of Human Services (3:19) testified in favor and submitted testimony #4961.

Roxane Romanick, Executive Director Designer Genes of North Dakota Inc. (3:36) testified in favor and submitted testimony #4968.

Becky Matthews, Bismarck (3:49) testified in favor and submitted testimony #5034.

Kirsten Baesler, State Superintendent Department Public Instruction (3:55) testified and answered questions.

Additional written testimony: #4986, #4987

Chairman Weisz adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

Tamara Krause, Committee Clerk

TESTIMONY ON HB 1416
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
February 2, 2021
By: Tara Fuhrer, Director Office of Early Learning
701-328-4646
North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

Chairman Robin Weisz and Members of the Committee:

My name is Tara Fuhrer, Director of the Office of Early Learning with the Department of Public Instruction. I am here to provide information and speak in favor of HB 1416.

North Dakota continues to be committed to building high-quality early childhood experiences that enable children to have a strong foundation. DPI and DHS have long partnered on Birth - 5 related programs which is why DPI is in favor to consolidate the responsibility for early childhood experiences and services into one unified agency at the state level. DPI understands and supports the fact this is a reorganization at the state level that has no negative impact on the local programs and services.

North Dakota recognizes the need to unify state systems and is in support of taking action to ensure efficient use of resources. This will help to resolve the current complex Birth - 5 system, resulting in a stronger and more connected state system to serve our ND families through the Department of Human Services.

ND knows this is a critical step to setting a concrete foundation to support both the Birth - 5 and the K-12 systems. DPI recognizes behavioral health initiatives are also at the forefront of family and school partnerships. This bill's goal to be proactive by consolidating appropriate work into the Department Human Services will promote stronger early childhood experiences.

DPI respectfully requests your consideration of an amendment that would further clarify the intent of inter-agency collaboration as outlined in Section 3 of the bill. The proposed change, on page 2, section 3, line 28 would clarify that only the portion of Part B programming that affects early childhood (known as Part B, 619) is included in the bill reference. The amended language would read as follows:

To act on behalf of the department of public instruction to administer part B, 619 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act [Pub. L. 108-446;229 Sat. 2647; 20 U.S.C. 1441 et seq.].

Chairman Weisz and Members of the Committee that concludes my prepared testimony and I will stand for any questions that you may have.

Testimony

House Bill 1416 – Department of Human Services

House Human Services Committee

Representative Robin Weisz, Chairman

February 2, 2021

Chairman Wesiz, members of the House Human Services Committee, I am Jessica Thomasson, Executive Policy Director for the Department of Human Services (Department). I am here today to register the Department's support for House Bill 1416.

The Department of Human Services is working across systems whenever possible to improve stability and prevent crises, to promote and support recovery and well-being, to support workforce needs with access to childcare, and to align programs for maximum return on investment. We recognize that any investments we make in support of young families and in children's earliest years are both cost and outcome effective.

At DHS our approach is based on the knowledge that children are best able to realize their potential if they have access to quality early childhood experiences. We also know that investing in early childhood supports state workforce needs because parents are more able to productively engage in the workforce when they know their children are well. Our staff is working every day to find efficiencies and improve alignment between existing programs and services that serve young families. We believe the proposal outlined in HB1416 will further that work. Further aligning the work of the state's early childhood professionals by transitioning the functions of the Office of Early Learning from DPI to DHS will give greater attention and focus to the needs of young families and their children.

I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

HB 1416
House Human Services
Tuesday, February 2, 2021
Rep. Robin Weisz, Chairman

Chairman Weisz and Members of the House Human Services Committee:

My name is Roxane Romanick and I'm representing Designer Genes of ND, Inc., as their Executive Director. Designer Genes' membership represents 260 individuals with Down syndrome that either live in our state or are represented by family members in North Dakota. Designer Genes' mission is to strengthen opportunities for individuals with Down syndrome and those who support them to earn, learn, and belong.

I am here today to provide testimony on HB 1416 and am encouraging a "do pass" from your committee. Beyond the general and typically known early childhood experiences, like child care, North Dakota's infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with Down syndrome and their families are additionally supported with our North Dakota Part C Early Intervention system (birth to 3) and special education supports (3 – 5). This gives Designer Genes good reason to care about this bill.

When I say "care", I mean that the main focus of testifying and watching the process of this bill is to make sure that the smallest individuals with disabilities and delays are not left out of the conversation nor are they in any way negatively impacted. Our organization cares about two main outcomes in this process: **1) that all early childhood experiences in North Dakota are inclusive and 2) that families are supported to help their children, in their own unique ways, to learn, grow, and be healthy**.

I have to be honest with you, when I read that HB 1416 gave the Department of Human Services the authority to act "on behalf" of the Department of Public Instruction to administer "Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)", I almost fell off my chair. Section 3 of the bill which creates a new subsection to 50-06-05.1 holds both promise and concern for me. Let me explain.

A position statement created by the Division for Early Childhood and the National Association for the Education of the Young Child states: "*Early childhood inclusion embodies the values, policies, and practices that support the right of every infant and young child and his or her family, regardless of ability, to participate in a broad range of activities and contexts as full members of families, communities, and society. The desired results of inclusive experiences for children with and without disabilities and their families include a sense of belonging and membership, positive social relationships and friendships, and development and learning to reach their full potential. The defining features of inclusion that can be used to identify high quality early childhood programs and services are access, participation, and supports." (DEC & NAEYC, 2009)* https://www.decdocs.org/position-statement-inclusion. The very youngest of children with Down syndrome as well as other children with special health care needs and/or disabilities benefit from high expectations and inclusive practices. Actually that's true for all the children. The bill has the potential to recognize that children with disabilities and delays will be included and will not be an afterthought as so often can happen. I have been actively engaged in early childhood advocacy from a disability perspective since 2000 when my daughter turned one, and I have not seen comprehensive top-down action and legislative initiative like this bill represents. I want to acknowledge those of you that crafted the language of the bill. If you, our legislative body, and our agency leaders value inclusion, then you can drive change. This holds promise for me.

Our children (ages 3 – Kindergarten entry) with Down syndrome and other disabilities will need you, our legislative body, our agency leaders, as well as our local school districts to remember and honor the obligations under IDEA. Today, we have well-intentioned leaders working on this legislation, but we will all change places with someone coming along behind us who does not share the same institutional memory. Critical issues such as funding streams, monitoring requirements, teacher credentialing, and adhering to procedural safeguards all hang in the balance. I am requesting that the committee explore alternate language in Section 3 that better represents the operations that will need to take place between the Department of Public Instruction and the Department of Human Services to deliver IEP supports to our preschoolers who qualify. A possible change may be (Page 2, Line 28) "To act **in conjunction with** the department of public instruction…".

One of the concerns that I have had is that not all three-year-old's on IEP's are receiving services in an inclusive, developmentally appropriate setting with a robust set of special education supports decided in collaboration with their family. In particular the three-year-old's struggle because four-year-old programs have been developed and you have to be a certain age at a certain time. When there is a preschool-like experience provided, our three-year-old's often miss out on inclusive experiences because only children with IEP's are included in a classroom. Current licensing regulations make it prohibitive for a school district to include other three-year-old's not on an IEP. Attending private preschools may be out of the question because the child is not potty-trained or needs an instructional aide for supervision and other reasons. Advocating for IEP services that are tailored to meet the child's needs is difficult for families and families face having to take what they are offered. Often the only service offered is for them to bring their child in during school hours for discrete skill training that can be developmentally inappropriate and definitely does not promote inclusive interaction with other children. First of all, young children do not learn well in this environment and most working parents face difficulty transporting their child during the day. I desire a comprehensive approach that will fix the above issues and it will take your attention and the work of DHS and DPI to make it happen.

My final point is around the promotion of family engagement. From Head Start, Early Head Start, home visiting programs to Part C Early Intervention, family leadership and partnership are inherent to the work. Early Childhood experiences happen with and in partnership with families whether that be child care, skill-based parenting supports, development and delivery of Individual Family Service Plan supports in Part C, or preschool experiences. The federal Office of Head Starts recognizes family engagement as "…a shared responsibility of families and staff **at all levels** that requires mutual respect for the roles and strengths each has to offer. "(https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/family-engagement#:~:text=Family%20engagement%20is%20a%20collaborative%20and%20strengths-based%20process,the%20roles%20and%20strengths%20each%20has%20to%20offer.) Both my daughter and myself are products of our early childhood experiences. I am the advocate that I am today because I was nurtured to take the reins by her professionals in Early Intervention.

In this spirit, I am also asking the committee to consider amending the language on Page 6, Lines 7 and 8) to substitute "The parent…" with "Three parents…" in each line. Yes, this will increase the number serving on the Council, but it will move to equalize family voice with the 18 professional voices that are

appointed. Please consider other ways that family engagement can be emphasized as you discuss the bill. Other options might be strengthening the bill to partner with community family support entities, build in parent-to-parent supports, as well as leadership opportunities for families. Presently, roughly $370,000 dollars have been cut in the Department of Human Services budget to directly support families' competence and confidence through family-based family support. $260,000 of that is specifically in the area of early learning (Part C Early Intervention). Requests have been made to House Appropriations – Human Resources Division to restore this funding. Your support of this effort as it aligns to the need for family engagement in early childhood would be deeply appreciated.

I wholeheartedly believe that Elizabeth Romanick is a product of her earliest experiences. As we engage in a discussion about early childhood investments, we will be talking about outcomes. As we do, keep Elizabeth in mind. From a first year of significant health concerns, including open heart surgery and a seizure disorder, to present, which finds her attending a joint post-secondary effort between Minot State University and Dakota College of Bottineau to take early childhood classes herself. I regularly get texts with apartment listings and plans to "move out" as soon as she is done at Minot. Our work through her early years and beyond was to mitigate the impact of having a diagnosis of Down syndrome and increase her independence and self-determination as much as possible. I may be biased, but I think that her life is a testament to the positive outcomes that can happen when we engage early with children and families.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to your questions.

Roxane Romanick
Executive Director
Designer Genes of North Dakota, Inc.
701-391-7421

HB 1416

House Human Services Committee

Feb 2, 2021

Chairman Weisz and members of the committee,

Today I am testifying in favor of HB1416. I am a mom to five children. Two children received Part C, Early Intervention Services. Another child received services in Part B, Early Childhood Special Education at BECEP (Bismarck Early Childhood Education Program). I have also worked as an Experienced Parent and Parent Mentor working with families in Early Intervention Services.

Many have called me "passionate" about Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education and I am because these programs changed the trajectory not only for my children but for our whole family. As a young mom to a baby born with a club foot the supports, I received from Early Intervention Services helped get the care my daughter needed, helped with my mental health as I navigated appointments and post-partum depression, and helped me identify that my older son was struggling. I was also was supported by a parent with a child that graduated from Early Intervention and share my journey as a mom navigating so many new things as a home visitor came to visit our family, she was able to reassure me that my oldest child was struggle. My mom "gut" knew it, but our pediatrician said it was "normal" 2-year-old behavior.

Because of Early Intervention my daughter born with a club foot is an active 17-year-old. My son with "behavior" issues is now a 19-year-old attending Concordia College in Moorhead and is hopeful to have a soccer season this spring. Because of high quality Early Childhood Experiences both my children never required an IEP when entering the K-12 system.

As I have testified on this often, I have no DATA to support what high quality early childhood means in one or two decades.

I would like to list the pros and areas of suggestion
Concern:

1. In section 3 "To act on behalf of the department of public instruction to administer part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act" I have a with the Part B not being specific to only 3-year-old to K. Another concern is that Part B is part of IDEA and I feel needs to be done even under Kindergarten in collaboration with DPI.
2. I have concern with 4-year-old being the only age listed. When children with a delay or disability are age 3 and exit Early Intervention services that are also covered under Part B of the IDEA. We already have issues in rural area to get adequate services for family and children with children age 3. Concern some may only provide inclusive services for children that qualify for Part B services and start it at 4.
3. ALL Early Childhood Experiences must embrace inclusion.

4. We need to consider the family's needs in partnership with IDEA and our children Birth to K. I feel more emphasis should be placed in this bill on family to family supports, building family capacity, and building parents as a child's first/best teacher.

Pros:

1. All Early Childhood Experiences being under one entity. From Childcare, home visiting programs, Part C, Early Intervention, Preschool, Early Childhood Special Education, or any other entity that supports infants and toddlers.
2. Opportunity to develop longitudinal data on children like my own. To show what high quality early childhood experiences show in our communities in 10-20 years.
3. Increased efficiency and decreased duplication of services.

I recently toured the Burleigh Morton Detention Center that cost our taxpayers $9 million to just build. I remember before my son received services through Early Childhood Special Education Services and I received the needed supports to advocate for him, I feared his behaviors were a path to the judicial system. I challenge you to take the leap to spend money on our greatest natural resources, our children and families.

Becky Matthews

Bismarck – District 32

Rebecca239@bis.midco.net

701-220-5271

TESTIMONY ON HB 1416
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
February 2, 2021

By: Dr. Janelle Ferderer, Director
South Central Prairie Special Education Unit
701-745-2971

Chairman Weisz and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Janelle Ferderer. I have been an educator and practitioner in Early Childhood Education for 32 years. I am currently the Director of Special Education for the South Central Prairie Special Education Unit, serving 11 rural school districts in south central North Dakota. I am providing testimony today in opposition of HB 1416, a bill for an Act to move program approval for early childhood education from the Department of Public Instruction to the Department of Human Services.

At this point in time there are many questions in the field as to how this would benefit young children in North Dakota. There may, in fact, be benefits, however the lack of stakeholder input and sharing of information before bringing this bill forward has created a sense of uncertainty for many of us in the field of education.

In my 32 years of experience I have worked with many different models, and partnerships in early education. School districts have been required to provide needed services to children with disabilities ages 3-21 since the passing of Public Law 94-142 in 1975, and yes, there have been challenges. Schools have partnered with Head Start, Developmental Disabilities, Vocational Rehabilitation, Community Daycares, parents, the Department of Commerce, private agencies and many other programs to achieve quality programs and services for our young children, with and without disabilities.

In 2013 the 63rd Legislative Assembly passed SB 2229, which provided a means for school districts to obtain approval of four-year-old programs through the Department of Public Instruction. I stood with Superintendent Baesler in advocating for this change and since that time many school districts have developed and implemented these programs. We are seeing more successful transitions to kindergarten, higher achievement levels, decreased referrals for remediation and increased investment from parents and communities to support early learning. We have learned that investments made at the 3 to 5-year-old level provide an exponential return. These programs not “mission creep,” for educators to gain access to younger and younger children, but part of the Federal Law and mission of supporting young children and their families.

I realize that our systems are not perfect, and much could be done to increase services and benefits to families and children. The Department of Human Services may turn out to be the eventual lead department, however, more research is needed before that decision is made. I would posit that creating the law first and later trying to figure out all of the implications for children and families is “putting the cart before the horse” so to speak. Our children and families are in crisis right now, as are all of the agencies and departments trying to serve them. It is not the right time to introduce an additional layer of uncertainty and confusion.

My recommendation is for the committee to conduct a study of how this change would impact children and families, involve appropriate stakeholders, and revisit this topic in the next Legislative Assembly. Successful leadership is not conducted from the top down, but initiated thoughtfully, with the input of those who will be affected most, children and families, and the programs designed to serve them.

Thank you Chairman Weisz and Members of the Committee, this concludes my testimony and I will stand for any questions you may have for me.

House Bill 1416

Chairman Weisz and Members of the Human Services Committee, my Name is Shawn Huss, and I am the Director of Special Education for the WilMac Multidistrict Special Education Unit in the Williston area. I am providing written testimony for you today with a neutral position with amendments on HB 1416.

As a director I do support the concept of working collaboratively with the Department of Human Services (DHS) as we continue to serve students at the early childhood level. I recently reviewed a document regarding proposed action of HB1416 and is my understanding that the Department of Human Services will assume responsibility for the state level administration of programs and services. In my opinion, the concept appears backwards. The path for kids birth to 5 is to transition into Kindergarten. With this in mind, it makes more sense to have the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) oversee birth to five with the DHS supporting families. However, I may not fully understand the intent as the bill is unclear and appears to have many unanswered questions.

Many early childhood experts in this State have raised relevant questions. The common question has been why they were not involved in this decision-making process? Additionally, it is my understanding the governors-appointed early childhood council was not consulted on this idea either. The lack of including key individuals in this planning process continues to facilitate mistrust among the field. In the book “The Five Dysfunctions of a Team” written by Patrick Lencioni, a leading expert in organizational health and team leadership, states that the first dysfunction of a team is lack of trust. Without trust we will never achieve the results we all want for children. In my opinion, this is the overall issue with the presentation of this bill as many of us are not aware of the intent.

I appreciate the efforts of the Department of Public Instruction and Department of Human Service’s attempts to develop a more collaborative relationship. If I could offer two amendments for the committee to consider with a final suggestion. First, Section 3 of the bill should be removed. Second, a special education director or coordinator should be included on the early childhood council. Finally, and most important, prior to passing this bill a study should be completed answering the many questions early childhood experts are asking. This is not about fear of change, this is about providing what is in the best interest of children and families.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Shawn Huss, Director
WilMac Multidistrict Special Education Unit
shuss@wilmac.org
(701)770-3651

2021 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee
Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1416
2/8/2021

Relating to early childhood education programs; to provide a transfer of full-time equivalent positions; and to provide a statement of legislative intent

Chairman Weisz opened the committee meeting at 11:17 a.m.

Representatives	Attendance
Representative Robin Weisz	P
Representative Karen M. Rohr	P
Representative Mike Beltz	P
Representative Chuck Damschen	P
Representative Bill Devlin	P
Representative Gretchen Dobervich	P
Representative Clayton Fegley	P
Representative Dwight Kiefert	P
Representative Todd Porter	P
Representative Matthew Ruby	P
Representative Mary Schneider	A
Representative Kathy Skroch	P
Representative Bill Tveit	P
Representative Greg Westlind	P

Discussion Topics:

- Special education groups
- Services coordination

Rep. Todd Porter (11:21) moved **Do Pass and Rerefer to Appropriations**

Rep. Clayton Fegley (11:22) second

Representatives	Vote
Representative Robin Weisz	Y
Representative Karen M. Rohr	Y
Representative Mike Beltz	Y
Representative Chuck Damschen	N
Representative Bill Devlin	Y
Representative Gretchen Dobervich	Y
Representative Clayton Fegley	Y
Representative Dwight Kiefert	Y
Representative Todd Porter	Y
Representative Matthew Ruby	N
Representative Mary Schneider	A
Representative Kathy Skroch	N

Representative Bill Tveit	N
Representative Greg Westlind	Y

Motion Carried Do Pass and Rerefer to Appropriations 9-4-1

Bill Carrier: Rep. Clayton Fegley

Chairman Weisz adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Tamara Krause, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1416: Human Services Committee (Rep. Weisz, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (9 YEAS, 4 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1416 was rereferred to the **Appropriations Committee**.

2021 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1416

2021 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee
Brynhild Haugland Room, State Capitol

HB 1416
2/12/2021

Relating to the four-year old program approval and the North Dakota early childhood council

8:53 Chairman Delzer- Calls the meeting to order for HB 1416

Attendance	P/A
Representative Jeff Delzer	P
Representative Keith Kempenich	A
Representative Bert Anderson	P
Representative Larry Bellew	P
Representative Tracy Boe	P
Representative Mike Brandenburg	P
Representative Michael Howe	P
Representative Gary Kreidt	A
Representative Bob Martinson	P
Representative Lisa Meier	P
Representative Alisa Mitskog	P
Representative Corey Mock	P
Representative David Monson	P
Representative Mike Nathe	P
Representative Jon O. Nelson	P
Representative Mark Sanford	P
Representative Mike Schatz	P
Representative Jim Schmidt	P
Representative Randy A. Schobinger	P
Representative Michelle Strinden	P
Representative Don Vigesaa	P

Discussion Topics:

- Placing all early childhood development under 1 umbrella
- Moving 3 FTEs from DPI to DHS

8:54 Representative Weisz- Introduces HB 1416 and testifies in favor.

Additional written testimony: No written testimony

9:11 Chairman Delzer- Closed the meeting for HB 1416

Risa Berube, House Appropriation Committee Clerk

2021 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee
Brynhild Haugland Room, State Capitol

HB 1416
2/16/2021

Relating to the four-year old program approval and the North Dakota early childhood council

4:36 Chairman Delzer Opens the meeting for HB 1416;

Attendance	P/A
Representative Jeff Delzer	P
Representative Keith Kempenich	P
Representative Bert Anderson	P
Representative Larry Bellew	P
Representative Tracy Boe	P
Representative Mike Brandenburg	P
Representative Michael Howe	P
Representative Gary Kreidt	P
Representative Bob Martinson	A
Representative Lisa Meier	P
Representative Alisa Mitskog	P
Representative Corey Mock	P
Representative David Monson	P
Representative Mike Nathe	P
Representative Jon O. Nelson	P
Representative Mark Sanford	A
Representative Mike Schatz	P
Representative Jim Schmidt	P
Representative Randy A. Schobinger	P
Representative Michelle Strinden	P
Representative Don Vigesaa	P

Discussion Topics:

- Pre-K or 4-year old program
- Money already appropriated
- Amendment

4:37 Representative Monson- Reviews and explains the bill, will be moving 300 thousand from DPI's budget to DHS.

4:42 Representative Jon O. Nelson- Explains the amendment 21.0811.01001 provided by Representative Weisz

Representative Strinden- Second

4:43 Voice Vote- Motion Carries

4:43 Representative Jon O. Nelson- Make a motion for a Do Pass as Amended

Representative Mitskog- Second

4:44 Remove motions to further amend

4:45 Representative Monson – Motion to further amend and remove section 12 and 13

Representative Mitskog -Second

4:45 Voice vote- Motion carries

4:45 Representative Jon O. Nelson- Makes a for a Do Pass as Amended

Representative Mitskog- Second

Further Discussion

4:48 Roll call vote was taken;

Representatives	Vote
Representative Jeff Delzer	N
Representative Keith Kempenich	Y
Representative Bert Anderson	Y
Representative Larry Bellew	N
Representative Tracy Boe	Y
Representative Mike Brandenburg	Y
Representative Michael Howe	Y
Representative Gary Kreidt	Y
Representative Bob Martinson	A
Representative Lisa Meier	Y
Representative Alisa Mitskog	Y
Representative Corey Mock	Y
Representative David Monson	Y
Representative Mike Nathe	A
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y
Representative Mark Sanford	A
Representative Mike Schatz	N
Representative Jim Schmidt	Y
Representative Randy A. Schobinger	N
Representative Michelle Strinden	Y
Representative Don Vigesaa	N

13-5-3 Motion Carries- Representative Monson will carry the bill

Additional written testimony: No Written Testimony

4:50 Chairman Delzer- Closes the meeting for HB 1416

Risa Berube,

House Appropriations Committee Clerk

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
Representative Weisz
February 12, 2021

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1416

Page 2, line 28, after "B" insert ", section 619"

Renumber accordingly

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
House Appropriations Committee
February 16, 2021

2/17/21

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1416

Page 1, line 6, after the semicolon insert "and"

Page 1, line 8, remove "; to provide a transfer of full-time equivalent positions;"

Page 1, line 9, remove "and to provide a statement of legislative intent"

Page 2, line 28, after "B" insert ", section 619"

Page 7, remove lines 20 through 31

Page 8, remove lines 1 through 7

Renumber accordingly

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1416: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Delzer, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 5 NAYS, 3 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1416 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 6, after the semicolon insert "and"

Page 1, line 8, remove "; to provide a transfer of full-time equivalent positions;"

Page 1, line 9, remove "and to provide a statement of legislative intent"

Page 2, line 28, after "B" insert ", section 619"

Page 7, remove lines 20 through 31

Page 8, remove lines 1 through 7

Renumber accordingly

2021 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

HB 1416

2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee
Sakakawea Room, State Capitol

HB 1416
3/10/2021

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new subsection to section 50-06-05.1 and sections 50-11.1-21, 50-11.1-22, 50-11.1-23, and 50-11.1-24 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the four-year old program approval and the North Dakota early childhood council; to amend and reenact sections 15.1-09-58 and 15.1-37-05, subdivision d of subsection 6 of section 50-11.1-02, subsection 2 of section 50-11.1-07, and section 50-11.1-10 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to four-year old program approval; and to repeal sections 15.1-37-01, 15.1-37-02, 15.1-37-03, 15.1-37-04, and 15.1-37-07 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to early childhood education programs.

Madam Chair Lee opened the hearing on HB 1416 at 9:03 a.m. Members present: Lee, K. Roers, Hogan, Anderson, Clemens, O. Larsen.

Discussion Topics:

- Interim study
- Memorandum of understanding
- Special Education units
- Study Council
- Early Childhood Council and the Children's Cabinet interface
- Refugee/Immigrant students
- Tribal representation
- Family to family programs
- DPI/DHS partnership

[9:04] Representative Robin Weisz, District 14. Introduced HB 1416.

[9:16] Tara Fuhrer, Director, Office of Early Learning, Department of Public Instruction. Provided testimony #8454 in favor.

[9:22] Kristen Baesler, Superintendent, Department of Public Instruction. Provided oral testimony in favor.

[9:33] Jessica Thomasson, Executive Policy Director, DHS. Provided testimony #8435 in favor.

[9:58] Roxane Romanick, Executive Director, Designer Genes of ND, Inc. Provided testimony #8507 in favor.

[10:08] Shawn Huss, Special Education Director, WilMac Multidistrict Special Education Unit, On behalf of the ND Special Education Study Council (NDSESC). Provided neutral testimony #8413.

[10:13] Valerie Bakken, Coordinator, Bismarck Early Childhood Education Program's (BECEP) on behalf of Bismarck Public Schools and Superintendent Dr. Jason Hornbacher. Provided neutral testimony #8479.

Additional written testimony: (2)

Heidi Budeau, Special Education Director, James River Special Education Cooperative. Written testimony #8439 in opposition.

Dr. Janelle Ferderer, Director of Special Education, South Central Prairie Special Education Unit. Written testimony #8498 in opposition.

Shawn Huss, Director, Wilmac Special Education Unit. Written neutral testimony #8793

Madam Chair Lee closed the hearing on HB 1416 at 10:22 a.m.

Justin Velez, Committee Clerk

TESTIMONY ON HB 1416
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
March 10, 2021
By: Tara Fuhrer, Director Office of Early Learning
701-328-4646
North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

Chairman Lee and Members of the Committee:

My name is Tara Fuhrer, Director of the Office of Early Learning with the Department of Public Instruction. I am here to provide information and speak in favor of HB 1416.

North Dakota continues to be committed to building high-quality early childhood experiences that enable children to have a strong foundation. DPI and DHS have long partnered on Birth - 5 related programs which is why DPI is in favor to consolidate the responsibility for early childhood experiences and services into one unified agency at the state level. DPI understands and supports the fact this is a reorganization at the state level that has no negative impact on the local programs and services.

North Dakota recognizes the need to unify state systems and is in support of taking action to ensure efficient use of resources. This will help to resolve the current complex Birth - 5 system, resulting in a stronger and more connected state system to serve our ND families through the Department of Human Services.

ND knows this is a critical step to setting a concrete foundation to support both the Birth - 5 and the K-12 systems. DPI recognizes behavioral health initiatives are also at the forefront of family and school partnerships. This bill's goal to be proactive by consolidating appropriate work into the Department Human Services will promote stronger early childhood experiences.

Chairman Lee and Members of the Committee that concludes my prepared testimony and I will stand for any questions that you may have.

Testimony

Engrossed House Bill 1416 – Department of Human Services

Senate Human Services Committee

Senator Judy Lee, Chairman

March 10, 2021

Chairman Lee, members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Jessica Thomasson, Executive Policy Director for the Department of Human Services (Department). I am here today to register the Department's support for Engrossed House Bill 1416.

The Department is working across systems whenever possible to improve stability and prevent crises, to promote and support recovery and well-being, to support workforce needs with access to childcare, and to align programs for maximum return on investment. We recognize that any investments we make in support of young families and in children's earliest years are both cost and outcome effective.

This approach is based on the knowledge that children are best able to realize their potential if they have access to quality early childhood experiences. We also know that investing in early childhood supports state workforce needs because parents are more able to productively engage in the workforce when they know their children are well. Our staff is working every day to find efficiencies and improve alignment between existing programs and services that serve young families. We believe the proposal outlined in Engrossed House Bill 1416 will further that work. Further aligning the work of the state's early childhood professionals by transitioning the functions of the Office of Early Learning from DPI to DHS will give greater attention and focus to the needs of young families and their children.

I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

HB 1416
Senate Human Services
Wednesday, March 10, 2021
Senator Judy Lee, Chairperson

Madam Chair Lee and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee:

My name is Roxane Romanick and I'm representing Designer Genes of ND, Inc., as their Executive Director. Designer Genes' membership represents 260 individuals with Down syndrome that either live in our state or are represented by family members in North Dakota. Designer Genes' mission is to strengthen opportunities for individuals with Down syndrome and those who support them to earn, learn, and belong.

I am here today to provide testimony on HB 1416. Beyond the general and typically known early childhood experiences, like child care, North Dakota's infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with Down syndrome and their families are additionally supported with our North Dakota Part C Early Intervention system (birth to 3) and special education supports (3 – 5). This gives Designer Genes good reason to care about this bill. While I am in support of the concept of HB 1416, I do hope for some amended changes to the bill which I will discuss below.

When I say "care", I mean that the main focus of testifying and watching the process of this bill is to make sure that the smallest individuals with disabilities and delays are not left out of the conversation nor are they in any way negatively impacted. Our organization cares about two main outcomes in this process: **1) that all early childhood experiences in North Dakota are inclusive and 2) that families are supported to help their children, in their own unique ways, to learn, grow, and be healthy**.

I have to be honest with you, when I read that HB 1416 gave the Department of Human Services the authority to act "on behalf" of the Department of Public Instruction to administer "Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)", I almost fell off my chair. Section 3 of the bill which creates a new subsection to NDCC 50-06-05.1 holds both promise and concern for me. Let me explain.

A position statement created by the Division for Early Childhood and the National Association for the Education of the Young Child states: "*Early childhood inclusion embodies the values, policies, and practices that support the right of every infant and young child and his or her family, regardless of ability, to participate in a broad range of activities and contexts as full members of families, communities, and society. The desired results of inclusive experiences for children with and without disabilities and their families include a sense of belonging and membership, positive social relationships and friendships, and development and learning to reach their full potential. The defining features of inclusion that can be used to identify high quality early childhood programs and services are access, participation, and supports." (DEC & NAEYC, 2009)* https://www.decdocs.org/position-statement-inclusion. The very youngest of children with Down syndrome as well as other children with special health care needs and/or disabilities benefit from high expectations and inclusive practices. The bill has the potential to recognize that children with disabilities and delays will be included and will not be an afterthought as so often can happen. This is the potential and promise I see in the bill. I have been actively engaged in early childhood advocacy from a disability perspective since 2000 when my daughter turned one, and I have not seen comprehensive top-down action like this bill represents.

Now to address my concern which is specifically around language in Section 3. I am requesting that the committee explore alternate language in Section 3 that better represents the operations that will need to take place between the Department of Public Instruction and the Department of Human Services to deliver IEP supports to our preschoolers who qualify for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) who are 3 to 5 years-old. A needed change is to **amend the language** on Page 2, Line 6, "**To act in conjunction with the department of public instruction…**" vs "to act on behalf of…". I don't believe that IDEA Part B allows a relinquishment of responsibility to any other agency outside of the state education agency. I do not believe that the engrossed bill from the House which added the language "Section 619" to Section 3 was helpful because all provisions of IDEA are relevant to any student on an IEP no matter their age. Our North Dakota public school districts are responsible for serving three through five-year-old's who have IEP's. Section 619 of IDEA is best known as the 3 – 5-year-old provision in the federal law, but it really only outlines federal discretionary spending for this age group. Critical issues such as funding streams, monitoring requirements, teacher credentialing, and adhering to procedural safeguards all must be attended to in this redesign.

I'm also requesting that you lease consider a **language change** on Page 2, Lines 22 – 23 from "Has documented the provider's willingness to admit children of all learning abilities into the early childhood education program" to **"Has documented the provider's willingness to admit any child, no matter their level of functioning across all domains of development, into the early childhood program and be willing to collaborate with the child's Local Education Agency (LEA)to implement the child's 504 or Individual Education Plan."** It is usually not the "learning ability" of a child that get in the way of them being admitted or maintaining a typical early childhood experience. It is usually things like being potty trained, undesirable behaviors, and need for increased supervision. It is also important that push-in services from the LEA are allowed and welcomed.

My final point is around the promotion of family engagement. From Head Start, Early Head Start, home visiting programs to Part C Early Intervention, family leadership and partnership are inherent to the work. Early Childhood experiences happen with and in partnership with families whether that be child care, skill-based parenting supports, development and delivery of Individual Family Service Plan supports in Part C, or preschool experiences. The federal Office of Head Starts recognizes family engagement as "…a shared responsibility of families and staff **at all levels** that requires mutual respect for the roles and strengths each has to offer. "(https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/family-engagement#:~:text=Family%20engagement%20is%20a%20collaborative%20and%20strengths-based%20process,the%20roles%20and%20strengths%20each%20has%20to%20offer.)

In this spirit, I am also asking the committee to consider **amending the language** on Page 6, Lines 2 and 3 to substitute "The parent…" with **"Two parents…" in each line. I also think that a parent representative that has a child in the new Four-Year-Old program should be included**. Yes, this will increase the number serving on the Council by three, but it will move to equalize family voice with the 21 professional voices that are appointed. Please consider other ways that family engagement can be emphasized as you discuss the bill. Other options might be strengthening the bill to partner with community family support entities, build in parent-to-parent supports, as well as leadership opportunities for families. Presently, roughly $290,000 dollars have been cut in the Department of Human Services budget to directly support families' competence and confidence. $260,000 of that is specifically in the area of early learning (Part C Early Intervention). Requests will be made Senate Appropriations to restore this funding. Your support of this effort as it aligns to the family engagement would be deeply appreciated.

I wholeheartedly believe that Elizabeth Romanick is a product of her earliest experiences. As we engage in a discussion about early childhood investments, we will be talking about outcomes. As we do, keep Elizabeth in mind. From a first year of significant health concerns, including open heart surgery and a seizure disorder, to present, which finds her attending a joint post-secondary effort between Minot State University and Dakota College of Bottineau to take early childhood classes herself. I regularly get texts with apartment listings and plans to "move out" as soon as she is done at Minot. It's hard to know what savings have occurred in just her case, but if she's able to work in the early childhood community, become a tax payer and give back to her community then I think we can say that the investment was worth it.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to your questions.

Roxane Romanick
Executive Director
Designer Genes of North Dakota, Inc.
701-391-7421 info@designergenesnd.com

HB 1416

Human Services Committee

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Senator Lee - Chairwoman

Chairwoman Lee and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee, my name is Shawn Huss, I am a Special Education Director for the WilMac Multidistrict Special Education Unit in Northwest North Dakota. I am providing testimony on behalf of the ND Special Education Study Council (NDSESC), which is comprised of Administrators from all 32 Special Education Units across ND. The NDSESC holds a neutral position on HB 1416 contingent upon the following amendments:

Section 1 to clarify that students served under IDEA B (Special Education students ages 3-21) and existing school-based programs continue to have programs approved by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI).

Section 3 to be removed. The intent of HB 1416 was not to effect Special Education. There were no procedural concerns from stakeholders regarding the current transition process Department of Human Services (DHS) programs to DPI programs. By leaving the IDEA B Section 619 under DPI, continuity, and consistency for families of children with special needs as well as professionals remain intact.

Section 8 add a professional representing special education as recommended by the NDCEL to the Governor's Early Childhood Education Committee. Professional representation from the Special Education field can bring forth additional expertise to the Governor's Council.

Thank you for considering these suggested amendments.

Shawn Huss, Director
Wilmac Multidistrict Special Education Unit
shuss@wilmac.org
(701)770-3651

HB 1416

Human Services Committee

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Senator Lee - Chairwoman

Chairwoman Lee and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee, my name is Valerie Bakken and I am the Bismarck Early Childhood Education Program's (BECEP) Coordinator. I am here on behalf of Bismarck Public Schools and Superintendent Dr. Jason Hornbacher. Bismarck Public Schools (BPS) holds a neutral position on HB 1416 contingent upon the suggested amendments brought forth by the ND Special Education Study Council.

The suggested amendment to Section 1 of HB 1416: Given that, at the Federal level, both Part C (Early Intervention) & Part B (Special Education) came from the Department of Education, via IDEA, BPS has supported all of these programs and services as *educational* services. BPS has committed approximately $1.4 million/year, above what is received federally, for BPS to maintain these Early Childhood services, provide a seamless education transition from Pre-Kindergartner to Elementary services and continue to explore program growth opportunities to meet the families' needs in our community. Moving IDEA B Section 619 to the Department of Human Services denotes that IDEA B Section 619 is not an educational service. It is integral that IDEA B Section 619 approval remain with the Department of Public Instruction.

The suggested amendment to Section 3 of HB 1416: Currently Part C (Early Intervention) is housed with the Developmental Disabilities Division within the Department of Human Services, while Part B is housed in the Department of Public Instruction. By Federal Regulations, for both Part C and

Part B, are charged with providing smooth and effective transitions. Stakeholder input, provided by the parents enrolled in the programs, show that overall, smooth, and effective transitions are currently being provided between Part C and Part B services. Keeping Part B within the Department of Public Instruction ensures that continuity and consistency for families of children with special needs, as well as professionals, remains intact.

I thank you for your time today and I will be more than happy to take any questions that you may have.

Valerie Bakken
BECEP Coordinator
Bismarck Public Schools
701-323-4403 valerie_bakken@bismarckschools.org

TESTIMONY- 3/10/2021- HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

by Heidi Budeau, Director of Special Education
James River Special Education Cooperative
701-252-3376

Chairwoman Lee and Members of the Human Services Committee:

My name is Heidi Budeau and I am the Special Education Director for the James River Special Education Cooperative located in central North Dakota. I am providing written testimony in opposition of House Bill 1416 and 1466 without amendments.

The topic of services for children birth to age 5 is important to all stakeholders- young people, parents, care givers, service providers and the education system. "Catching" our young people as early as possible and providing high quality supports for mental, social and behavioral health along with pre-academic skills instruction can only lead to a better transition into the world of K-12 education.

All stakeholders must work in conjunction with each other in an open and collaborative way. The way this bill was presented to education stakeholders, I do not believe that was done. In the Cooperative in which I represent, the Early Childhood Program Coordinator reached out to the local Head Start and Department Human Services (DHS)- Developmental Disabilities (DD) programs and neither were aware of this bill. "The first they had heard of it", they stated, until we brought it to their attention. It is highly concerning that the partners in which we work with most closely and collaboratively do not know this may happen. Even more concerning that the local DHS was unaware of a big change that may add even more to their already overflowing plates.

I completely support the premise of the bill in that all stakeholders need to work in conjunction to provide the best services to the young people in the state of North Dakota, but from reading through this bill and talking with individuals that work in the Prekindergarten world on a daily basis, I feel there is a lack of understanding of the bill and its affects on the already collaborative services at the local level.

It has been said many times nothing will change. I find that hard to believe when Prekindergarten programming will be taken out of the Department of Instruction (DPI) and moved to the Human Service Center (DHS). Change will be needed in order to ensure all levels work in a more collaborative manner.

I believe that the following items need to be addressed and would be best addressed through a study committee:

1.) Section 3 in regards to special education service needs to be further studied to understand the effects on a school district that may need to provide services to a variety of locations throughout the district
2.) The current structure of program approval through the DPI and DHS and the effects on community daycares and preschool programs including the programs located within district school buildings
3.) A better understanding of what the “4-year-old program” is and how it effects the current structures that are working well and the effects in rural areas that may not be able to meet all the requirements
4.) What did work in other states that have moved to this model and shifted back to the DPI. We need to study and learn from them in order to not repeat their mistakes.
5.) The Early Childhood Council MUST include a Special Education Director nominated by the North Dakota Director’s Study Council to ensure ages 3-5 special education service requirements are met prior to the transition to kindergarten
6.) The long-term outcomes for services and collaboration for those working in the field on a daily basis.

TESTIMONY ON HB 1416
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
March 10, 2021

By: Dr. Janelle Ferderer, Director
South Central Prairie Special Education Unit
701-745-2971

Chairperson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Janelle Ferderer. I have been an educator and practitioner in Early Childhood Education for 32 years. I am currently the Director of Special Education for the South Central Prairie Special Education Unit, serving 11 rural school districts in south central North Dakota. I am providing testimony today in opposition of HB 1416, a bill for an Act to move program approval for early childhood education from the Department of Public Instruction to the Department of Human Services.

There are many questions in the field as to how this would benefit young children in North Dakota. There may, in fact, be benefits, however the lack of stakeholder input and sharing of information before bringing this bill forward has created a sense of uncertainty for many of us in the field of education.

In my 32 years of experience I have worked with many different models, and partnerships in early education. School districts have been required to provide needed services to children with disabilities ages 3-21 since the passing of Public Law 94-142 in 1975, and yes, there have been challenges. Schools have partnered with Head Start, Developmental Disabilities, Vocational Rehabilitation, Community Daycares, parents, the Department of Commerce, private agencies and many other programs to achieve quality programs and services for our young children, with and without disabilities.

In 2013 the 63rd Legislative Assembly passed SB 2229, which provided a means for school districts to obtain approval of four-year-old programs through the Department of Public Instruction. I stood with Superintendent Baesler in advocating for this change and since that time many school districts have developed and implemented these programs. We are seeing more successful transitions to kindergarten, higher achievement levels, decreased referrals for remediation and increased investment from parents and communities to support early learning. We have learned that investments made at the 3 to 5-year-old level provide an exponential return. These programs not "mission creep," for educators to gain access to younger and younger children, but part of the Federal Law and mission of supporting young children and their families.

I realize that our systems are not perfect, and much could be done to increase services and benefits to families and children. The Department of Human Services may turn out to be the eventual lead department, however, more research is needed before that decision is made. I would posit that creating the law first and later trying to figure out all of the implications for children and families is "putting the cart before the horse." Our children and families are in crisis right now, as are individuals, agencies and programs trying to serve them. It is not the right time to introduce an additional layer of uncertainty and confusion.

My recommendation is for the committee to conduct a study of how this change would impact children and families, involve appropriate stakeholders, and revisit this topic in the next Legislative Assembly. Successful leadership is not conducted from the top down, but initiated thoughtfully, with the input of those who will be affected most, children and families, and the programs designed to serve them.

Thank you Chairperson and Members of the Committee, this concludes my testimony.

HB 1416

Human Services Committee

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Senator Lee - Chairwoman

Chairwoman Lee and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee, my name is Shawn Huss. I am providing testimony on behalf of the ND Special Education Study Council (NDSESC), which is comprised of Administrators from all 32 Special Education Units across ND. The NDSESC holds a neutral position on HB 1416 contingent upon the following amendments:

Section 1 to clarify that students served under IDEA B (Special Education students ages 3-21) and existing school-based programs continue to have programs approved by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI).

Section 3 to be removed. The intent of HB 1416 was not to effect Special Education. There were no procedural concerns from stakeholders regarding the current transition process Department of Human Services (DHS) programs to DPI programs. By leaving the IDEA B Section 619 under DPI, continuity, and consistency for families of children with special needs as well as professionals remain intact.

Section 8 add a professional representing special education as recommended by the NDCEL to the Governor's Early Childhood Education Committee. Professional representation from the Special Education field can bring forth additional expertise to the Governor's Council.

Thank you for considering these suggested amendments.

Shawn Huss, Director
Wilmac Special Education Unit
shuss@wilmac.org
701-572-6757

2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee
Sakakawea Room, State Capitol

HB 1416
3/16/2021

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new subsection to section 50-06-05.1 and sections 50-11.1-21, 50-11.1-22, 50-11.1-23, and 50-11.1-24 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the four-year old program approval and the North Dakota early childhood council; to amend and reenact sections 15.1-09-58 and 15.1-37-05, subdivision d of subsection 6 of section 50-11.1-02, subsection 2 of section 50-11.1-07, and section 50-11.1-10 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to four-year old program approval; and to repeal sections 15.1-37-01, 15.1-37-02, 15.1-37-03, 15.1-37-04, and 15.1-37-07 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to early childhood education programs.

Madam Chair Lee opened the discussion on HB 1416 at 3:09 p.m. Members present: Lee, K. Roers, Hogan, Anderson, Clemens, O. Larsen.

Discussion Topics:

- Commerce Department program funding
- Commerce Department/DHS role in payment and policy structure of special education
- Regular reporting on status of childhood education programs

[3:10] Senator Judy Lee, District 13. Provided an overview of HB 1416 to the committee.

Additional written testimony: N/A

Madam Chair Lee closed the discussion on HB 1416 at 3:16 p.m.

Justin Velez, Committee Clerk

2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee
Sakakawea Room, State Capitol

HB 1416
3/17/2021

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new subsection to section 50-06-05.1 and sections 50-11.1-21, 50-11.1-22, 50-11.1-23, and 50-11.1-24 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the four-year old program approval and the North Dakota early childhood council; to amend and reenact sections 15.1-09-58 and 15.1-37-05, subdivision d of subsection 6 of section 50-11.1-02, subsection 2 of section 50-11.1-07, and section 50-11.1-10 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to four-year old program approval; and to repeal sections 15.1-37-01, 15.1-37-02, 15.1-37-03, 15.1-37-04, and 15.1-37-07 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to early childhood education programs.

Madam Chair Lee opened the discussion on HB 1416 at 3:02 p.m. Members present: Lee, K. Roers, Hogan, Anderson, Clemens, O. Larsen.

Discussion Topics:

- DPI Authority
- Administrative rule
- Memorandum of understanding

Senator K. Roers moves **DO PASS, REREFER TO APPROPRIATIONS.**
Senator Hogan seconded.

Senators	Vote
Senator Judy Lee	Y
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Howard C. Anderson, Jr.	Y
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Kathy Hogan	Y
Senator Oley Larsen	N

The motion passed 5-1-0
Senator Hogan will carry HB 1416.

Additional written testimony: N/A

Madam Chair Lee closed the discussion on HB 1416 at 3:12 p.m

Justin Velez, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1416, as engrossed: Human Services Committee (Sen. Lee, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (5 YEAS, 1 NAY, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HB 1416 was rereferred to the **Appropriations Committee**.

2021 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1416

2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES
Appropriations Committee
Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1416
3/29/2021
Senate Appropriations Committee

Relating to the four-year old program approval and the North Dakota early childhood council.

Senator Holmberg opened the hearing at 8:27 AM.

Senators present**: Holmberg, Krebsbach, Wanzek, Bekkedahl, Erbele, Dever, Oehlke, Rust, Davison, Hogue, Sorvaag, Mathern, and Heckaman. Senator Poolman** was absent.

Discussion Topics:

- Responsibilities of Human Services & DPI
- Rationale of moving childhood programs
- Common Schools Trust Fund
- 4 year-old program

Representative Robin Weisz, District 14, introduced the bill.

Kirsten Baesler, Director, Dept. of Public Instruction – testified in favor.

Senator Bekkedahl moved Do Pass on HB 1416.
Senator Wanzek second the motion.

Senators			***Senators***	
Senator Holmberg	Y		Senator Hogue	Y
Senator Krebsbach	Y		Senator Oehlke	Y
Senator Wanzek	Y		Senator Poolman	A
Senator Bekkedahl	Y		Senator Rust	Y
Senator Davison	Y		Senator Sorvaag	Y
Senator Dever	Y		Senator Heckaman	Y
Senator Erbele	Y		Senator Mathern	Y

Roll Call Vote – 13-0-1. Motion passed.

Senator Holmberg closed the hearing at 8:53 AM.

Rose Laning, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1416, as engrossed: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Holmberg, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HB 1416 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.