

2023 HOUSE EDUCATION

HB 1348

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1348
1/30/2023

Relating to career and technology center boards

3:00 PM

Chairman Heinert opened the hearing. Members present: Chairman Heinert, Vice Chairman Schreiber-Beck, Representatives Conmy, Dyk, Hager, Hauck, Heilman, Hoverson, Jonas, Longmuir, Marschall, Murphy, Novak, and Timmons.

Discussion Topics:

- Virtual centers
- School board representation
- Open record laws
- Merge HB 1348 and 1178

Rep David Richter, District 1 introduced the bill, spoke in support.

Lyle Krueger, Assistant Director, CRACTC, Testimony 17396

Wayde Sick, State Director, Dept of Career and Technical Education, Testimony 17564

Denise Jonas, Director of Career and Technical, for Cass County Career and Technical Education, Testimony 17533

Eric Ripley, Executive Director, CTE, Grand Forks Virtual Career and Technology Center, Testimony 17820

3:21 PM Chairman Heinert closed the hearing.

Kathleen Davis, Committee Clerk

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1348
1/31/2023

Relating to career and technology center boards

11:05 AM

Chairman Heinert opened the meeting. Members present: Chairman Heinert, Vice Chairman Schreiber-Beck, Representatives Conmy, Dyk, Hager, Hauck, Heilman, Hoverson, Jonas, Longmuir, Marschall, Murphy, Novak, and Timmons.

Dicussion Topics:

- Committee Action

Rep Longmuir moved a Do Pass, seconded by Rep Conmy.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Todd Porter	Y
Representative Dick Anderson	Y
Representative Glenn Bosch	Y
Representative Liz Conmy	Y
Representative Jason Dockter	Y
Representative Jared Hagert	Y
Representative Pat D. Heinert	Y
Representative Zachary Ista	Y
Representative Jim Kasper	Y
Representative Andrew Marschall	Y
Representative Anna S. Novak	Y
Representative Jeremy Olson	Y
Representative Shannon Roers Jones	Y
Representative Matthew Ruby	Y

14-0-0 Motion carried. Rep Timmons is carrier.

11:08 AM Chairman Heinert closed the meeting.

Kathleen Davis, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1348: Education Committee (Rep. Heinert, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1348 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2023 SENATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

HB 1348

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Workforce Development Committee Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

HB 1348
3/10/2023

Relating to career and technology center boards.

9:00 AM **Chairman Wobbema** called the hearing to order. **Senators Wobbema, Axtman, Elkin, Larson, Sickler, Piepkorn** were present.

Discussion Topics:

- Virtual centers
- Hands-on programs
- Board structure
- Board meeting times
- Career and Technical Education (CTE)

9:03 AM **Representative David Richter** introduced HB 1348 and verbally testified in favor.

9:05 AM **Lyle Krueger, Assistant Director, Central Regional Area Career and Technical Center**, testified in favor. #21935.

9:16 AM **Wayde Sick, State Director, Department of Career and Technical Education**, testified in favor. #22919

9:20 AM **Lexie Bergstrom, Staff Attorney, North Dakota School Board Association**, testified in favor. #23547

9:22 AM **Denise Jonas, Director, Cass County Career and Technical Education Center**, testified online in favor. #23262

9:25 AM **Eric Ripley, Director, Grand Forks Public School District, Grand Forks Area Career and Technology Center**, testified online in favor. #23457

Senator Wobbema calls for discussion.

9:29 AM **Lexie Bergstrom** provided additional information verbally.

Senator Axtman moved **DO PASS**.

Senator Piepkorn seconded the motion.

Roll call vote.

Senators	Vote
Senator Michael A. Wobbema	Y
Senator Michelle Axtman	Y
Senator Jay Elkin	Y
Senator Diane Larson	Y
Senator Merrill Piepkorn	Y
Senator Jonathan Sickler	Y

The motion passed 6-0-0.

Senator Wobbema will carry HB 1348.

9:30 AM **Chairman Wobbema** closed the hearing.

Patricia Lahr, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1348: Workforce Development Committee (Sen. Wobbema, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1348 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

TESTIMONY

HB 1348



1929 N Washington St
Suite A
Bismarck, ND 58501
www.cractc.org
701-415-0453

January 20, 2023

Members of the North Dakota House Education Committee

RE: Support for HB1348 – Career and Technical Education Center Boards

Dear Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee. I am reaching out to you in support of HB1348.

Career and Technical Education's (CTE) ability to provide students with career exploration and awareness, hands-on learning experiences, skills and leadership preparations, connections to post-secondary education and dual credit opportunities, prospects to obtain industry credentials, and alignment with industry in providing work-based learning opportunities positions CTE to engage and retain our youth within our state's current and future workforce is second to none.

As one of five (5) ND Virtual CTE Centers approved by the ND CTE State Board, Central Regional Area Career and Technical Center (CRACTC), HB 1348's changes regarding CTE Center Governance has a strong and distinct positive impact for our programming that serves over 600 9-12 grade students with over 800 course enrollments with online and hands-on learning days where they are getting opportunities to learn and apply the skills needed associated with the online content. HB1348 provides a distinct definition of what a virtual center means within ND Career and Technical Education, as well, it provides the flexibility related to governance representation within local school boards. Under current century code, requiring a board representative for every 300 students, up to a maximum of three (3) school board members within one school district, impacts not only our center board size and structure, but local school board operations as well. Both Bismarck Public Schools (BPS) and Minot Public Schools (MPS) are members of CRACTC. At this time, the way current century code reads, due to the student enrollment size of BPS and MPS, they would each have the maximum allowed three (3) school board members serving on our board. Due to the fact each of those school districts have only five-member boards, those two districts would have to hold a local school board meeting, and follow century code for school district board meetings, each time our CRACTC board meets as they would surpass the quorum requirement. Therefore, allowing the flexibility to have one school board member and other designees to negate that scenario is impactful and necessary.

Lastly, currently CRACTC has over 40 member public schools, serving schools from the Canadian border, down to the South Dakota board. Adding language regarding large CTE centers and allowing for the ability for our program to possibly utilize a representative governance structure allows us to function without having a 40+ member board! Representative governance structure has been in place within North Dakota's Regional Education Associations (REAs) for several years, approved and provided by yourself or peers during previous legislative assemblies. Such governance model within the large geographical areas the REAs serve, works. The governance structure allowance within HB1348 would help allow for a similar efficient governance structure for large CTE centers such as CRACTC, while still requiring local school board representation and approval by the North Dakota Department of Career and Technical Education State Board.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this bill to update North Dakota Century Code regarding Career and Technical Education Centers.

Dale Hoerauf, Director
Dale_Hoerauf@bismarckschools.org

Lyle Krueger, Assistant Director
Lyle.krueger@k12.nd.us

Amy Johnson, Registrar
Cractc.online@k12.nd.us



1929 N Washington St
Suite A
Bismarck, ND 58501
www.cractc.org
701-415-0453

Sincerely,

Lyle P Krueger

Lyle P. Krueger
Assistant Director
CRACTC

Dale Hoerauf, Director
Dale_Hoerauf@bismarckschools.org

Lyle Krueger, Assistant Director
Lyle.krueger@k12.nd.us

Amy Johnson, Registrar
Cractc.online@k12.nd.us



January 28, 2023

Members of the North Dakota
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
RE: Support for HB 1348 – Relating to career and technology center boards

Dear Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written and oral testimony in support of HB1348 to approve amendments related to NDCC 15-20.2-01, 15-20.2-04, 15-20.2-05, 15-20.2-06, and 15-20.2-07.

My name is Denise Jonas, Director of Career and Technical Education for the Cass County Career and Technical Education Center (C3TEC). C3TEC coordinates career and technical education (CTE) programs and services for its four-member school districts of Central Cass, Fargo, Northern Cass, and West Fargo Public Schools, also aligning with numerous business partners and post-secondary institutions such as NDSCS, VCSU, etc.

C3TEC is a recognized “virtual area career and technology center”, with satellite CTE programs shared between eight high schools and the NDSCS-Fargo campus. Courses are delivered online, through video conferencing, and face-to-face with student that travel between schools. Amendments to 15-20.2-01 and 15-20.2-06 will recognize CTE centers, like C3TEC. It will also clarify the multifaceted delivery methods used across virtual center schools, versus a centralized building, to provide student access and opportunities to participate in CTE programs.

Amendments to 15-20.2-04 will increase flexibility for center governance with large school districts, yet maintain the center philosophy of local school board involvement, structures for alignment, and a vote in decision-making.

As CTE Director for C3TEC,

- Local school board representation on the C3TEC Governance Board provides the opportunity for input and aligned planning with local school districts. Maintaining a minimum of one school board member representative is critical to the shared governance model and commitment to the organization as it grows.
- However, current century code requires, “*each participating school district with three hundred or more high school students must be allowed one member for each three hundred high school students or fraction thereof with a limitation of not more than three members from any one school district.*” Based on this requirement and high school enrollments for Northern Cass, Central Cass, Fargo, and West Fargo School districts, this triggers one, two, three, and three school board representatives respectfully, to create a nine-member C3TEC governance board. This requirement increases demands for more local school board members to attend meetings and creates challenges with scheduling. This also raises concerns for local school boards with compliance to NDCC 44-04-20.
- Lastly, over the years, C3TEC Governance Board members have suggested amendments to century code for center governance, 1) stating the need for flexibility in board member representation, 2) recognizing the value in diverse experiences, and 3) appreciating expertise for operational decision-making. If approved, C3TEC would maintain one school board member for each member district, with the ability to appoint school representatives based on the trigger.

Finally, amendments to 15-20.2-05 will allow for increased collaboration for area career and technology centers across North Dakota. Amendment 15-20.2-07 will expand flexibility to contract services as needed in place of required employment of personnel, increasing efficiencies and fiscal responsibility for center operations.

We thank you for your “DO PASS” vote on HB1348 with the proposed amendment.

Sincerely,

Denise D. Jonas

Dr. Denise D. Jonas,
Cass County Director of Career and Technical Education

Cc:

Patti Stedman, C3TEC Governance Board President
Penny Johnson, C3TEC Governance Board
Seth Holden, C3TEC Governance Board
Katie Christensen, C3TEC Governance Board
Nikki Gullickson, C3TEC Governance Board
Todd Sears, C3TEC Governance Board
Joe Morken, C3TEC Governance Board
Morgan Forness, Central Cass Superintendent
Dr. Rupak Gandhi, Fargo Superintendent
Dr. Bob Grosz, Fargo Associate Superintendent
Dr. Cory Steiner, Northern Cass Superintendent
Beth Slette, West Fargo Superintendent
Vincent Williams, West Fargo Assistant Superintendent
Pam Utt, Central Cass Business Manager
Jackie Gapp, Fargo Business Manager
Paige Carlson, Northern Cass Business Manager
Levi Bachmeier, West Fargo Business Manager

**House Education
HB1348**

January 30, 2023

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee, for the record, my name is Wayde Sick, State Director for the Department of Career and Technical Education. I am here to testify in support of HB1348

HB1348 provides for more flexibility for Area Career and Technology Center governing boards. Currently CTE Center Boards must be at least five members, each participating school having representation. Larger school district members must be allowed one board member for every three hundred students, with a maximum of three board members. Current statute provides issues as it could potentially require a local school board to hold an actual school board meeting, every time the Center Board meets. HB1348 would still require at least one school board member from each district to serve on the Center Board but allow the local school board to select designees to serve the second and third members.

HB1348 also provides flexibility for larger Centers. The bill is written to allow for Centers with more than twenty member schools to select a representative type of governance structure, similar to how the Regional Education Associations are currently represented. The Center Board will still need to be at least a five-person board, but school districts would create a representative plan, approved by the State Board for Career and Technical Education. The majority of the Center Board must still be elected school board members.

In closing, I ask for do pass recommendation for HB1348. As the CTE Centers in North Dakota continue to evolve, it is important to review and adjust statute as needed.

This concludes my testimony, and I am happy to stand for any questions.



2400 47th Avenue South, Grand Forks, ND 58201 [Phone 701-787-4872](tel:701-787-4872) [Fax 701-787-4351](tel:701-787-4351) [Email gfactc@mygfschools.org](mailto:gfactc@mygfschools.org) [Website www.gfareactc.org](http://www.gfareactc.org)

January 30, 2023

Chairman Heinert and Members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Eric Ripley, Executive Director of Career & Technical Education (CTE) for the Grand Forks Public Schools and Director of the virtual Grand Forks Area Career & Technology Center. I am communicating my support of HB1348, relating to career and technology center boards.

HB1348's proposed language updates are a result of a collaborative effort of the statewide career and technical education (CTE) directors and submitted with our support. With the continued growth and expansion of CTE centers, both virtual and through the approved 13 CTE center applications for the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund, HB1348 updates NDCC to provide a board structure specific for virtual area career and technology centers.

Currently, the approved virtual CTE centers within the state are as follows:

- Grand Forks Area Career & Technology Center
- Cass County Career & Technical Education Center
- Central Regional Area Career & Technical Center
- Great Northwest Career & Technology Center
- Roughrider Career and Technology Center

Specifically, HB1348 provides local flexibility to the member schools of a virtual area career and technology center to determine a center board makeup that best meets their needs and structure. Currently, this chapter within NDCC does not delineate between a traditional brick and mortar CTE center and virtual CTE center. It should be noted that HB1178, heard before your committee on January 18, also impacts career and technology center boards.

I would encourage the committee to provide your support for the proposed changes within HB1348, and recommend consideration to merge HB1348 and HB1178 before bringing this to the floor with a DO PASS recommendation.

Sincerely,

Eric Ripley
 Executive Director of CTE & Technology
 Grand Forks Public Schools
 Grand Forks Area Career & Technology Center



1929 N Washington St
Suite A
Bismarck, ND 58501
www.cractc.org
701-415-0453

March 3, 2023

Members of the North Dakota Senate Workforce Development Committee

RE: Support for HB1348 – Career and Technical Education Center Boards

Dear Chairman Wobbema and members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee,

Career and Technical Education's (CTE) ability to provide students with career exploration and awareness, hands-on learning experiences, skills and leadership preparations, connections to post-secondary education and dual credit opportunities, prospects to obtain industry credentials, and alignment with industry in providing work-based learning opportunities positions CTE to engage and retain our youth within our state's current and future workforce is second to none.

As one of five (5) ND Virtual CTE Centers approved by the ND CTE State Board, Central Regional Area Career and Technical Center (CRACTC), HB 1348's changes regarding CTE Center Governance has a strong and distinct positive impact for our programming that serves over 600 9-12 grade students within 800 course enrollments with online and hands-on learning days where they are getting opportunities to learn and apply the skills needed associated with the online content. HB1348 provides a distinct definition of what a virtual center means within ND Career and Technical Education, as well, it provides the flexibility related to governance representation within local school boards. Under current century code, requiring a board representative for every 300 students, up to a maximum of three (3) school board members within one school district, impacts not only our CTE center board size and structure, but local school board operations as well. Both Bismarck Public Schools (BPS) and Minot Public Schools (MPS) are members of CRACTC. At this time, the way current century code reads, due to the student enrollment size of BPS and MPS, they would each have the maximum allowed three (3) school board members serving on our board. Due to the fact each of those school districts have only five-member boards, those two districts would have to hold a local school board meeting, and follow century code for school district board meetings, each time our CRACTC board meets if each of their three board representatives would attend CTE board meetings, as they would surpass the quorum requirement. Therefore, allowing the flexibility to have one school board member and other designees to negate that scenario is impactful and necessary.

Lastly, currently CRACTC has 43-member public schools, serving schools from the Canadian border, down to the South Dakota border. Adding language regarding large CTE centers and allowing for the ability for our program to possibly utilize a representative governance structure allows us to function more efficiently without having a 40+ member board! Representative governance structure has been in place within North Dakota's Regional Education Associations (REAs) for several years, approved and provided by yourself or peers during previous legislative assemblies. Such governance model within the large geographical areas the REAs serve, works. The governance structure allowance within HB1348 would help permit for a similar efficient governance structure for large CTE centers such as CRACTC, while still requiring local school board representation and approval by the North Dakota Department of Career and Technical Education State Board.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this bill to update North Dakota Century Code 15-20.2 regarding Career and Technical Education Centers.

Sincerely,
Lyle P. Krueger
Lyle P. Krueger
Assistant Director
CRACTC

Dale Hoerauf, Director
Dale_Hoerauf@bismarckschools.org

Lyle Krueger, Assistant Director
Lyle.krueger@k12.nd.us

Amy Johnson, Registrar
Cractc.online@k12.nd.us



**Senate Workforce Development
HB1348**

March 10, 2023

Chairman Wobbema and members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee, for the record, my name is Wayde Sick, State Director for the Department of Career and Technical Education. I am here to testify in support of HB1348

HB1348 provides for more flexibility for Area Career and Technology Center governing boards. Currently CTE Center Boards must be at least five members, each participating school having representation. Larger school district members must be allowed one board member for every three hundred students, with a maximum of three board members. Current statute provides issues as it could potentially require a local school board to hold an actual school board meeting, every time the Center Board meets. HB1348 would still require at least one school board member from each district to serve on the Center Board but allow the local school board to select designees to serve the second and third members.

HB1348 also provides flexibility for larger Centers. The bill is written to allow for Centers with more than twenty member schools to select a representative type of governance structure, similar to how the Regional Education Associations are currently represented. The Center Board will still need to be a least a five-person board, but school districts would create

a representative plan, approved by the State Board for Career and Technical Education. The majority of the Center Board must still be elected school board members.

In closing, I ask for do pass recommendation for HB1348. As the CTE Centers in North Dakota continue to evolve, it is important to review and adjust statute as needed.

This concludes my testimony, and I am happy to stand for any questions.



March 8, 2023

Members of the North Dakota
 SENATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
 RE: Support for HB 1348 – Relating to career and technology center boards

Chairman Wobbema and members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB1348 to approve amendments related to NDCC 15-20.2-01, 15-20.2-04, 15-20.2-05, 15-20.2-06, and 15-20.2-07. HB1348 provides for more flexibility for Area Career and Technology Center governing boards.

My name is Denise Jonas, Director of Career and Technical Education for the Cass County Career and Technical Education Center (C3TEC). C3TEC coordinates career and technical education (CTE) programs and services for its four-member school districts of Central Cass, Fargo, Northern Cass, and West Fargo Public Schools.

C3TEC is a recognized “virtual area career and technology center”, with satellite CTE programs shared between eight high schools and the NDSCS-Fargo campus. Courses are delivered online, through video conferencing, and face-to-face with student that travel between schools. Amendments to 15-20.2-01 and 15-20.2-06 will recognize CTE centers, like C3TEC. It will also clarify the multifaceted delivery methods used across virtual center schools, versus a centralized building, to provide student access and opportunities to participate in CTE programs.

Amendments to 15-20.2-04 will increase flexibility for center governance with large school districts yet maintain the center philosophy of local school board involvement, structures for alignment, and a vote in decision-making.

As CTE Director for C3TEC,

- Local school board representation on the C3TEC Governance Board provides the opportunity for input and aligned planning with local school districts. Maintaining a minimum of one school board member representative is critical to the shared governance model and commitment to the organization as it grows.
- However, current century code requires, “*each participating school district with three hundred or more high school students must be allowed one member for each three hundred high school students or fraction thereof with a limitation of not more than three members from any one school district.*” Based on this requirement and high school enrollments for Northern Cass, Central Cass, Fargo, and West Fargo School districts, this triggers one, two, three, and three school board representatives respectfully, to create a nine-member C3TEC governance board. This requirement increases demands for more local school board members to attend meetings and creates challenges with scheduling. This also raises concerns for local school boards with compliance to NDCC 44-04-20.
- Lastly, over the years, C3TEC Governance Board members have suggested amendments to century code for center governance, 1) stating the need for flexibility in board member representation, 2) recognizing the value in diverse experiences, and 3) appreciating expertise for operational decision-making. If approved, C3TEC would maintain one school board member for each member district, with the ability to appoint school representatives based on the trigger.

Finally, amendments to 15-20.2-05 will allow for increased collaboration for area career and technology centers across North Dakota. Amendment 15-20.2-07 will expand flexibility to contract services as needed in place of required employment of personnel, increasing efficiencies and fiscal responsibility for center operations.

We thank you for your “DO PASS” vote on HB1348 with the proposed amendment.

Sincerely,

Denise D. Jonas

Dr. Denise D. Jonas,
Cass County Director of Career and Technical Education

Cc:

Patti Stedman, C3TEC Governance Board President
Penny Johnson, C3TEC Governance Board
Seth Holden, C3TEC Governance Board
Katie Christensen, C3TEC Governance Board
Nikki Gullickson, C3TEC Governance Board
Todd Sears, C3TEC Governance Board
Joe Morken, C3TEC Governance Board
Morgan Forness, Central Cass Superintendent
Dr. Rupak Gandhi, Fargo Superintendent
Dr. Bob Grosz, Fargo Associate Superintendent
Dr. Cory Steiner, Northern Cass Superintendent
Beth Slette, West Fargo Superintendent
Vincent Williams, West Fargo Assistant Superintendent
Pam Utt, Central Cass Business Manager
Jackie Gapp, Fargo Business Manager
Paige Carlson, Northern Cass Business Manager
Levi Bachmeier, West Fargo Business Manager



2400 47th Avenue South, Grand Forks, ND 58201 [Phone 701-787-4872](tel:701-787-4872) [Fax 701-787-4351](tel:701-787-4351) [Email gfactc@mygfschools.org](mailto:gfactc@mygfschools.org) [Website www.gfareactc.org](http://www.gfareactc.org)

March 9, 2023

Chairman Wobbema and Members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee:

My name is Eric Ripley, Executive Director of Career & Technical Education (CTE) for the Grand Forks Public Schools and Director of the virtual Grand Forks Area Career & Technology Center. I am communicating my support of HB1348, relating to career and technology center boards.

HB1348's proposed language updates are a result of a collaborative effort of the statewide career and technical education (CTE) directors and submitted with our support. With the continued growth and expansion of CTE centers, both virtual and through the approved 13 CTE center applications for the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund, HB1348 updates NDCC to provide a board structure specific for virtual area career and technology centers.

Currently, the approved virtual CTE centers within the state are as follows:

- Grand Forks Area Career & Technology Center
- Cass County Career & Technical Education Center
- Central Regional Area Career & Technical Center
- Great Northwest Career & Technology Center
- Roughrider Career and Technology Center

Specifically, HB1348 provides local flexibility to the member schools of a virtual area career and technology center to determine a center board makeup that best meets their needs and structure. Currently, this chapter within NDCC does not delineate between a traditional brick and mortar CTE center and virtual CTE center.

It should be noted that HB1178, approved by the House and referred to the Senate Education committee also impacts this chapter of the NDCC related to career and technology center boards, specifically 15-20.2-04 (Center Boards – Appointment of Members).

I would encourage the committee to provide your support for the proposed changes within HB1348 with a DO PASS recommendation, and consider working with Senate Education committee to merge HB1178 within HB1348.

Sincerely,

Eric Ripley
 Executive Director of CTE & Technology
 Grand Forks Public Schools
 Grand Forks Area Career & Technology Center



NDSBA
NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL
BOARDS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 7128
Bismarck ND 58507-7128
1-800-932-8791 • (701)255-4127
www.ndsba.org

HB 1348
Testimony of Lexie Bergstrom
Senate Workforce | March 10, 2023

Chairman Wobbema and members of the Senate Workforce Committee, my name is Lexie Bergstrom. I am the staff attorney at the North Dakota School Boards Association. NDSBA represents all 170 North Dakota public school districts, their boards, and several multi-district special education units.

The North Dakota School Boards Association stands in support of HB 1348. Under the current law, any participating school district with three hundred high school students must be allowed one school board member representative on the area career and technology center board. Therefore, any participating school district with 900 or more students must have three school board member representatives on the area career and technology center board. Effectively, if a school board has five members and three out of five members are also on the area career and technology centerboard, a quorum is created. Where there is a quorum of school board members, board meetings must be posted, and all open meetings laws must be followed. This has created issues with posting requirements for the large school districts with small school boards.

This bill would give participating school boards the option to have one member sit on the career and technology center board, while the school board appoints representative designees to the second and third board seats. This would allow large school districts with small school boards to avoid creating a quorum and, instead, designate those board seats to business managers, superintendents, principals, etc.

School boards throughout the North Dakota would appreciate the flexibility this bill would allow as these career and technology centers continue to evolve.

For these reasons, NDSBA supports HB 1348 and respectfully encourages this committee to give it a DO PASS recommendation. Thank you for your time, and I will stand for any questions.