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SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

2064

2005 SENATE EDUCATION

SB 2064

2005 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2064

Senate Education Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date 1/11/05

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	x		1232 - 3338
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Patty Wilkens</i>			

Minutes:

Senator Layton Freborg, Chairman opened the hearing on SB 2064, relating to applicants for state scholarships. All members were present.

Senator Holmberg introduced the bill. Mike Hammerlick, currently an attorney with Blue Cross Blue Shield, introduced this bill for a state scholar program in 1987. The purpose is to keep North Dakota's best and brightest in the state. After being a school counselor for several years, Senator Holmberg has discovered a program like this works and it doesn't. Some students want to go out of state. The program does some good. This is not as rich a program as Oklahoma. They offered his daughter full tuition, room and board and \$250 per month and she accepted.

This bill has been before you many times. The purpose is to reward very high achievers with a state tuition grant at any North Dakota school. Perhaps those students will stay in the state. Last

session we made a change. If you ended up with a tie in an ACT score, the scholarship ended up going to the student from the larger high school and that didn't seem fair. We fixed that and thought we were done but Senator Lyson has come up with a very valid situation in his district. We have also added a section that the board may establish additional criteria so they do not need to return to the legislature. (meter 1232 - 1791)

Senator Flakoll asked how much money is typically behind this.

Senator Holmberg said Peggy Wipf has that information and will testify today.

Senator Lyson, senator from District 1, testified in favor of the bill. A young lady from Senator Lyson's district was told that she was tied and did not qualify because she needed to be above 80% of her class average and the class has to be five or more. She is home schooled and did not have a class of at least five. This is probably because the bill was written in 1987 and there were not too many home schoolers at that time. Research shows that nine schools in North Dakota don't qualify. Peggy will give you more information. (meter 1860 - 2112)

Peggy Wipf, director of financial aid for the North Dakota University System, testified in favor of the bill. (written testimony) (meter 2185 - 2567)

Senator Flakoll asked about page 1 line 12 , does that refer to all students across the nation.

Ms. Wipf said they have a contract with ACT and specified they wanted North Dakota test takers.

Senator G. Lee asked if a home schooler is considered to have graduated from a North Dakota high school?

Ms. Wipf said there are two ways to qualify, graduate from a North Dakota high school or be a North Dakota resident for tuition purposes and a home schooled student would qualify under the second criteria.(meter 2715)

Senator Erbele asked how many students qualify in North Dakota.

Ms. Wipf said there were 339 students in 03-04. Based on the appropriation, they could support 17 students the first year and 12 in the next year in addition to the upperclassmen who maintained the 3.5 GPA.

Senator Taylor asked if they drop below the 3.5, can they get back on the program if they get back over a 3.5.

Ms. Wipf said the 3.5 is a cumulative grade point. If they go below they are out of the program for a year and may then reapply the third year if there are funds available from their class in the program.

Senator Erbele asked of the qualified students, how many apply and are they ranked from within the pool?

Ms. Wipf said that is correct. The ACT is the application for this program. They are then ranked, starting with a 36 and working their way down. (meter 2820)

Senator Seymour asked how many are in the program now.

Ms. Wipf said in the 04-05 school year there are 109 students, 12 freshmen, 17 sophomores, 43 juniors and 37 seniors. There are more upperclassmen because of higher appropriations in prior bienniums. (meter 3120)

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Senate Education Committee

Bill/Resolution Number SB 2064

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Mary Wahl, North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders, testified in favor of the bill. It

assures that all North Dakota students are eligible and eliminating the class rank requirement will

level the playing field between large and small schools. (meter 3150)

There was no testimony against the bill.

Chairman Freborg closed the hearing on SB 2064.

Senator Flakoll moved a do pass for SB 2064.

Senator Erbele seconded the motion

The motion passed on a roll call vote 6-0-0. **Senator Seymour** will carry the bill.

Chairman Freborg moved on to other business of the Senate Education Committee.

Date: 1/11/05
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2005 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2064

Senate SENATE EDUCATION Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass

Motion Made By Sen. Flakoll Seconded By Sen. Erbele

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
CH- SENATOR FREBORG	✓		SENATOR SEYMOUR	✓	
V-CH- SENATOR G. LEE	✓		SENATOR TAYLOR	✓	
SENATOR ERBELE	✓				
SENATOR FLAKOLL	✓				

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Sen. Seymour

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
January 11, 2005 1:25 p.m.

Module No: SR-06-0287
Carrier: Seymour
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2064: Education Committee (Sen. Freborg, Chairman) recommends DO PASS
(6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2064 was placed on the
Eleventh order on the calendar.

2005 HOUSE EDUCATION

SB 2064


2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2064

House Education Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date 1 March 05

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	X		650 - 2063
Committee Clerk Signature 			

Minutes:

Chairman Kelsch opened the hearing of SB 2064.

Senator Stan Lyson, District 1, introduced the bill. The bill in front of you now is nothing more than a fairness bill to make our laws fair to everybody. When the bill came in many years ago we didn't have such things as home schooling and we had very few schools, if any, that had less than five seniors in school. This bill would change so that these people can now apply for a scholarship and be on a level field with all other schools. If there were a tie in their grade level they took care of the tie by getting the percentage of the class that you were in and the class had to be five or more. When you are home schooled or in small high school it's hard to get there. I have experts in the back here who will tell you in detail what it all means. I certainly hope that we pass this through this committee and through the house so we have a law in ND that is fair to everybody instead of just a few.

Peggy Wipf, director of Financial Aid, NDUS, testified in favor of the bill. (Testimony attached.)

Rep. Hawken: Is this an attempt to get more students to apply?

Wipf: To apply, no. It's to redefine the selection criteria and level the playing field for not only the home schooled but also for the school districts that have less than four graduating seniors.

Rep. Hawken: It doesn't say in the bill itself it doesn't have the 20% or any of those kinds of things.

Wipf: Not in the bill but in the statute. It indicates they must be in the upper 20% of their high school graduating class.

Rep. Meier: What is the average dollar amount of each scholarship given.

Wipf: It is equal to that of tuition at the state institution. The largest amount would be UND's and that's about \$4,900 currently.

Rep. Mueller: In this language in the bill having to do with the requirement being in the high school junior year. Does this exempt those then who don't take it their junior year and choose to take it in their senior year.

Wipf: That would be true. In statute currently it indicates that we need to make offers no later than the first of October. In order to assure us to do that we had to back into the testing date. That's where we ended up being no later than June of their junior year.

Rep. Herbel: I'm looking for numbers. How many of these scholarships are actually made available?

Wipf: Currently we have for this academic year 04-05 one hundred and nine students in the pipeline. That's 12 freshman, 17 sophomores, 43 juniors, and 37 seniors.

Rep. Herbel: Is there any limit to the number that as long as they meet your criteria they're eligible for?

Wipf: It's tied to our funding level. That's why you are going to see a fluctuation even by grade level.

Rep. Sitte: I really congratulate you on this bill. I think it's very insightful. Having taught seniors, I've seen many times where a senior at the end of the junior year say I'm not going to take calculus or physics because I already have a high enough ACT score to qualify for a good scholarship and I'm worried about ruining my GPA. Hopefully this will discourage those people from not taking good classes because they are worried about that 4.0. Could you tell us what is the average ACT that a person needs to get this scholarship.

Wipf: To meet the upper five percentile requirement it ranges from 29 - 36.

Rep. Sitte: But aren't you usually only giving it at above 32-33.

Wipf: That's true because again, it's tied to our funding level. For the last maybe 3 - 4 years I would say we have been limited to making about 12 - 15 new freshman offers. It is very much tied to the funding level. Obviously we have about three hundred and some students that meet all the requirements for the program but because of the funding we are not able to offer.

Rep. Mueller: You reference the funding level and some may not get it. Has that pool grown over the last number of years in terms of those who qualify for this?

Wipf: It has grown and it is dependent on the changes that have occurred in the program. As an example for 200--2001 those who met all the requirements were about 340 students. For the current academic year it's about 330 students. It's stayed pretty level.

Rep. Herbel: I notice in your testimony that part of the reason you are doing is this that you want the brightest and best students and you want to retain them to ND. Do you do a follow up to find out how many students actually do stay in ND.

Wipf: We have. Roughly it's about 50%.

Rep. Wall: Do you see any potential problem if we give no weight to class rank. If right now it's simply on the test score. If a student might have had in the past a 35 on the ACT test and be in the 40th percentile class rank. Is that an indicator maybe they aren't going to be doing well in college even though they do well on the ACT test? Are the two in combination probably a better indicator?

Wipf: I don't know if I have a good answer for you. It depends on the student in a lot of cases. Some students test better than others. Some apply themselves better doing their course work. I have no statistics on that.

Mary Wahl, ND Council of Educational Leaders, spoke in favor of the bill. It is a fairness issue and they are addressing it by attempting to level the playing field for everyone. We would be in support.

Chairman Kelsch closed the hearing on SB 2064 and asked the wishes of the Committee.

Rep. Herbel: I move **Do Pass**.

Rep. Haas: I **Second**.

A roll call vote was taken.

Yes: 12 No: 0 Absent: 2 (Sitte & Johnson)

Rep. Horter will carry the bill.

Date: 1 Mar 05Roll Call Vote #: 1

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2064

House Education Committee☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Also PassMotion Made By HerbelSeconded By Haas

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Kelsch	✓		Rep. Hanson	✓	
Vice Chairman Johnson	0		Rep. Hunsakor	✓	
Rep. Haas	✓		Rep. Mueller	✓	
Rep. Hawken	✓		Rep. Solberg	✓	
Rep. Herbel	✓				
Rep. Horter	✓				
Rep. Meier	✓				
Rep. Norland	✓				
Rep. Sitte	0				
Rep. Wall	✓				

Total

(Yes) 12No 0Absent 2 (Sitte Johnson)Floor Assignment Harter

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
March 1, 2005 11:55 a.m.

Module No: HR-37-3824
Carrier: Horter
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2064: Education Committee (Rep. R. Kelsch, Chairman) recommends DO PASS
(12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2064 was placed on the
Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2005 TESTIMONY

SB 2064

Testimony before
Senate Education Committee
January 11, 2005
SB 2064

Same testimony given to the House

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Education Committee, my name is Peggy Wipf, and I am the director of financial aid for the North Dakota University System. I am here today in support of SB2064.

Senate Bill No. 2064 relates to the North Dakota Scholars Program. The North Dakota Scholars Program, a merit-based (financial aid) scholarship, was first funded by the Legislature in 1987 to provide scholarships to North Dakota's best and brightest high school graduates to encourage them to remain in North Dakota to obtain their postsecondary education. The Scholars Scholarship is a full tuition scholarship for students attending North Dakota's public and tribal colleges and a tuition scholarship equal to North Dakota State University and the University of North Dakota's tuition for students attending North Dakota's private institutions.

Currently, to be eligible for consideration of this program, a high school junior must take the ACT Assessment between October and June (test dates are: October, December, February, April, and June) of their junior year and score in the upper five percentile of all North Dakota ACT test takers. Students are ranked from the highest to lowest composite ACT score for awarding purposes. In the event of a tie in ACT composite score, the numeric sum of English, math, reading and science reasoning scores are used as a second selection criteria followed by a student's class rank at the end of their junior year, if an additional tie-breaker is needed.

The Scholars Scholarship is renewable for up to three years provided the recipient maintains a cumulative 3.50 grade point average.

The suggested changes in Section 1 of SB 2064 would eliminate class rank as a criteria from the selection process. The change is recommended to level the playing field for home school students, who do not have a class rank, and also for students from large school districts as opposed to small school districts. Size of class can have a substantial impact on your class rank.

The suggested changes in Section 2 of SB 2064 re-defines the selection criteria for the North Dakota Scholars Program, as follows: (1) a high school junior must take the ACT Assessment between October and June of their junior year and score in the upper five percentile of all North Dakota ACT test takers, (2) the numeric sum of English, math, reading and science reasoning scores would be used as a second selection criteria (in the event of a tie in the composite ACT score) followed by, (3) the numeric sum of an applicant's English and mathematics scores as the third tie-breaker. Section 2 of SB 2064 also gives the State Board of Higher Education authority to further define tiebreaker criteria should a tie exist.

North Dakota students who meet the selection criteria for this program are high academic achievers. Out-of-state colleges and universities, who also offer financial incentives to attract these talented students to their campuses, recruit heavily for these students. This is demonstrated by the fact that in 2004-05 in order to fund 12 new freshmen students, 36 offers were made, an acceptance rate of 33 percent. The other 24 students more than likely attended another out-of-state institution, which offered a more attractive scholarship package or program.

Mr. Chairman and Senate Education Committee members, on behalf of the State Board of Higher Education, I urge your support of these changes to Senate Bill No. 2064 and would be happy to answer any questions.