

Good morning Chairman Owens and members of the house education committee. For the record, I am Representative Brandy Pyle from district 22. I am here today to introduce HB 1375.

HB 1375 is a bill that opens potential and possibility for our hardworking ND high schoolers. Under this legislation, students who choose to take Dual Credit courses during their high school career at an approved ND institution of Higher Education and earn a scholarship.

As a refresher, dual credit is a class where students can earn both high school and college credit at the same time. They must be committed and work hard as these are more difficult classes.

Let me walk you through the bill with an example.

Let's say a student takes a couple of dual credit courses in high school. They can pay for this in a couple of ways:

1. Pay for it out of pocket
2. Loan through the BND- not income based-
3. 529 Plans (education savings plans)

Then, once the learner successfully graduates high school and goes on to complete a semester of college, then the amount that was paid for dual credit, up to \$1,500, will be transferred to the college in the form of a scholarship and applied to their next tuition bill. There are a few requirements,

1. Only successful completion of dual credit classes will qualify for the scholarship.
2. Scholarship only if they chose to remain in state.
- 3.

This bill arose from many conversations of interested parties in how to improve the transition to higher education and financial costs of higher ed.

I have identified 9 areas that if passed, has a compounding effect on the future on North Dakota.

1. College graduation rates improve.
2. Cost of higher education reduced.
3. Reduction of college remedial classes. (no sluff year during the senior year)
4. Potentially gets our students into the workforce.
5. Not mandating which DC class they can take, so if they want to do a CTE DC class, they can and if they want to do College algebra or English they have that option as well.
6. Recruitment/retention tool of ND graduating seniors to ND institution.
7. Brings our graduates on par with our neighboring states like MN. Many of their high school seniors have their associate's degree when they graduate high school.
8. This is aimed for average families looking for an affordable way to pay for college.
9. This limits the state's fiscal liability to the program. And if they student goes out of state a for college, the state won't reimburse. It's still college credit earned at a reduced cost.

I did visit with the BND regarding this idea and discussed their program for free and reduced lunch students who qualify for up to 2 DC classes in grades 10, 11 and 12. This legislation would not interfere with this existing program. I do have people coming after me that can provide the number of classes, and such.

Thank you committee and I stand for questions.