



HB 1375

Senate Appropriations Committee

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Chairman Holmberg and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee: My name is Lisa Johnson, and I serve as the vice chancellor for academic and student affairs for the North Dakota University System (NDUS). I wish to convey the support of the NDUS for HB 1375.

The colleges and universities of the NDUS offer more than 100 unique courses to either face-to-face, online, or via the Interactive Video Network (IVN) to over 4,000 high school students each year. Participation rates continue to grow each year. Student pass rates with a letter grade of “C” or higher remain well over 90%.

Generally, ND students and their families are expected to pay for tuition, fees, and books for dual credit courses. The Bank of North Dakota provides two free dual credit courses to students receiving free and reduced lunch while in high school. In the 2018-2019 academic year, the BND supported 749 students with \$306,791 in financial assistance.

The most popular dual credit courses are, by far, in areas of general education and are guaranteed to be applicable to programs of study and transferable within tribal, public, and private colleges within North Dakota. Dual credit offerings also include an array of courses in the career and technical education fields and are applicable to technical programs of study in the state.

The state’s dual credit program was initiated by the two-year colleges of the NDUS. Today, students participate in dual credit offerings at all 11 colleges and universities of the NDUS with the bulk of dual credit offerings provided by the state’s two-year colleges.

The NDUS supported the following proposed amendments in the engrossed version of HB 1375 that received a Do Pass recommendation from the Senate Education Committee:

In Section 1, Subsection 2, the Senate Education committee clarified that the earned scholarship funds could be applied to “tribal, public, and private institutions of higher education in the state”.

In Section 1, Subsection 2 (b), the Committee replaced the definition of a “high school graduate” to mirror similar definitions of a high school graduate the ND Academic, CTE, and ND state grant criteria to include the following:

- (1) Graduated from a high school in the state;
- (2) Graduate from a high school in a bordering state under chapter 15.1-29;
- (3) Graduated from a nonpublic high school in a bordering state while residing with a custodial parent in this state; or
- (4) Completed a program of home education under chapter 15.1-23.

In Section 1, Subsection 3, additional language established that the scholarship is 50% of the actual cost of the dual credit course or \$750, whichever is lower. The Committee supported clarifying language that “a student is not eligible to receive more than seven hundred fifty dollars under this section”.

Section 2 appropriates \$1,500,000 from the Bank of North Dakota earnings and undivided profits.

Section 3 added legislative intent that if the Career Builders scholarship and loan forgiveness programs have uncommitted dollars on December 31, 2022, up to 50% of the uncommitted dollars could be used for additional dual credit scholarships. This would retain half of the uncommitted funds for the Career Builders programs.

The NDUS respectfully supports a Do Pass on HB 1375, and I remain available to answer any questions from the Committee.