

SB2229

Senate Appropriations Committee

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Chair Holmberg and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, my name is Brenda Zastoupil, and I serve as the Financial Aid Director of the North Dakota University System (NDUS). I am here to recommend amendments to Engrossed SB2229 (version .03000) to assist in the administration of the program. NDUS proposed these amendments in the Senate Education Committee hearing as well. As the administering agency identified in the bill, NDUS feels that these are critical and ask for your consideration.

- **Page 1, subsection 1:**

- Line 15: Rarely do student teachers have contracts, rather, they are placed in a student teaching assignment that best fits the student. NDUS recommends striking “signed a contract” in line 15 and insert “**received full placement**” after the word “has”. Also insert the word “**student**” after the word “to” for clarity.

- **Page 1, subsection 2:**

Line 18: The State Board of Higher Education (SBHE) establishes policy and the NDUS administers programs under procedure. NDUS recommends striking “rules” directly after “adopt” in line 18 and insert “**procedures**”. Strike the second instance of “rules” at the end of line 18.

Line 19: NDUS will need to establish an application review process that will be a collaborative effort with participating institutions. Therefore, it is recommended to insert on line 19 “**and review**” after the word “application.”

- **Page 2, subsection 3:**

- Line 5: Strike “signed a contract” and insert “**received full placement**” and insert “**identified by the Dept. of Public Instruction**” at the end.
- Line 6: Strike “and in a geographical location in the state identified by the board”.
- Line 7: After “need” insert, “**, and in a geographical location in the state identified by the national center for education statistics as being rural and remote.**”
To administer the program, the NDUS would rely on NCES data and the Dept. of Public Instruction’s annual report to identify the teaching shortage or critical need areas, as well as the rural/remote district designations in the state.

- **Page 2, subsection 4:**
 - Line 11: Insert “**or critical need**” after the word “shortage” as this correctly reflects the Dept. of Public Instruction’s document, and strike “, as determined by the board” as the SBHE does not identify these components.
 - Line 13: Strike “be able to provide the student teacher lodging” and insert “**ensure adequate**” after the word “Must.” The districts themselves may not be providing housing but would be responsible for ensuring it exists for the student teacher.
 - Line 15: Insert a period after the word “rate” and strike the language “as determined by the board.” The responsibility for ensuring adequate accommodations is that of the district. This component can be certified through the application process. The state board of higher education would therefore not determine what is reasonable, but rather, require the district to certify that fact within the application.
- **Page 2, subsection 5:** The recommended amendments in this section, directly tie awards to cost of attendance at the institution the student is enrolled, up to a scholarship amount of \$15,000.
 - Line 17: Strike the language “up to thirty-three”. If costs are less than the \$15,000 maximum award amount, there is a potential to stretch this award beyond 33 student teachers. Eliminating these words opens up eligibility rather than restricting it.
 - Line 21: NDUS recommends inserting the words “**and fees**” after tuition. Again, this opens up eligibility and aligns with federal Title IV cost of attendance language, which includes tuition, fees, books & supplies, room & board, transportation and miscellaneous educational expenses.
 - Line 22: Insert “**but not limited to**” after the word including. Also, strike “rent” and insert “**housing**”, which again aligns with Title IV awarding language. Note that scholarships must be awarded in accordance with Federal Title IV awarding rules. As students are awarded the student teacher scholarship, institutions will be required to re-evaluate eligibility for federal student aid. This scholarship would be awarded as part of the student’s financial aid package and disbursed through the student’s account.
 - Lines 24-25: Strike the sentence as the SBHE does not contract with other parties to administer state-funded scholarship and grant programs and would not be the entity to supervise student teachers. That would be the responsibility of the enrolling institution.

This concludes my testimony of SB2229, and I will stand for questions from the committee.

Attachment – Engrossed SB2229 mark-up