

Senate Bill No. 2028 (Senate Education- Sen. Schaible- 1/6/21- R216- 9:30 am)

- Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Education Committee, good morning. For the record, my name is Dustin Assel
  - I am a staff attorney with the Legislative Council.
    - I staffed the most recent interim Education Policy committee, which worked on, drafted, and recommended SB 2028 (2021), which is before you today.
- I will start today by saying that I am here to testify in a purely non-partisan and neutral capacity.
  - I am neither in support of nor against this bill, but rather I am here only to provide background and information on the bill and the recommendations of the interim committee.
- General Background:
  - For purposes of general background:
    - House Concurrent Resolution 3011 (2019) directed a study of provisions of the North Dakota Century Code which relate to the provision of elementary and secondary education to recommend changes to any laws found to be irrelevant, duplicative, inconsistent, or unclear.
  - The last study and statutory rewrite of provisions relating to elementary and secondary education occurred in the late 1990s and was completed in 2001. Since 2001 there have been several hundred bills which primarily affected Title 15.1, the title of the North Dakota Century Code which houses the vast majority of the laws addressing elementary and secondary education. The title currently consists of 41 active chapters of law.
- Interim Committee Work:

- During the course of the of the interim committee's work on this topic, the committee indicated that a complete rewrite of the title, if undertaken, would take multiple interims to complete. The committee generally agreed that before a rewrite was undertaken, the committee first needed to receive input from education stakeholders to determine if provisions existed in Title 15.1 which were irrelevant, inconsistent, duplicative, or unclear.
- The committee received testimony from a representative of a stakeholder group that included school administrators. The stakeholder group reviewed provisions in Title 15.1.
  - The testimony indicated there were 6 provisions in NDCC Title 15.1 which were potentially redundant or obsolete, and which could be repealed.
    - The committee ultimately agreed, and Senate Bill 2028 was brought forth to repeal the provisions found to be redundant and obsolete.
- Senate Bill 2028
  - Looking at the bill now, this is a very simple bill. The bill simply repeals 6 sections of century code
    - 15.1-02-20- addresses education stabilization fund dollars received by school districts as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009- a federal stimulus package enacted in 2009
    - 15.1-03-03 - Addresses the revolving printing fund and allows school districts to purchase instructional materials developed and printed by DPI at cost, the money deposited in the fund
    - 15.1-06-18- Addresses school reports completed by school districts and forwarded to the governor through the superintendent of public instruction. The section allows the governor to convene an ad hoc committee (assembled by the

governor to address a specific issue) to review the information and make changes to the information gathering process.

- The section does not address the specifics of the report by the districts, just the committee and membership
  - 15.1-21-02.7- addresses North Dakota Scholarship opportunities for students who graduated in 2009-10.
  - 15.1-21-06- addresses a school district's ability to participate in the Goals 2000 Educate America Act, which was withdrawn upon the passage of the No child left behind act.
  - 15.1-21-12- addresses a report that each school district must file with the superintendent of public instruction annually regarding the use of available funds on professional development.
- Mr. Chairman, that concludes the information I have prepared for you today.

