

North Dakota Senate

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Senator Josh Boschee

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Education
Workforce Development

SB 2239 Testimony Senate Appropriations Committee - HR Division February 16, 2025

Chair Dever and Members of the Human Resources Division,

SB 2239, which would create a grant program to support apprenticeships throughout the state, was supported unanimously by the Workforce Development Committee.

During the 2023 legislative session, the Assembly supported the expansion of the North Dakota Scholarship to cover expenses related to North Dakota students enrolling in approved apprenticeships in North Dakota. This was to support students who followed their Choice Ready plan to enter the workforce through a registered apprenticeship. It also supported the goal of the Workforce Development Council to grow apprenticeship opportunities to train qualified workers for North Dakota businesses, which continues to be a priority of the WDC.

As the newly enacted statute was implemented, it was realized that many of the students who wished to access the North Dakota Scholarship for their registered apprenticeship did not qualify for the Scholarship based on the GPA requirements. In an effort to continue to support the Workforce Development Council's goal to grow registered apprenticeship opportunities and assist individuals with the ability to afford the startup costs associated with many apprenticeships, the creation of this grant program is before you.

I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.