

March 21, 2025

Dear Chairman Wobbema and members the Senate Workforce Development Committee,

We, the North Dakota State University (NDSU) General Education Committee, wish to express our serious concerns regarding House Bill 1220. We strongly urge the Senate Workforce Development Committee to recommend DO NOT PASS on this bill.

Some of the continued concerns regarding this bill are:

- **The North Dakota State Board of Higher Education (SBHE) is collaborating with institutions to develop reduced credit degrees. This bill creates a conflict with the SBHE role based on the ND Constitution.**
 - Article VIII, Section 6.6b of the North Dakota State Constitution states that the “state board of higher education shall have full authority over the institutions under its control with the right, among its other powers, to prescribe, limit, or modify the courses offered at the several institutions” in the North Dakota University System.
- **Degrees that eliminate general education coursework will not meet the accreditation requirements established by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).** The HLC Guidelines for Evaluating Reduced-Credit Bachelor Degree Programs Core [Component 3.B](#) states that institutions must demonstrate “policies and processes for adequately incorporating general education, and the associated breadth and depth of student learning, into the reduced-credit bachelor’s degree program.” This clearly does not encourage the removal of all general education requirements. HB 1220 would create direct incompliance with HLC requirements to offer a reduced-credit bachelor’s degree.
- **“May” not require General Education Requirements:** The bill's provision is that institutions "may" not require general education credits for accelerated degrees. This could undermine the comprehensive education that general education courses provide. Without a mandate, institutions might inconsistently apply this provision, potentially compromising the quality and breadth of education that students receive.

Again, we urge the Committee to recommend a **DO NOT PASS** on HB 1220 as is written and in any additional form. As identified above, the bill is not necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

NDSU General Education Committee