

**2025 HOUSE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS**

**HB 1171**

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Political Subdivisions Committee Room JW327B, State Capitol

HB 1171  
1/17/2025

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15-10 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the creation of the law enforcement family scholarship program; and to provide an appropriation.

9:59 a.m. Chairman Longmuir opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Longmuir, Vice-Chairman Fegley, Vice-Chairman Jonas, Representatives Bolinske, Davis, Hatlestad, Heilman, Klemin, Ostlie, Warrey

Members Absent: Representatives Hager, Motschenbacher, Toman

### Discussion Topics:

- Scholarship program qualifications
- Scholarship program cost
- Scholarship length
- Inclusion of other emergency workers

10:00 a.m. Pat Heinert, North Dakota Representative for District 32, introduced the bill and testified in favor.

10:03 a.m. Dustin Olson, Lieutenant at the Burleigh County Sheriffs Department, testified in favor and provided testimony #29232.

10:07 a.m. Stephanie Engebretson, Deputy Director and Attorney at North Dakota League of Cities, testified in favor.

10:16 a.m. Calvin Benson, Representative for the North Dakota Peace Officers Association, testified in favor.

10:18 a.m. Brenda Zastoupil, Director of Financial Aid for the North Dakota University System, testified in neutral and provided testimony #29519.

### Additional written testimony:

Connor Mumaw, Delegate from NDSCS, provided testimony in favor #29423

10:24 a.m. Chairman Longmuir closed the hearing.

*Wyatt Armstrong, Committee Clerk*



# BURLEIGH COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

**KELLY LEBEN**  
SHERIFF

Testimony provided for: House Political Sub Divisions  
By: Dustin Olson, Lieutenant  
Date: January 15, 2025

Chairman Longmuir and members of the House Political Sub Divisions Committee;

My name is Dustin Olson and I am a Lieutenant with the Burleigh County Sheriff's Department. I oversee the Operations Division which involves the day to day operations at the Courthouse. In addition, I am the current President of the North Dakota Peace Officer Association (NDPOA).

I am submitting written testimony on behalf of the Burleigh County Sheriff's Department in support of House Bill (HB) 1171. HB 1171 aims to retain law enforcement professionals by providing Higher Education Scholarships to students who are dependents of law enforcement professionals. Retention of law enforcement professionals is a State wide concern. We at the Burleigh County Sheriff's Department believe HB 1171 will help assist in the retention good employees who seek a career in law enforcement.

I ask that the Committee give a Do Pass recommendation on HB 1171.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dustin Olson".

Dustin Olson, Lieutenant

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## COURTHOUSE

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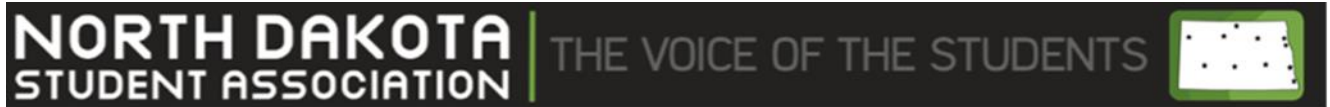
[www.facebook.com/BurleighCountySheriffsDepartment](https://www.facebook.com/BurleighCountySheriffsDepartment)

## BURLEIGH MORTON DETENTION CENTER

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## **HB 1171**

January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Conner Mumaw, North Dakota Student Association

614-353-0400 | [connor.mumaw@ndus.edu](mailto:connor.mumaw@ndus.edu)

Chair Longmuir and Members of the Committee:

My name is Connor Mumaw, and I am a NDSCS delegate for the North Dakota Student Association. I am here to express my support for HB 1171.

The North Dakota Student Association (NDSA) is a student organization established in 1969 that is dedicated to ensuring that students have a voice in policy that affects Higher Education. The NDSA consists of delegates from each of the 11 public institutions that meet monthly to engage students in Higher Education policy in North Dakota. Our mission is to empower students, foster collaboration between students across campuses in the North Dakota University System, and to advocate on issues of higher education in support of access, affordability, quality, and the student experience.

Going into the 69<sup>th</sup> legislative session, the NDSA General Assembly passed [NDSA-01-2425](#), which is a resolution that outlines the NDSA's priorities for the legislative session. One of the priorities outlined in NDSA-01-2425 is incentivizing students to attend NDUS institutions by increasing the affordability of the NDUS through scholarships and grants comparable to others in the region and to workforce needs. Historically, the NDSA has supported scholarship bills and passed resolutions NDSA-08-2223, NDSA-09-2223, and NDSA-12-2223, all of which either are resolutions supporting scholarships or have clauses supporting them.

Over the last several years, North Dakota has experienced prominent workforce shortages in a variety of professions. A few of those professions include first responders, such as EMT's and

firefight According to an article published in 2023 by the North Dakota New Cooperative<sup>1</sup>, many towns struggle to recruit and retain police officers stating that at least 57 localities in North Dakota seek police officers, sheriff deputies, and other law enforcement staff. In addition, other news articles indicate that Bismark has 10 open police officer positions, and Minot having 10 to 12 open officer positions.

HB 1171 would incentivize people to become first responders and officers by offering financial support to their family members who go to college, therefore helping address these workforce shortages for first responders and officers. HB 1171 would also support first responders and their families by helping them pay for college. First responders risk their lives every day and some do fall in the line of duty. HB 1171 would support those family members after their loved ones fall by relieving the stress of paying for college for their families.

And so, for these reasons, the NDSA supports HB 1171 and would ask for DO PASS recommendation on this bill.

1- [Many towns struggle to recruit, retain officers](#)



## HB1171

House Political Subdivisions

January 17, 2025

Brenda Zastoupil, Financial Aid Director, NDUS

701.328.2906 | [brenda.zastoupil@ndus.edu](mailto:brenda.zastoupil@ndus.edu)

Chair Longmuir and members of the House Political Subdivisions Committee. My name is Brenda Zastoupil and I serve as the Director of Financial Aid for the North Dakota University System. I am here today to provide amendment recommendations on HB1171.

This bill creates a new scholarship aimed at supporting children of law enforcement officers, including EMS providers and firefighters. The ND University System is recommending the following amendments to the bill.

On page 1, section 1, subsection 1(b), the scholarship is limited only to those students where the legal parent claims them on their tax return. Legal parent is not always the same as dependency for tax filing purposes and therefore, the following amendment is recommended.

- **Strike the language in lines 13 and 14 and insert:**
- **(1) Who is the child of a law enforcement officer. Written evidence thereof must be provided, which includes one of the following:**
  - a) **A federal tax return for the previous year in which the law enforcement officer claimed a dependency exemption for the student; or**
  - b) **A divorce decree or other court order identifying the student as a child of the law enforcement officer; or**
  - c) **A birth certificate identifying the student as a child of the law enforcement officer.**

Additionally, to provide consistency among all state-funded scholarship and grant programs, we recommend inserting the following statement at the end of section 1, which provides an opportunity for students to receive funding up to the total cost of attendance (COA). COA includes tuition, fees, books and supplies, housing and food, transportation, child/dependent care, and other miscellaneous educational expenses related to the student's education. This is a standard Federal Title IV requirement that financial aid offices administer on a daily basis for students.

**“The board may not issue a scholarship under this section which is in excess of the total cost of attendance, as determined by the institution of higher education, when considering all financial aid resources.”**

Thank you for your consideration of these amendments. This concludes my testimony related to HB1171 and I will stand for questions from committee members.

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Political Subdivisions Committee Room JW327B, State Capitol

HB 1171  
1/23/2025

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15-10 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the creation of the law enforcement family scholarship program; and to provide an appropriation.

9:13 a.m. Chairman Longmuir opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Longmuir, Vice-Chairman Fegley, Vice-Chairman Jonas, Representatives Bolinske, Davis, Hager, Hatlestad, Heilman, Klemin, Motschenbacher, Ostlie, Toman, Warrey

### Discussion Topics:

- Appropriations
- North Dakota scholarships

9:17 a.m. Representative Klemin moved a Do Not Pass.

9:17 a.m. Representative Bolinske seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Donald W. Longmuir	Y
Representative Clayton Fegley	Y
Representative Jim Jonas	N
Representative Macy Bolinske	Y
Representative Jayme Davis	Y
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	Y
Representative Patrick R. Hatlestad	Y
Representative Matthew Heilman	N
Representative Lawrence R. Klemin	Y
Representative Mike Motschenbacher	N
Representative Mitch Ostlie	Y
Representative Nathan Toman	N
Representative Jonathan Warrey	N

9:23 a.m. Motion passed 8-5-0.

Chairman Longmuir will carry the bill.

9:23 Chairman Longmuir closed the hearing.

*Wyatt Armstrong, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**HB 1171 ([25.0251.02000](#))**

**Political Subdivisions Committee (Rep. Longmuir, Chairman)** recommends **DO NOT PASS** (8 YEAS, 5 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1171 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.