

2025 HOUSE EDUCATION

HB 1188

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1188
1/22/2025

Relating to the assessment of fees for area career and technology center expenses.
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10:35 a.m. Chairman Heinert called the hearing to order.

Members Present: Chairman Heinert, Vice Chairman Schreiber- Beck, Representatives, Conmy, Hager, Hatlestad, Hauck, Heilman, Jonas, Longmuir, Maki, Marchall, Morton, Novak, Osowski

Discussion Topics:

- Operation costs
- High School Enrollment
- Local Control
- Membership Fees

10:35 a.m. Representative Lefor introduced the bill and submitted testimony. #30721

10:41 a.m. Wayde Sick, State Director for the Department of Career and Technical Education, testified in support and submitted testimony. #30566

10:45 a.m. Aaron Anderson, Director of the Career and Technical Education Academy in Dickinson, testified in favor and submitted testimony. #30367

10:52 a.m. Amiee Copas, Executive Director, ND Council of Educational Leaders, testified in favor.

Additional written testimony:

Lyle Krueger, Assistant Director, Central Regional Area Career and Technical Center, CRACTC, submitted testimony in favor. #30628


Pam Stroklund, CTE Director, Minot Area Workforce Academy, submitted testimony in favor. #30685

10:53 a.m. Chairman Heinert closed the hearing.

Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk



Southwest Area CTE Academy

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271 34th St West
Dickinson, ND 58601

January 19th, 2025

Chairman Heinert, Vice Chair Schreiber-Beck and Committee Members,

My name is Aaron Anderson, and I have the pleasure of serving as the Director of the Southwest Area Career and Technical Education Academy in Dickinson. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of House Bill 1188. This bill is a crucial step toward ensuring equitable and sustainable funding for Career and Technology Education (CTE) Centers across North Dakota.

The establishment of new brick-and-mortar Career and Technical Education (CTE) centers, the first in over forty years, has highlighted significant gaps in our existing Century Code regarding how we assess fees for partner schools. As the state invests in expanding these new centers, we've discovered that the current fee framework has not kept pace with the evolving needs of CTE. Specifically, the existing code mandates cost assessments based on total high school enrollment rather than actual participation in our centers, which can unfairly burden smaller, rural schools.

This bill is not just a response to isolated concerns but the result of thorough collaboration and vetting by CTE directors from across North Dakota. The language in HB1188 has been carefully considered and approved at multiple meetings of the ND CTE Directors and with leadership from the Department of CTE. These meetings have become even more critical due to a recent opinion from the North Dakota Attorney General's Office, which highlighted the urgent need for this legislation to ensure all CTE centers—both new and existing—can operate in compliance with Century Code language.

In summary, this legislation would allow our governing boards, comprising a majority of elected school board members, to set a fee structure that covers the costs of the centers in a way that makes sense for all partner schools. According to the Attorney General's opinion, I must assess my current schools not based on their utilization of SWCTE but rather on their total high school enrollment. Beach High School, located 62 miles from the SWCTE Academy, will never have the same level of participation in center programming compared to schools in and around Dickinson due to geographical constraints. Beaches total high school population currently accounts for about 5% of the students of our Academy members. While we have two students from Beach attending classes daily and programs utilizing some of our mobile labs, the current language would require us to assess them over \$82,157 to be members. Although they value their membership in SWCTE, this cost would make it prohibitive for them to continue participating. We need the flexibility to assess fees for Beach that are fair and equitable. Dickinson High School and private schools in Dickinson make up around 71% of the total students, they utilize our center's programming around a 90% rate. While this change would impact Dickinson Public Schools with picking up a higher share of the costs, they understand the need to pay their fair share for

programming. The Beach's, Belfield's, South Hearts, New England's and Killdeers shouldn't be paying the costs for Dickinson High School students to attend the center. In our first full year of operation SWCTE boasts 15 program areas, with over 1120 unique students enrolled from seven high schools, two private schools and homeschool students from four districts in over 2650 class enrollments. The one of a kind opportunities we are providing students, needs to be support by language giving our local board the ability to to assess costs that work for all schools in SWND.

Some may argue for Beach and other rural schools to participate as non-member schools, but I stress the importance of having their board members at the table to help drive decisions and programming that support students across SW North Dakota. Schools like Bowman, Scranton, and others want to be part of the opportunities SWCTE offers, but costs exceeding \$100,000 a year for membership would prohibit their participation. While we currently have an excellent board of directors at SWCTE and a director committed to expanding opportunities for rural schools, these individuals can change. Let's protect their interests and ensure all students have access to CTE at our centers, regardless of their proximity to the CTE Center Campuses.

Furthermore, the deletion of language in Page 1, Lines 21-24, and Page 2, Lines 1-4, is necessary to clean up outdated provisions. These sections, which pertain to CTE centers that only operate mobile units, do not reflect current or future practices in North Dakota. Researching the origins of this language revealed it does not align with the operational realities of our CTE centers today. Our centers have evolved to include comprehensive programming beyond just mobile units.

In conclusion, HB1188 is vital legislation that modernizes our approach to funding CTE centers, promotes fairness, and supports the state's investment in expanding career and technical education. It empowers local control, aligns with the recommendations of CTE directors and the Department of Career and Technical Education, and ensures that all students in North Dakota have access to these valuable educational opportunities.

I urge the committee to support this bill to secure the future of CTE centers and the students they serve across our great state. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Aaron Anderson
CTE Director
Southwest Area CTE Academy
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**House Education
HB1188**

January 22, 2025

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee. My name is Wayne Sick, and I serve as the State Director for the Department of Career and Technical Education. I am testifying today in support of HB1188.

HB1188 was written through a consensus among the Area Career and Technical Education Center Directors from across the state. CTE Centers are primarily funded by the Department of Career and Technical Education and its member schools. Currently under state law, CTE Centers assesses a member school proportionally based upon its high school enrollment as compared to the total high school enrollment of all member schools. This process has been in place for several years and has worked, but with a number of new CTE Centers coming on line, it is time to visit this statute, to determine if there is a better way.

HB1188 is being brought forward to provide CTE Centers and its Boards, a level of flexibility to assess its member schools based on usage and access. As written HB1188 would still require a CTE Center to assess its member schools a membership fee, based proportionally on its total high school enrollment as compared to the total membership high school enrollment. This would provide the level of funding stability and ensure member schools are committed in participating as a partner in the center. The Center Board may also assess member schools based on usage. This would be especially advantageous as the

new Centers continue to expand and allow member schools an on ramp as they take advantage of the programs CTE Centers can deliver instead of paying a large fee while it increases the number of students that enroll in programs offered. This is written as a may, if a Center Board prefers to maintain the current funding process, it can do so.

As you can see, on page 1, lines 21-24 and page 2, lines 1-4 are struck. We believe this is language that was added to direct Center Boards on how to assess fees for the emerging technology program, which is a program the Department of Career and Technical Education administers, that funds a high tech equipment rotation. Since members of an emerging technology consortium are also members of a CTE Center, this language may not longer be necessary.

This concludes my testimony, and I am happy to stand for any questions.

Thank you.



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January 21, 2025

Members of the North Dakota House Education Committee

RE: Support for HB 1188 – Relating to the assessment of fees for area career and technology center expenses

Dear Chairman Heinert and Members of the House Education Committee,

I apologize for not being able to provide my testimony in person, as I currently am caring for a family member. I write to express my strong support for HB 1188, which amends section 15-20.2-08 of the North Dakota Century Code to enhance funding for Area Career and Technology Centers (ACTCs), such as the Central Regional Area Career and Technical Center (CRACTC) that I help lead. This legislation is vital for ensuring that funding structures for career and technical education (CTE) programs remain equitable, sustainable, and under local control.

HB 1188 reinforces the authority of ACTC Governing Boards to develop and implement funding structures tailored to the unique needs of their membership schools and communities. By empowering these boards to assess contributions from participating and non-participating school districts based on enrollment and program utilization, the bill preserves local decision-making while ensuring transparency and accountability. Participating districts—those whose students regularly and actively use CRACTC services—will pay a fair share aligned with their program participation, while non-participating districts, which still benefit indirectly from regional high school CTE programming, will contribute in a manner reflecting their indirect association.

By maintaining local control over funding assessments, ACTC Governing Boards can ensure resources are distributed efficiently and equitably across their districts. This localized approach strengthens community investment, supports economic growth in rural areas, and enables districts to adapt funding structures to reflect regional priorities and program participation.

HB 1188 is an essential step toward preserving local control while helping to address current and future statewide workforce needs, while promoting fiscal responsibility. I respectfully urge the committee to advance this legislation, ensuring that North Dakota's students, communities, and industries continue to thrive under the leadership of local ACTC Governing Boards.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Lyle P Krueger

Lyle P Krueger

Assistant Director

Central Regional Area Career and Technical Center

Pat Phillips, Director
Pat_Phillips@bismarckschools.org

Lyle Krueger, Assistant Director
Lyle.Krueger@k12.nd.us

Amy Johnson, Registrar
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House Education Committee
Chairman Pat Heinert
January 22, 2025
HB 1188

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee, my name is Pam Stroklund, and I serve as the Career and Technical Education Director for Minot Public Schools and the Minot Area Workforce Academy (MAWA). I offer written testimony in support of HB 1188, an amendment relating to the assessment of fees for area career and technology center expenses.

As a new brick and mortar Area Career & Technology Center located within the Minot area, the current assessment of member school districts cost sharing total expenses based proportionately upon high school enrollment as compared to the total high school enrollment of all participating school districts does not easily support and encourage districts to become members of the Minot Area Workforce Academy.

When forming the area center and determining programming, the MAWA Center Board heard from several school districts they were deficit spending. The board members quickly realized we would need to start with fewer programs to keep the total cost sharing at a minimum if we were to attract members. This limited the numerous CTE opportunities that could be offered to area students as we strive to fill workforce shortages.

The Minot Area Workforce Academy Center Board chose to offer the trade programs of Auto Collision, Auto Technology, Commercial Driver's License (CDL), Early Childhood Education, along with Career Development services. While these programs prepare students for certifications and entry level positions, they are not cheap to provide for high school students. Purchasing and maintaining the equipment and consumables, employing multiple highly qualified industry instructors, and operating facilities to train students drive up the costs within the area center.

An example is our new CDL program which prepares high school seniors in one semester with theory, simulation, obtaining a permit, completing range and over-the-road driving, to becoming proficient in obtaining a CDL Class A intrastate

license. This program maintains CDL simulators and a semi-truck and trailer. Class sizes are kept low to assist students with completing all competencies on their path to a high need, high skill, high wage career. Similarly, the Auto Technology and Auto Collision programs maintain ASE certified facilities outfitted with industry equipment.

At this time, the ND Department of Career and Technical Education does offset the cost of the programs by reimbursing the area center at a rate of 40%. New programs are reimbursed at 75% for new programs for a limited time. The remaining expenses are to be shared proportionately with all member schools.

Minot public and parochial students take full advantage of the MAWA offerings from the area career and technical center. Due to some scheduling conflicts and transportation issues, outlying school districts do not have the same opportunity to utilize all the services and programs offered by the area center, yet ND CC 15-20.2-08 mandates they are expected to share in the entire costs proportionately based on their high school enrollment.

To encourage area center membership and increase student participation, the MAWA Center Board supports having the flexibility to assess a center membership fee based on high school enrollment and then, assess a fee based on the member district's access and use of the programs. Our community has other workforce shortages of which the area center could provide the training for more area students. With the flexibility to charge member schools on access and usage, more CTE opportunities will become available through the Minot Area Workforce Academy.

On behalf of Minot Public Schools and the Minot Area Workforce Academy, I request your support of HB 1188 as introduced by Representative Lefor and encourage a "DO PASS" recommendation:

- Remove the proportionate total cost sharing based on high school enrollment.
- Provide the flexibility to assess a center membership fee based on high school enrollment and a fee based on access and use.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 1188.

Representative Mike Lefor - HB 1188 Testimony

Good morning, Chairman Heinert and members of the House education committee, my name is Mike Lefor, and I serve District 37 -Dickinson in the House of Representatives, this morning I bring House Bill 1188 to you for your consideration.

HB 1188 is a bill being brought forward after the Career and Tech academies across the state and the state agency the North Dakota department of career and technical education have met and are requesting some adjustments to century code.

Under current law, career and tech academies are required to assess their operational costs based on school membership and not on actual utilization or ability to access center programs. Using the Southwest Career and Tech academy as an example, the Killdeer school district makes up about 10% of the high school participation of the academies partner schools and Dickinson Public Schools makes up at 71% of the total number of high school students.

At the present time, fees are assessed on the student population in each school and not on utilization. In a large geographic area as the SW Academy serves this provides an unrealistic cost to smaller school's miles away. This hinders the ability for the schools to participate and prices them out of participation.

This bill would allow the centers to still assess fees based on student population but gives the center board the ability to assess remaining costs based on utilization, geography or whatever the local board determines that best works for them.

The centers across the state a different in the areas they cover, the programs offered and facilities they operate. Under current law, it isn't cost effective for Beach, Bowman, Killdeer and others outside of 25 miles from Dickinson to pay the higher cost as their utilization is lower, this bill gives the local board the flexibility to assess fees based upon utilization.

The bill breaks down school districts into two categories, first, "participating" school districts which are assessed a membership fee based upon their high school enrollment as compared to the total high school enrollment of all participating

districts in the area and the new language on page 1, lines 13 and 14 states they "may assess fees based upon access and use of programs."

The second category is the non-participating school districts, can allocate quote "as nearly as possible" on line 17, based on utilization of these school districts. Further, on page 1 - lines 21 through 24 and page 2 lines 1 through 4 eliminates current statutory language pertaining to mobile units as no career and tech academy has a mobile unit and does not anticipate having mobile units so this language is not necessary.

Small schools which are miles away want to be member schools and have a seat on the CTE board, however the excessive cost of being assessed on their total high school enrollment makes it unreasonable. If we want to create access and drive enrollment at our CTE centers from all schools, local boards need to have the ability to assess their fees that make sense for their partners.

The 13 CTE Center expansion projects all look very different. Some serve a small geography of only 20-30 miles while others need to serve schools over 90 miles from the center. Some operate with only three schools, while others serve 10-15. This bill gives local control, which is crucial for that elected board, responsible to their constituents to make the decisions on what is best for their budgets and students.

In conclusion, this bill provides a path toward allowing more students to participate in career and technical education without having their school district having to pay a disproportionate amount to do so. I would ask your committee for a "do pass" recommendation. Thank you and I would stand for any questions the committee might have.

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1188
1/28/2025

Relating to the assessment of fees for area career and technology center expenses

4:39 p.m. Chairman Heinert called the hearing to order.

Members Present: Chairman Heinert, Vice Chairman Schreiber- Beck, Representatives, Conmy, Hager, Hatlestad, Hauck, Heilman, Jonas, Longmuir, Maki, Marchall, Morton, Osowski

Absent: Representative Novak

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

4:40 p.m. Representative Hager moved a Do Pass.

4:40 p.m. Representative Hauck seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Pat D. Heinert	Y
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	Y
Representative Liz Conmy	Y
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	Y
Representative Patrick R. Hatlestad	Y
Representative Dori Hauck	Y
Representative Matthew Heilman	Y
Representative Jim Jonas	Y
Representative Donald W. Longmuir	Y
Representative Roger A. Maki	Y
Representative Andrew Marschall	Y
Representative Desiree Morton	Y
Representative Anna S. Novak	A
Representative Doug Osowski	Y

Motion Carried: 13-0-1

Bill Carrier: Representative Hauck

4:41 p.m. Chairman Heinert adjourned the meeting.

Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1188 ([25.0922.01000](#))

Education Committee (Rep. Heinert, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1188 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2025 SENATE EDUCATION

HB 1188

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee Room JW216, State Capitol

HB 1188
2/18/2025

Relating to the assessment of fees for area career and technology center expenses.
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10:00 a.m. Chairman Beard called the hearing to order.

Members Present: Chairman Beard; Vice-Chairman Lemm; Senators: Axtman, Boschee, Gerhardt.

Members Absent: Senator Wobbema

Discussion Topics:

- Scholarship funding
- School membership
- Academy utilization
- Local control
- Base fee assessment

10:00 a.m. Representative Lefor, District 37, introduced the bill and submitted testimony #37970.

10:06 a.m. Wayde Sick, State Director ND Department of Career and Technical Education, testified in favor and submitted testimony #37838.

10:10 a.m. Aaron Anderson, CTE Director Southwest Area CTE Academy, testified in favor and submitted testimony #37936.

10:18 a.m. Dr. Aimee Copas, Executive Director ND Council of Educational Leaders, testified in favor.

10:19 a.m. Senator Axtman moved Do Pass.

10:19 a.m. Senator Gerhardt seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Todd Beard	Y
Senator Randy D. Lemm	Y
Senator Michelle Axtman	Y
Senator Josh Boschee	Y
Senator Justin Gerhardt	Y
Senator Mike Wobbema	AB

Motion Passed 5-0-1

Senator Lemm will carry the bill.

Additional written testimony:

Pam Stroklund, CTE Director Minot Area Workforce Academy, submitted testimony in favor #37854.

10:21 a.m. Chairman Beard closed the hearing.

Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1188 ([25.0922.01000](#))

Education Committee (Sen. Beard, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1188 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.



**House Education
HB1188**

February 18, 2025

Chairman Beard and members of the Senate Education Committee. My name is Wayne Sick, and I serve as the State Director for the Department of Career and Technical Education. I am testifying today in support of HB1188.

HB1188 was written through a consensus among the Area Career and Technical Education Center Directors from across the state. CTE Centers are primarily funded by the Department of Career and Technical Education and its member schools. Currently under state law, CTE Centers assesses a member school proportionally based upon its high school enrollment as compared to the total high school enrollment of all member schools. This process has been in place for several years and has worked, but with a number of new CTE Centers coming on line, it is time to visit this statute, to determine if there is a better way.

HB1188 is being brought forward to provide CTE Centers and its Boards, a level of flexibility to assess its member schools based on usage and access. As written HB1188 would still require a CTE Center to assess its member schools a membership fee, based proportionally on its total high school enrollment as compared to the total membership high school enrollment. This would provide the level of funding stability and ensure member schools are committed in participating as a partner in the center. The Center Board may also assess member schools based on usage. This would be especially advantageous as the

new Centers continue to expand and allow member schools an on ramp as they take advantage of the programs CTE Centers can deliver instead of paying a large fee while it increases the number of students that enroll in programs offered. This is written as a may, if a Center Board prefers to maintain the current funding process, it can do so.

As you can see, on page 1, lines 21-24 and page 2, lines 1-4 are struck. We believe this is language that was added to direct Center Boards on how to assess fees for the emerging technology program, which is a program the Department of Career and Technical Education administers, that funds a high-tech equipment rotation. Since members of an emerging technology consortium are also members of a CTE Center, this language may not longer be necessary.

This concludes my testimony, and I am happy to stand for any questions.

Thank you.

Senate Education Committee
Chairman Todd Beard
February 18, 2025
HB 1188

Chairman Beard and members of the Senate Education Committee, my name is Pam Stroklund, Career and Technical Education Director for Minot Public Schools and the Minot Area Workforce Academy (MAWA). I offer written testimony in support of HB 1188, an amendment relating to the assessment of fees for area career and technology center expenses.

As a new Area Career & Technical Center located within the Minot area, the current assessment of school districts based proportionately upon its high school enrollment as compared to the total high school enrollment of all participating school districts in the area career and technology center does not easily encourage smaller districts outside of Minot to become members of the Minot Area Workforce Academy.

The Minot Area Workforce Academy enhances the area center by offering the trade programs of Auto Collision, Auto Technology, and Commercial Driver's License. While these programs prepare students for certifications and entry level positions, they are not cheap to provide for high school students. Purchasing and maintaining the equipment and consumables, employing multiple highly qualified industry instructors, and operating facilities to train students drive up the costs within the area center.

At this time, the ND Department of Career and Technical Education does offset the cost of the programs by reimbursing the area center at a rate of 40% and 75% for new programs for a set amount of time. The remaining expenses are to be cost shared proportionately with all member schools.

Minot Public School students take full advantage of the MAWA trades offerings being located near the area center and MPS facilities being utilized by the area center. Due to scheduling conflicts and transportation issues, outlying school districts do not have the same opportunity to utilize all the services and programs offered by the area center but are expected to share in the entire costs proportionately based on their high school enrollment.

To encourage area center membership and increase student participation, I support having the option to assess a center membership fee based on high school enrollment and then, assess a fee based on the member district's access and use of the programs.

On behalf of Minot Public Schools and the Minot Area Workforce Academy, I request your support of HB 1188 as introduced by Representative Lefor and encourage a "DO PASS" recommendation:

- Remove the proportionate total cost sharing based on high school enrollment.
- Provide an option to assess a center membership fee based on high school enrollment and a fee based on access and use.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1188.



Southwest Area CTE Academy

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271 34th St West
Dickinson, ND 58601

February 18th, 2025

Chairman Beard Vice Chair Lemm and Committee Members,

My name is Aaron Anderson, and I have the pleasure of serving as the Director of the Southwest Area Career and Technical Education Academy in Dickinson. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of House Bill 1188. This bill is a crucial step toward ensuring equitable and sustainable funding for Career and Technology Education (CTE) Centers across North Dakota.

The establishment of new brick-and-mortar Career and Technical Education (CTE) centers, the first in over forty years, has highlighted significant gaps in our existing Century Code regarding how we assess fees for partner schools. As the state invests in expanding these new centers, we've discovered that the current fee framework has not kept pace with the evolving needs of CTE. Specifically, the existing code mandates cost assessments based on total high school enrollment rather than actual participation in our centers, which can unfairly burden smaller, rural schools.

This bill is not just a response to isolated concerns but the result of thorough collaboration and vetting by CTE directors from across North Dakota. The language in HB1188 has been carefully considered and approved at multiple meetings of the ND CTE Directors and with leadership from the Department of CTE. These meetings have become even more critical due to a recent opinion from the North Dakota Attorney General's Office, which highlighted the urgent need for this legislation to ensure all CTE centers—both new and existing—can operate in compliance with Century Code language.

In summary, this legislation would allow our governing boards, comprising a majority of elected school board members, to set a fee structure that covers the costs of the centers in a way that makes sense for all partner schools. According to the Attorney General's opinion, I must assess my current schools not based on their utilization of SWCTE but rather on their total high school enrollment. Beach High School, located 62 miles from the SWCTE Academy, will never have the same level of participation in center programming compared to schools in and around Dickinson due to geographical constraints. Beach's total high school population currently accounts for about 5% of the students of our Academy members. While we have two students from Beach attending classes daily and programs utilizing some of our mobile labs, the current language would require us to assess them over \$82,157 to be members. Although they value their membership in SWCTE, this cost would make it prohibitive for them to continue participating. We need the flexibility to assess fees for Beach that are fair and equitable. Dickinson High School and private schools in Dickinson make up around 71% of the total students, they utilize our center's programming around a 90% rate. While this change would impact Dickinson Public Schools with picking up a higher share of the costs, they understand the need to pay their fair share for programming.

The Beach's, Belfield's, South Hearts, New England's and Killdeers shouldn't be paying the costs for Dickinson High School students to attend the center. In our first full year of operation SWCTE boasts 15 program areas, with over 1120 unique students enrolled from seven high schools, two private schools and homeschool students from four districts in over 2650 class enrollments. The one of a kind opportunities we are providing students, needs to be support by language giving our local board the ability to assess costs that work for all schools in SWND.

Some may argue for Beach and other rural schools to participate as non-member schools, but I stress the importance of having their board members at the table to help drive decisions and programming that support students across SW North Dakota. Schools like Bowman, Scranton, and others want to be part of the opportunities SWCTE offers, but costs exceeding \$100,000 a year for membership would prohibit their participation. While we currently have an excellent board of directors at SWCTE and a director committed to expanding opportunities for rural schools, these individuals can change. Let's protect their interests and ensure all students have access to CTE at our centers, regardless of their proximity to the CTE Center Campuses.

Furthermore, the deletion of language in Page 1, Lines 21-24, and Page 2, Lines 1-4, is necessary to clean up outdated provisions. These sections, which pertain to CTE centers that only operate mobile units, do not reflect current or future practices in North Dakota. Researching the origins of this language revealed it does not align with the operational realities of our CTE centers today. Our centers have evolved to include comprehensive programming beyond just mobile units.

In conclusion, HB1188 is vital legislation that modernizes our approach to funding CTE centers, promotes fairness, and supports the state's investment in expanding career and technical education. It empowers local control, aligns with the recommendations of CTE directors and the Department of Career and Technical Education, and ensures that all students in North Dakota have access to these valuable educational opportunities.

I urge the committee to support this bill to secure the future of CTE centers and the students they serve across our great state. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Aaron Anderson
CTE Director
Southwest Area CTE Academy
aanderson@dpsnd.org
(701)456-3270

Room 216

Representative Mike Lefor

-

HB 1188 Testimony

Good morning, Chairman Beard and members of the Senate Education Committee, my name is Mike Lefor and I serve District 37 - Dickinson in the House of Representatives. This morning, I bring HB 1188 to you for your consideration.

HB 1188 is a bill being brought forward after the Career and Tech academies across the state and the state agency, the North Dakota department of career and technical education met and are requesting some adjustments to century code.

Under current law, career and tech academies are required to assess their operational costs based on school membership and not on actual utilization or ability to access center programs. Using the Southwest Career and Tech academy as an example, the Killdeer school district makes up about 10% of the high school participation of the partner schools and Dickinson Public Schools makes up about 71% of the total number of high school students.

At the present time, fees are assessed on the student population in each school and not on utilization. In a large geographic area, as the SW Academy serves this provides an unrealistic cost to smaller school's miles away. This hinders the ability for the schools to participate and prices them out of participation.

This bill would allow the centers to still assess fees based on student population but gives the center the ability to assess remaining costs based on utilization, geography or whatever the local board determines that works best for them.

The centers across the state are different in the areas they cover, the programs offered, and facilities they operate. Under current law, it isn't cost effective for Beach, Bowman, Killdeer and others outside of 25 miles from Dickinson to pay the higher cost as their utilization is lower, this bill gives the local board the flexibility to assess fees based on utilization.

The bill breaks down school districts into two categories, first "participating" school districts which are assessed a membership fee based upon their high school enrollment as compared to the total high school enrollment of all participating

districts in the area and the new language on page 1, lines 13 and 14 states they "may assess fees based upon access and use of programs."

The second category is the non-participating school districts, can allocate quote "as nearly as possible" on line 17, based on utilization of these school districts. Further, on page 1 - lines 21 through 24 and page 2 - lines 1 through 4 eliminates current statutory language pertaining to mobile units so this language is not necessary.

Small schools which are miles away want to be member schools and have a seat on the CTE board, however the excessive cost of being assessed on their total high school enrollment makes it unreasonable. If we want to create access and drive enrollment at our CTE centers from all schools, local boards need to have the ability to assess their fees on what makes sense for their partner schools.

The 13 CTE Center expansion projects across the state all look very different. Some will serve a small geography of only 20-23 miles while others need to serve schools over 90 miles from the center. Some operate with only three schools, while others serve 10-15. This bill gives local control, which is crucial for that elected board, responsible to their constituents to make the decisions on what is best for their budgets and students.

In conclusion, this bill provides a path toward allowing more students to participate in career and technical education without having their school district have to pay a disproportionate amount to do so. I would ask your committee for a "do pass" recommendation. Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.