

**2025 HOUSE EDUCATION**

**HB 1517**

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Education Committee Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1517  
2/4/2025

Relating to the creation of the North Dakota student teacher scholarship program; and to provide an appropriation.

10:59 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:**

- Scholarship expenses
- Teacher Retention
- Teacher shortages
- Education standards

10:59 a.m. Representative Jonas introduced the bill.

11:00 a.m. Casey Ozaki, Chair of the Department of Teaching, Leadership, and Professional Practice at UND, testified in favor and submitted testimony. #33852.

11:15 a.m. Allan Burgad, Dean of School Education, VCSU, testified in favor and submitted testimony. #34546

11:30 a.m. Nick Archuletta, President of ND United, testified in favor and submitted testimony. #34354

11:31 a.m. Denise Jonas, Director of Career and Technical Education, testified in favor.

### **Additional written testimony:**

Cale Dunwoody, Vice President of public policy FMWF Chamber of Commerce, submitted testimony in favor #34392

Cynthia Schreiber-Beck, ND Representative, submitted testimony in favor #35433

Rebecca Pitkin, Executive Director for the Education Standards and Practices Board, submitted neutral testimony #33983

11:37 a.m. Chairman Heinert adjourned the hearing.

*Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk*



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Testimony House Bill 1517  
House Education Committee  
February 4, 2025  
Education Standards and Practices Board

Good morning, Chairman Heinert and members of the committee. My name is Rebecca Pitkin, and I am the Executive Director of the North Dakota Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB). I am here to present neutral testimony and to ask for clarification on some items. The Board appreciates the sentiment of the bill and your desire to support pre-service or student teachers in their clinical experiences. Line 21 of the bill states that to be eligible to receive a scholarship an individual must “not hold a teaching license.” Most student teachers do have a substitute teaching license, which is recommended by their institutions and ESPB. Student teachers having a substitute license ensures that they have had a BCI/FBI background check as well as enabling them to gain experience subbing and be compensated for it. In addition, their ability to be a substitute teacher because of their license helps school districts in their substitute teacher shortage. We ask that you consider changing the wording of the bill to: “Not hold an initial teaching license or an alternate access teaching license.”

In addition, we seek clarification in Section 1, line 13 referring to state-approved teacher preparation program. Is this referring to ND state-approved or any state-approved teacher preparation program, as nearly all colleges would fall under state-approved. Again, we appreciate the intent of this bill and are happy to answer any questions.

Rebecca Pitkin, PhD  
Executive Director, ESPB  
701.328.9646



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*Great Public Schools**Great Public Service*

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**Testimony Before the House Education Committee  
HB 1517  
February 4, 2025**

Chair Heinert and members of the Committee, for the record, my name is Nick Archuleta, and I am the president of North Dakota United. On behalf of our 11,000 members, I rise today in support of HB 1517 and urge a do pass recommendation for this proposed piece of legislation.

HB 1517 would provide scholarships for student teachers of up to \$3,000. This initiative is important for supporting the next generation of educators who face significant financial challenges while completing their training.

Student teachers must balance coursework with the demanding responsibilities of classroom placement, often limiting their ability to work full-time. Scholarships would help alleviate this financial strain, allowing them to focus on their professional development. Not to mention it will lower the student loan obligation for folks in a field that are often underpaid.

Additionally, scholarships would help address the teacher shortage, especially in critical areas like math, science, and special education. By investing in student teachers, we are making a long-term investment in the quality of education for all our students. We know there is not a singular solution to mitigate the teacher shortage, but this type of investment is a step in the right direction.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the House Education Committee to issue a ***do pass*** recommendation for HB 1517.



### Letter of Support – HB 1517

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Chairman Heinert and Members of the House Education Committee,

For the record, my name is Cale Dunwoody, and I have the distinct pleasure of serving as the Vice President of Public Policy for the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce (FMWF Chamber). On behalf of our over 1,700 members, I respectfully offer testimony in support of House Bill 1517.

At the FMWF Chamber, our mission is to protect and promote business, inspire individuals, cultivate communities, and influence action. North Dakotan schools are in critical need of qualified educators to fill workforce shortages and build a robust education system. In the 2023-2024 school year, all content areas were declared critical shortage zones, meaning there are too few qualified education professionals to fill positions.

While enrollment in North Dakota schools has increased, the number of teachers has remained stagnant. From fall 2011 to fall 2021, student enrollment increased by 21%, more than any other state. In comparison, the number of teaching degrees earned decreased by 19.5% between 2012 and 2020 (National Center for Education Statistics). An increase in demand for education services and a decrease in supply of educators stands to create a workforce shortage in the education sector.

Creative and innovative solutions, such as this, are critical to encouraging individuals to pursue impactful career fields, ultimately addressing critical workforce shortages. A loan repayment program for student teachers further incentivizes passionate individuals to pursue a career in teaching and supports new educators – reducing the financial burdens of student loans. Given the impact this program will have on the future education and workforce, we respectfully urge the committee to give HB 1517 a DO PASS recommendation.

Sincerely,

Cale Dunwoody  
Vice President of Public Policy  
Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce

**Office of the Dean**

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Chair Heinert and Members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Dr. Casey Ozaki, Chair of the Department of Teaching, Leadership, and Professional Practice, and I am providing testimony in support of HB 1517 on behalf of Dr. Shelbie Witte, Dean of the College of Education and Human Development at the University of North Dakota.

Student teaching is widely recognized as the most expensive semester within a teacher preparation program. In addition to paying for tuition, student teachers often have other costs, including but not limited to fees associated with compensating cooperating teachers (who are P-12 classroom teachers) and student teaching supervisors (who are teacher education faculty who evaluate the student teacher's abilities). Furthermore, student teachers are responsible for the costs of background checks, fingerprinting, state licensure exams (called the Praxis), CPR certification, and teacher license applications. As presented here, the total cost of these required expenses exceeds \$1,400 on average.

<b>Student Teaching Expenses</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Cooperating & Supervising Teacher Stipends	\$ 910
Background Check/Fingerprinting	\$ 45
State Licensure Exam (Praxis II)	\$ 286
CPR Certification	\$ 60
ND Teaching License Application	\$ 105
<b>Total Student Teaching Expenses*</b>	<b>\$ 1,406</b>

In addition to these direct costs, student teachers must also manage living expenses, which typically range from \$6,000-\$11,000 a semester. Despite these financial challenges, student teachers must still cover tuition and fees for the semester.

Compounding this financial burden is the fact that student teachers are very limited in being able to maintain a job since they are already engaged in a full-time student teaching experience for often more than 8 hours a day. As you may know, a student teacher's role is to eventually take on all the responsibilities of the classroom teacher during the semester of student teaching, all while not getting a single paycheck.

HB 1517 would address this issue by providing student teachers with financial support, thereby reducing the stress associated with their inability to work during the student teaching semester.



By easing the financial strain, the bill would allow student teachers to fully engage in the learning process, which is essential for their development as educators. Student teaching is designed to provide an opportunity for student teachers to experiment with new teaching methods, reflect on student interactions and lesson outcomes, and receive constructive feedback from experienced educators. These experiences are critical in preparing them for a successful career in teaching and, ultimately, in delivering a high-quality education to North Dakota's P-12 students.

When student teachers are forced to work additional jobs to meet financial needs, the impact on their performance is often evident. Their lesson planning becomes rushed, enthusiasm for the profession wanes, and they experience significant fatigue. These challenges could be mitigated if student teachers were compensated for their work, allowing them to dedicate themselves fully to their training without the added pressure of financial insecurity.

HB 1517 represents a crucial step forward in supporting student teachers during this financially challenging period. We strongly recommend that the scholarship be set at a flat rate of \$3,000 per student and be awarded to all student teachers coming from North Dakota teaching programs who are placed within North Dakota schools.

Adequate funding for student teaching is essential to ensuring that qualified students are able to enter the teaching profession. The financial ability to afford both tuition and the student teaching experience should not restrict our pool of qualified North Dakota teachers. Students must have clarity and assurance that financial support will be available to them in a timely manner, enabling them to make informed decisions about pursuing a teaching degree.

## **Testimony on North Dakota Student Teacher Scholarship Program**

**House Education Committee – February 4, 2025**

**Allen Burgad, Dean for the School of Education, Valley City State University**

### **Support for HB 1517**

Good morning, Chair Heinert and members of the Education Committee. My name is Allen Burgad, and I am the Dean for the School of Education at Valley City State University (VCSU). I am here to offer my full support for House Bill 1517.

Currently, VCSU is home to 521 pre-service teachers enrolled in our Teacher Education program. Of these, 170 are pursuing a degree in secondary education, while 351 are working towards a degree in elementary education. During the 2023–2024 academic year, 133 students completed their student teaching. Of those, 94 completed their student teaching in North Dakota, and 39 in other states. For the current 2024–2025 academic year, we have 157 students either completing or in the process of completing their student teaching, with 117 placed in North Dakota schools and 40 placed out of state.

I support HB 1517 for three primary reasons:

1. To address the critical teacher shortage in North Dakota,
2. To provide essential financial support for pre-service teachers to complete their degree and student teaching in North Dakota, and
3. To incentivize pre-service teachers, both in-state and out-of-state, to student teach in North Dakota.

### **Addressing the Critical Teacher Shortage**

According to recent findings from the North Dakota Teacher Retention Task Force, 61% of schools reported significant difficulty filling teacher vacancies. With over three decades of experience as a school administrator and four years serving as the Dean of the School of Education at VCSU, I understand that pre-service teachers are more likely to pursue their teaching careers in North Dakota schools when given the opportunity. A student teaching placement lasts 10–12 weeks, and once they successfully complete their placement, these pre-service teachers are available to fill urgent staffing needs as substitutes or para-educators.

### **Financial Support for Pre-Service Teachers While Student Teaching**

A majority of university students work part-time while completing their degrees, often as substitute teachers. However, student teaching is a demanding, full-time commitment that typically requires pre-service teachers to end their part-time employment in order to focus on their placement. Our teacher education program includes an



advisory committee of approximately 20 students who provide valuable feedback on how to improve our program. One of their key recommendations has been the need for financial assistance to help offset the costs of living and the loss of income during the student teaching period. I strongly believe that financial support for tuition and fees will help alleviate this burden and allow more students to successfully complete their student teaching experience.

### **Providing an Incentive to Student Teach in North Dakota Schools**

This third point ties directly to our efforts to address the teacher shortage in North Dakota. At VCSU, we offer pre-service teachers the flexibility to complete their student teaching in North Dakota or elsewhere. While some pre-service teachers choose to student teach in other states, we know that a significant number would prefer to stay in North Dakota and pursue their teaching careers here if given the right incentives. HB 1517 offers such an incentive, helping to ensure that our graduates will be better positioned to fill critical roles in North Dakota schools, including substitute teaching and para-educator positions, which are in high demand.

In conclusion, HB 1517 is a vital step in supporting North Dakota's education system by helping pre-service teachers complete their education and encouraging them to stay in-state after graduation. I strongly urge the committee to pass this bill and help address the teacher shortage while providing much-needed financial support for those entering the teaching profession.

Thank you for allowing my testimony. I will now stand for questions if there are any at this time.

25.1164.01000

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## HOUSE BILL NO. 1517

Introduced by

Representatives Jonas, Murphy, Richter, Sanford, Hager

Senators Bekkedahl, Boschee

- 1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15-10 of the North Dakota
- 2 Century Code, relating to the creation of the North Dakota student teacher scholarship program;
- 3 and to provide an appropriation.

### 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
6 and enacted as follows:

#### 7 **North Dakota student teacher scholarship program.**

8 1. The state board of higher education shall:

- 9 a. Develop and administer the North Dakota student teacher scholarship program to  
10 provide scholarships for student teachers who will seek initial teacher licensure  
11 after graduation;
- 12 b. Distribute funds for the scholarships to each ~~institution of higher education~~ <sup>program</sup> in the  
13 state offering a state-approved teacher preparation program; and
- 14 c. Provide guidance and assistance to ~~an institution of higher education~~ <sup>each approved educator preparation program</sup> to  
15 administer the program.

16 2. To be eligible to receive a scholarship under this section, a student must:

- 17 a. Be enrolled in a state-approved teacher preparation program and be completing  
18 the student teaching experience in the state;
- 19 b. Be progressing satisfactorily through the teacher preparation program, as  
20 determined by the ~~institution of higher education~~ <sup>approved educator preparation program</sup>; and
- 21 c. Not hold a teaching license.

22 3. An institution of higher education shall apply a scholarship not exceeding three  
23 thousand dollars to an eligible student's tuition and fees for the semester the student is  
24 completing the student teaching experience.

1       **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION - STUDENT**  
2       **TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the  
3       general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$4,200,000, or so  
4       much of the sum as may be necessary, to the state board of higher education for the purpose of  
5       providing funds to institutions of higher education to award scholarships to students who are  
6       eligible to receive a student teacher scholarship, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and  
7       ending June 30, 2027.

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Education Committee Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1517  
2/4/2025

Relating to the creation of the North Dakota student teacher scholarship program; and to provide an appropriation.

2:37 p.m. Chairman Heinert called the meeting 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:

- Proposed amendments
- Committee action

2:41 p.m. Vice Chairman Schreiber- Beck proposed changing the type of license and adding issued by North Dakota education standards and practices board as well as North Dakota state approved teacher prep program. #33983 #35433 from morning hearing.

2:43 p.m. Representative Longmuir 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	Y
Representative Doug Osowski	Y

Motion carried: 14-0-0

Chairman Heinert closed the hearing.

*Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk*

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Education Committee Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1517  
2/5/2025

Relating to the creation of the North Dakota student teacher scholarship program; and to provide an appropriation.

5:29 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, Novak, Osowski

### Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

5:30 p.m. Vice Chairman Schreiber- Beck proposed amendments. Previous testimony #35433

5:33 p.m. Representative Hauck seconded the motion.

5:35 p.m. Vice Chairman Schreiber- Beck rescinded her motion.

5:35 p.m. Vice Chairman Schreiber- Beck moved to adopt her amendment along with adding 'North Dakota' on line 17.

5:36 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	Y
Representative Doug Osowski	Y

Motion carried: 14-0-0



5:42 p.m. Vice Chairman Schreiber- Beck moved a Do Pass as amended and rereferred to the Appropriation committee.

5:42 p.m. Representative Novak seconded the motion.

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

Motion Failed: 6-8-0

5:46 p.m. Representative Morton Moved a Do Not Pass as Amended.

5:46 p.m. Representative Hauck seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried: 8-6-0

Bill carrier: Representative Osowski

Chairman Heinert closed the hearing.

House Education Committee

HB 1517

02-05-25

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*Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk*

February 6, 2025

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1517**

Introduced by

Representatives Jonas, Murphy, Richter, Sanford, Hager

Senators Bekkedahl, Boschee

- 1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15-10 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to the creation of the North Dakota student teacher scholarship program;  
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8 **1. The state board of higher education shall:**

- 9 **a. Develop and administer the North Dakota student teacher scholarship program to**  
10 **provide scholarships for student teachers who will seek initial teacher licensure**  
11 **after graduation;**
- 12 **b. Distribute funds for the scholarships to each institution ~~of higher education~~ or**  
13 **program with a physical presence in the state offering a North Dakota state-**  
14 **approved teacher preparation program; and**
- 15 **c. Provide guidance and assistance to ~~an institution of higher education~~ each North**  
16 **Dakota state-approved educator preparation program to administer the program.**
- 17 **2. To be eligible to receive a scholarship under this section, a student must:**
- 18 **a. Be enrolled in a North Dakota state-approved teacher preparation program and**  
19 **be completing the student teaching experience in the state;**

75  
2 of 2

- 1           b. Be progressing satisfactorily through the teacher preparation program, as
- 2           determined by the ~~institution of higher education~~North Dakota state-approved
- 3           educator preparation program; and
- 4           c. Not hold ~~a~~an initial teaching license or an alternate access teaching license
- 5           issued by the North Dakota education standards and practices board.
- 6        3. An institution of higher education shall apply a scholarship not exceeding three
- 7           thousand dollars to an eligible student's tuition and fees for the semester the student is
- 8           completing the student teaching experience.

9           **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION - STUDENT**

10 **TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the  
11 general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$4,200,000, or so  
12 much of the sum as may be necessary, to the state board of higher education for the purpose of  
13 providing funds to institutions of higher education to award scholarships to students who are  
14 eligible to receive a student teacher scholarship, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and  
15 ending June 30, 2027.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
HB 1517**

**Education Committee (Rep. Heinert, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.1164.01001](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO NOT PASS** (8 YEAS, 6 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1517 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.