

2025 HOUSE EDUCATION

HB 1547

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1547
2/12/2025

A BILL for an Act to create a committee to study special education funding during the 2025-26 interim; and to provide for a legislative management report.

3:04 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:

- Special education teachers
- Teacher shortages
- Committee action

3:04 p.m. Representative Richter introduced the bill.

3:17 p.m. Chairman Heinert closed the hearing.

3:18 p.m. Vice Chair Schreiber- Beck proposed changing on line 12 to '8' members 4 from the house and 4 from the senate.

3:18 p.m. Representative Novak 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

3:19 p.m. Vice Chair Schreiber- Beck moved a Do Pass as amended.

3:19 p.m. Representative Novak 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

Bill carrier: Chairman Heinert

Additional written testimony:

Matt Liebel, ND Resident, submitted testimony in favor. #36267

3:21 p.m. Chairman Heinert closed the hearing.

Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk

February 12, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

HOUSE BILL NO. 1547

Introduced by

Representatives Richter, Conmy, Jonas, Mitskog, Nelson, Novak, Schreiber-Beck

Senators Axtman, Beard, Davison, Mathern

- 1 A BILL for an Act to create a committee to study special education funding during the 2025-26
2 interim; and to provide for a legislative management report.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING COMMITTEE - REPORT TO**
5 **LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.**

- 6 1. During the 2025-26 interim, the legislative management shall establish and provide
7 staffing and administrative services to a committee to study special education funding.
8 The chairman of legislative management may add temporary, nonvoting members to
9 the committee, as deemed necessary by the committee, to serve without
10 compensation.
- 11 2. The committee may include:
- 12 a. ~~Five~~Eight members of the legislative assembly, four members from the house of
13 representatives and four members from the senate, appointed by the legislative
14 management;
- 15 b. Two multi-unit special education directors;
- 16 c. One large school special education director;
- 17 d. One special education coordinator;
- 18 e. One superintendent of a large school;
- 19 f. One superintendent of a small or midsize school;
- 20 g. One business manager of a large school; and

- 1 h. One multi-unit special education business manager.
- 2 3. During the 2025-26 interim, the special education funding committee study must
- 3 include a comprehensive review of special education funding models, including
- 4 student contracts, high-cost students, residential placement, and reimbursement under
- 5 the Medicaid program.
- 6 4. The committee shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any
- 7 legislation necessary to implement the recommendations, to the seventieth legislative
- 8 assembly.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1547**

Education Committee (Rep. Heinert, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.1171.01001](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1547 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Testimony in Support of House Bill 1547

Presented to the House Education Committee

North Dakota Legislative Assembly

Chairperson Heinert, Members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Matt Liebel, and I am here today to express my strong support for House Bill 1547, which seeks to create a committee to study special education funding during the 2025-26 interim.

I spent 15 years as a middle school science teacher and recently transitioned into my role as a Field Consultant for North Dakota United. As part of this work, I am involved in the NDU SPED Collective, where I hear directly from special education teachers about the challenges they face. One of the most pressing concerns they share is the inadequacy and complexity of special education funding.

Special education teachers are working with increasing caseloads, limited resources, and a lack of adequate support staff. Schools are struggling to meet the needs of students due to funding shortfalls, forcing difficult decisions that impact services, staffing, and the overall quality of education for students with disabilities. Without a thorough examination of how special education is funded in North Dakota, these challenges will only continue to grow.

A dedicated study of special education funding is a necessary step in identifying solutions that ensure equitable and sustainable support for students, teachers, and schools. HB 1547 provides an opportunity for stakeholders to collaborate, analyze funding gaps, and recommend policies that will strengthen special education across the state.

I urge this committee to support HB 1547 and take action to ensure that North Dakota's special education system is adequately funded and prepared to meet the needs of all students. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Liebel

Field Consultant, North Dakota United

Williston, ND

2025 SENATE EDUCATION

HB 1547

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

HB 1547
3/11/2025

To create a committee to study special education funding during the 2025-26 interim; and to provide for a legislative management report.

11:32 a.m. Chairman Beard called the hearing to order.

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

Discussion Topics:

- Funding of K-12 education
- Comprehensive review of funding models
- Strengthen opportunities for students

11:32 a.m. Representative Richter, District #1, introduced the bill.

11:40 a.m. Roxanne Romanick, Lobbyist Designer Genes of ND, Inc., testified in favor and submitted testimony #40023.

11:45 p.m. Chairman Beard closed the hearing.

Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk



HB 1547
Senate Education
Tuesday, March 12, 2025
Senator Todd Beard, Chair

Chairman Beard and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

My name is Roxane Romanick and I'm here today as a representative for Designer Genes of ND, Inc., Designer Genes represents individuals with Down syndrome and their families across the state. Designer Genes' mission is to strengthen opportunities for individuals with Down syndrome and those who support them to earn, learn, and belong. I am also the parent to an adult daughter with Down syndrome, who is competitively employed due to her access to general education curriculum and special education supports.

We project, that outside of North Dakota students with Down syndrome being homeschooled, all other children, youth, and young adults with Down syndrome are covered by the guarantees of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and are served under Individual Education Plans and afforded special education services. The provisions of a free and appropriate education (FAPE) and learning in a least restrictive environment (LRE) with specially designed approaches to learning and targeted adaptations mean that our students have learning opportunities available to them that older individuals with Down syndrome went without. As an organization, we are concerned about the academic achievements of our children, youth, and young adults with Down syndrome in North Dakota because we know that high expectations, highly qualified professionals, and quality instructional strategies are critical to learning. We most certainly know all of the above requires adequate funding and funding methodology.

Designer Genes is in support of HR 1547, but I am asking the committee to consider an addition to the language of an amendment that would include a representative from a statewide family support organization that supports family members of children who receive special education. I'm asking for the consideration of this added language, because there is no parent representation on the committee and the study language discusses the use of Medicaid funds for reimbursement. Under the Individuals with

Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), parents have to provide permission for any medical insurance, including Medicaid, to be used to school-based services. Since there will be discussion in this study that will impact parent and student rights, I ask for strong consideration of this added language.

Thank you for your time and I would answer any questions.

Roxane Romanick
Representative/Lobbyist
Designer Genes of ND, Inc.
701-391-7421
info@designergenesnd.com

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

HB 1547
3/11/2025

To create a committee to study special education funding during the 2025-26 interim; and to provide for a legislative management report.

2:52 p.m. Chairman Beard called the hearing to order.

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

Members Absent: Senator Axtman

Discussion Topics:

- Committee Action

2:57 p.m. Senator Gerhardt moved Do Pass.

2:57 p.m. Senator Boschee seconded the motion.

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

Motion Passed 5-0-1

Senator Beard will carry the bill.

3:01 p.m. Chairman Beard closed the hearing.

Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
ENGROSSED HB 1547 ([25.1171.02000](#))**

Education Committee (Sen. Beard, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1547 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.