

2025 HOUSE JUDICIARY

HB 1600

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Judiciary Committee
Room JW327B, State Capitol

HB 1600
2/3/2025

relating to the establishment of the immigration law clinic at the university of North Dakota school of law; and to provide an appropriation.

9:01 a.m. Chairman Klemin opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Klemin, Vice-Chairman Karls, Vice-Chairman Vetter, Representatives Christianson, Henderson, Hoverson, Johnston, McLeod, Tveit, VanWinkle, Wolff, Schneider

Members Absent: Representatives S. Olson, Satrom

Discussion Topics:

- Lack of immigration lawyers in North Dakota
- University of North Dakota law clinics

9:01 a.m. Brian Pappas, Dean of the University of North Dakota School of Law, testified in favor and provided testimony #33589.

9:04 a.m. Representative Emily O'Brien, North Dakota Representative for District 42, testified in favor and provided testimony #33739.

9:13 a.m. Brian Pappas, Dean of the University of North Dakota School of Law, answered committee questions.

9:24 a.m. Chairman Klemin closed the hearing.

Wyatt Armstrong, Committee Clerk

HB1600 Testimony
Brian Pappas
Dean & Professor of Law
University of North Dakota School of Law

Chair Klemin and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

My name is Brian Pappas and I serve as Dean of the University of North Dakota School of Law. I write in support of HB 1600. There are numerous reasons that support passing this bill. Attorney fees for immigration matters often cost \$15,000-20,000. Providing services at low/no cost will be beneficial to both North Dakota employers and potential employees. We have a large need for immigration attorneys in North Dakota, and I understand there are only one or two practicing in the entire state. As a result, this clinic would not take business away from any practicing attorneys. An immigration clinic will also build capacity by training future lawyers to handle immigration matters. This clinic could train 5-20 students per year with the skills they need to provide much needed services once they become lawyers. While the law school has multiple clinical opportunities, we do not have funding to either hire an additional clinician or to operate this clinic.

There are also three main areas of concern regarding this bill. First, in Section 1.2, the bill notes, "A law school student may be assigned to handle approximately one matter per semester." Students will likely be assigned to handle more than one matter. Due to filing times, students will likely need to focus on numerous cases in various stages of process.

Next, in Section 1.5, the bill states, "The immigration law clinic shall apply for grants for the repayment of filing fees, attorney's fees, relocation expenses, and other costs associated with the immigration law clinic." The goal of the clinic is to offer legal services for low or no attorney fees. Applying for grants would detract from the mission of the clinic. Further, in employment immigration, certain filing fees are required by law to be paid by the employer and no one else can pay the fees. No law firm or law clinic pays for relocation expenses of its clients.

Finally, in Section 2, the bill authorizes the clinic to operate for the next two years. As many actions take at least 5 years, ideally the clinic would be funded for four years to avoid employers needing to change counsel in the middle of a legal action.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB1600.



North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



Representative Emily O'Brien

District 42
2029 Second Avenue North
Grand Forks, ND 58203-3311
eobrien@ndlegis.gov

COMMITTEES:

Appropriations
Appropriations - Human Resources Division

02/03/2025

House Bill 1600 House Judiciary Committee

Chairman Klemin and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am Representative Emily O'Brien, representing District 42 in Grand Forks. House Bill 1600 creates the establishment of an immigration law clinic. I have the privilege to serve on the Workforce Development Advisory Council. Through our work on the Council, we put forth nine recommendations and fourteen endorsements that would help address some of the greatest workforce challenges faced by the state of North Dakota today and the incoming years. I would like to highlight Recommendation #3 which recommends support for opportunities with the Office of Legal Immigration and Recommendation #4 which provides transcript and curriculum translation services to New Americans and Immigrants.

The establishment of an immigration law clinic is important because it provides crucial legal support and resources to individuals navigating the often complex and intimidating immigration system. These clinics typically offer free or low-cost legal assistance, which is especially vital for people who cannot afford private attorneys. Here's why they're so important:

1. **Access to Justice:** Immigration laws can be overwhelming and difficult to understand. Clinics ensure that individuals, regardless of their financial status, can have access to competent legal representation and advice.
2. **Protection of Rights:** People going through the immigration process are often at risk of being unfairly treated or facing unjust deportation. A clinic helps protect their legal rights and advocates for fair treatment.
3. **Educational Resource:** Clinics often educate communities about their rights and legal options. This is crucial, especially in times of political or policy changes, when misinformation or fear can prevent individuals from seeking help.
4. **Real-World Experience for Law Students:** Many immigration law clinics are run by law schools, providing valuable hands-on experience for students. It gives them the opportunity to work on actual cases under supervision, building their skills and understanding of real-world legal practice.
5. **Support for Vulnerable Populations:** Immigrants, particularly those from vulnerable groups like refugees, asylum seekers, or survivors of abuse, may face unique challenges. Clinics are often tailored to help these groups navigate the system with more personalized care.

In short, immigration law clinics help bridge the gap between the legal system and people who need it most, offering vital support at critical moments in their lives.

A few technical corrections throughout the bill will be to capitalize "U" in University, School of Law is also capitalized as its official name. These corrections will need to be made throughout the document. After a few conversations over the weekend, there are some logistical errors that need to be corrected.

Section 1, Subsection 2, beginning on line 11 - students may have more than one case due to how quickly some cases can be completed. These students may learn in learning modules where they may need to focus on certain legal action in the type of case they are assigned to while the attorney completes the overall legal action.

Section 1, Subsection 3, beginning on line 13 - this will need to be broken into two separate sentences. The immigration law clinic will offer two levels of learning: clinic I and clinic II. The law school will annually offer two immigration classes for students to take, comprised of an introductory immigration law class and an advanced immigration law class.

Section 1, Subsection 4, beginning on line 15 - this needs to be rephrased to state: The law clinic may represent clients remotely when clients do not reside in the same city as the law clinic. Student legal work may be performed remotely upon the approval of the supervising attorney.

Section 1, Subsection 5, beginning on line 17 - The Immigration and Nationality Act provides that employers are required to pay all associated legal fees, filing fees and costs of the H-1B visa and DOL PERM filings. By law, the law clinic or anyone else cannot pay for them at all, even via grant money or any other money. All of it must be paid for by the employer. The law clinic is a law office. Law offices do not pay relocation expenses for clients or government filing fees. These would be considered "advanced client costs" which are recovered from the client. There are accounting consequences as well. Advanced client costs are considered assets on the law firm's balance sheet until repaid. They are tracked separately from the firm's general expenses and must be accounted for accurately to ensure proper billing. The purpose of the grants is to offset the cost of running the clinic and to be able to offer legal services for low attorney fees. We will need to delete the language "filing fees" and "relocation expenses". This is the cost of doing business for an employer and it is the employer's obligation to pay this expense.

Section 1, Subsection 6, beginning on line 21 - we need to strike "H class visa" and insert "employment-based nonimmigrant and immigrant visas".

Lastly, Section 2, the two-year period of funding, is problematic. The funding period needs to be four years or more. An EB-3 immigrant visa is taking 5 years to process. The loss of funding in two years would force an employer to seek new counsel while in the middle of legal action.

Dean Pappas from the University of North Dakota Law School has requested a few amendments following my testimony. I am happy to get the amendments I have proposed above, and Dean Pappas requested amendments drafted and prepared for the committee.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee.

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Judiciary Committee
Room JW327B, State Capitol

HB 1600
2/4/2025

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15-11 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the establishment of the immigration law clinic at the university of North Dakota school of law; and to provide an appropriation.

4:24 p.m. Chairman Klemin opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Klemin, Vice-Chairman Karls, Vice-Chairman Vetter, Representatives Christianson, Henderson, Hoverson, Johnston, McLeod, Olson, Tveit, Wolff, Schneider

Members Absent: Representatives: Satrom, VanWinkle

Discussion Topics:

- Sectors of immigration law
- Number of immigration lawyers in North Dakota

4:42 p.m. Representative Tveit moved to Amend and strike section 1 subsections 2,3, and 5 and strike "including fees associated with obtaining an H class visa" from page 2 lines 1-2.

4:42 p.m. Representative Johnston seconded the motion

Representatives	Vote
Representative Lawrence R. Klemin	Y
Representative Karen Karls	Y
Representative Steve Vetter	Y
Representative Nels Christianson	Y
Representative Donna Henderson	Y
Representative Jeff Hoverson	Y
Representative Daniel Johnston	Y
Representative Carrie McLeod	A
Representative SuAnn Olson	Y
Representative Bernie Satrom	Y
Representative Mary Schneider	N
Representative Bill Tveit	Y
Representative Lori VanWinkle	A
Representative Christina Wolff	Y

4:46 p.m. Motion passed 11-1-2

4:46 p.m. Representative S. Olson move a Do Not Pass as Amended and rerefer to Appropriations.

4:46 p.m. Representative Wolff seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Lawrence R. Klemin	N
Representative Karen Karls	N
Representative Steve Vetter	Y
Representative Nels Christianson	N
Representative Donna Henderson	Y
Representative Jeff Hoverson	Y
Representative Daniel Johnston	Y
Representative Carrie McLeod	A
Representative SuAnn Olson	Y
Representative Bernie Satrom	A
Representative Mary Schneider	N
Representative Bill Tveit	Y
Representative Lori VanWinkle	A
Representative Christina Wolff	Y

4:50 p.m. Motion passed 7-5-2

5:52 p.m. Representative Hoverson will carry the bill.

Additional written testimony:

Brian Pappas, Dean of Students at University of North Dakota Law School, submitted neutral testimony #34804

4:56 p.m. Chairman Klemin closed the hearing.

Wyatt Armstrong, Committee Clerk

Bill was reconsidered on 02/05/25.

February 4, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

HOUSE BILL NO. 1600

Introduced by

Representatives O'Brien, Sanford, Schreiber-Beck

Senators Axtman, Sickler

- 1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15-11 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to the establishment of the immigration law clinic at the university of
3 North Dakota school of law; and to provide an appropriation.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
6 and enacted as follows:

7 **Immigration law clinic.**

- 8 1. The university of North Dakota school of law shall employ one full-time staff attorney
9 for the immigration law clinic. The immigration law clinic attorney may not have more
10 than sixty matters open at any one time.
- 11 2. Between five and ten students may participate in the immigration law clinic. A law
12 school student may be assigned to handle approximately one matter per semester.
- 13 ~~3. The immigration law clinic must be divided into clinic I and clinic II, and offered to a law~~
14 ~~school student as an introductory course and an advanced course, respectively.~~
- 15 ~~4. Legal services may be provided and legal work may be done remotely, depending on~~
16 ~~the needs of the client.~~
- 17 ~~5.3.~~ The immigration law clinic shall apply for grants for the repayment of filing fees,
18 attorney's fees, relocation expenses, and other costs associated with the immigration
19 law clinic.

1 6.4. The university of North Dakota law school may charge nominal fees, ~~including fees~~
2 ~~associated with obtaining an H class visa,~~ as needed, to operate the immigration law
3 clinic.

4 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET -**

5 **IMMIGRATION LAW CLINIC.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in
6 the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$400,000, or so much of the sum as
7 may be necessary, to the office of management and budget for the purpose of providing a grant
8 to the university of North Dakota to fund an immigration law clinic at the university of North
9 Dakota school of law, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

Fw: Costs regarding HB 1600

From: Klemin, Lawrence R.
To: -Grp-NDLA House Judiciary
Date: Mon, Feb 3, 2025, 10:11 PM

FYI

Larry

From: Pappas, Brian <brian.pappas@und.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2025 9:57 AM
To: Klemin, Lawrence R. <lklemin@ndlegis.gov>
Subject: Costs regarding HB 1600

You don't often get email from brian.pappas@und.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Chair Klemin,

Here is a rundown of the costs associated with the prospective immigration clinic.

- **Annual Funding Needs: \$150K-\$200K**
 - **Staff Attorney Salary: \$80-110K**
 - **Travel: \$8-10K** (for interviews)
 - **Software: \$15K**
 - Adobe, Dropbox, Office 365, accounting software
 - Immigration software: \$110/month/user for 8-12 people
 - **Malpractice Insurance: \$10K**
 - **AILA Membership & Training: \$35K**
 - H1B, permanent residency classes, paralegal intro courses
 - **Additional: \$10K**
 - **Interpretation Costs:** Reduced costs with Language Link; explore employer cost-sharing
 - **Potential Loss Buffer:** Fund for cases like H1B lottery failures or employer non-reimbursements
 - **Admin Support:** UND
 - **Office Supplies:** UND (printer/copier/scanner)

- **Equipment:** UND
- **Credit Card Services:** UND

Thank you,

Brian A. Pappas, J.D., LL.M., Ph.D.
Dean and Professor of Law
University of North Dakota School of Law
2022-2023 Chair, ABA Section of Dispute Resolution
PH: (701) 777-2104
Research: <https://ssrn.com/author=911671>

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Judiciary Committee
Room JW327B, State Capitol

HB 1600
2/5/2025

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15-11 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the establishment of the immigration law clinic at the university of North Dakota school of law; and to provide an appropriation.

3:15 p.m. Chairman Klemin opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Klemin, Vice-Chairman Karls, Vice-Chairman Vetter, Representatives Christianson, Henderson, Hoverson, Johnston, McLeod, S. Olson, Satrom, Tveit, Wolff, Schneider

Members Absent: Representative VanWinkle

Discussion Topics:

- Legal immigration process
- University of North Dakota Law School clinics
- Committee action

3:24 p.m. Representative Vetter moved to Reconsider and submitted testimony #35491.

3:24 p.m. Representative Satrom seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Lawrence R. Klemin	Y
Representative Karen Karls	Y
Representative Steve Vetter	Y
Representative Nels Christianson	Y
Representative Donna Henderson	N
Representative Jeff Hoverson	Y
Representative Daniel Johnston	Y
Representative Carrie McLeod	Y
Representative SuAnn Olson	N
Representative Bernie Satrom	Y
Representative Mary Schneider	Y
Representative Bill Tveit	N
Representative Lori VanWinkle	A
Representative Christina Wolff	N

3:28 p.m. Motion passed 9-4-1

3:37 p.m. Representative Wolff moved a Do Not Pass.

3:37 p.m. Representative Tveit seconded the motion.

3:42 p.m. Representative Wolff withdrew her motion.

3:42 p.m. Representative Wolff moved to Amend and strike section 1 subsections 2,3, and 5 and strike "including fees associated with obtaining an H class visa" from page 2 lines 1-2.

3:42 p.m. Representative Henderson seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Lawrence R. Klemin	Y
Representative Karen Karls	Y
Representative Steve Vetter	Y
Representative Nels Christianson	Y
Representative Donna Henderson	Y
Representative Jeff Hoverson	Y
Representative Daniel Johnston	Y
Representative Carrie McLeod	A
Representative SuAnn Olson	Y
Representative Bernie Satrom	Y
Representative Mary Schneider	Y
Representative Bill Tveit	Y
Representative Lori VanWinkle	A
Representative Christina Wolff	Y

3:44 p.m. Motion passed 12-0-2

3:45 p.m. Representative Wolff moved a Do Not Pass as Amended and rerefer to Appropriations.

3:45 p.m. Representative Tveit seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Lawrence R. Klemin	N
Representative Karen Karls	N
Representative Steve Vetter	N
Representative Nels Christianson	N
Representative Donna Henderson	Y
Representative Jeff Hoverson	Y
Representative Daniel Johnston	Y
Representative Carrie McLeod	A
Representative SuAnn Olson	Y
Representative Bernie Satrom	N
Representative Mary Schneider	N
Representative Bill Tveit	Y
Representative Lori VanWinkle	A
Representative Christina Wolff	Y

3:49 p.m. Motion failed 6-6-2

3:50 p.m. Representative Johnston moved for No Recommendation and rerefer to Appropriations.

3:50 p.m. Representative Vetter seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Lawrence R. Klemin	Y
Representative Karen Karls	Y
Representative Steve Vetter	Y
Representative Nels Christianson	Y
Representative Donna Henderson	Y
Representative Jeff Hoverson	Y
Representative Daniel Johnston	Y
Representative Carrie McLeod	A
Representative SuAnn Olson	Y
Representative Bernie Satrom	Y
Representative Mary Schneider	N
Representative Bill Tveit	Y
Representative Lori VanWinkle	A
Representative Christina Wolff	Y

3:52 p.m. Motion passed 11-1-2

3:53 p.m. Representative Hoverson will carry the bill.

3:54 p.m. Chairman Klemin closed the hearing.

Wyatt Armstrong, Committee Clerk

February 5, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

HOUSE BILL NO. 1600

Introduced by

Representatives O'Brien, Sanford, Schreiber-Beck

Senators Axtman, Sickler

2.5-26
JB 1002

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15-11 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to the establishment of the immigration law clinic at the university of
3 North Dakota school of law; and to provide an appropriation.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
6 and enacted as follows:

7 **Immigration law clinic.**

- 8 1. The university of North Dakota school of law shall employ one full-time staff attorney
9 for the immigration law clinic. The immigration law clinic attorney may not have more
10 than sixty matters open at any one time.
- 11 2. Between five and ten students may participate in the immigration law clinic. A law
12 school student may be assigned to handle approximately one matter per semester.
- 13 ~~3. The immigration law clinic must be divided into clinic I and clinic II, and offered to a law~~
14 ~~school student as an introductory course and an advanced course, respectively.~~
- 15 ~~4. Legal services may be provided and legal work may be done remotely, depending on~~
16 ~~the needs of the client.~~
- 17 ~~5. The immigration law clinic shall apply for grants for the repayment of filing fees,~~
18 ~~attorney's fees, relocation expenses, and other costs associated with the immigration~~
19 ~~law clinic.~~

JJB 2/1/2

1 6.3. The university of North Dakota law school may charge nominal fees, ~~including fees~~
2 ~~associated with obtaining an H class visa,~~ as needed, to operate the immigration law
3 clinic.

4 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET -**

5 **IMMIGRATION LAW CLINIC.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in
6 the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$400,000, or so much of the sum as
7 may be necessary, to the office of management and budget for the purpose of providing a grant
8 to the university of North Dakota to fund an immigration law clinic at the university of North
9 Dakota school of law, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1600**

Judiciary Committee (Rep. Klemin, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.1322.01003](#)) and when so amended, recommends the measure **BE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (11 YEAS, 1 NAY, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1600 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

25.1322.01002
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council
staff for Representative O'Brien
February 5, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

HOUSE BILL NO. 1600

Introduced by

Representatives O'Brien, Sanford, Schreiber-Beck

Senators Axtman, Sickler

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15-11 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to the establishment of the immigration law clinic at the university of
3 North Dakota school of law; ~~and to provide an appropriation; and to provide an exemption.~~

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

5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
6 and enacted as follows:

7 Immigration law clinic.

- 8 1. The university of North Dakota school of law shall employ one full-time staff attorney
9 for the immigration law clinic. The immigration law clinic attorney may not have more
10 than sixty matters open at any one time.
- 11 2. Between five and twenty students may participate in the immigration law clinic. A
12 law school student may be assigned to handle approximately one matter per
13 semester.
- 14 3. The immigration law clinic must be divided into clinic I and clinic II, and offered to a law
15 school student as shall offer two levels of learning. The law school annually shall
16 offer an introductory course immigration law class and an advanced course,
17 respectively immigration law class.
- 18 4. Legal services may be provided and legal work may be done remotely, depending on
19 the needs of the client.

1 ~~5. The immigration law clinic shall apply for grants for the repayment of filing fees,~~
2 ~~attorney's fees, relocation expenses, and other costs associated with the immigration~~
3 ~~law clinic.~~

4 ~~6. The university of North Dakota law school may charge nominal fees, including fees~~
5 ~~associated with obtaining an H-class-visaemployment-based non-immigrant and~~
6 ~~immigrant visa, as needed, to operate the immigration law clinic.~~

7 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - GENERAL FUND - OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND**

8 **BUDGET - IMMIGRATION LAW CLINIC.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the
9 general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of ~~\$400,000~~\$800,000, or
10 so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the office of management and budget for the
11 purpose of providing a grant to the university of North Dakota to fund an immigration law clinic
12 at the university of North Dakota school of law, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and
13 ending June 30, 2027.

14 **SECTION 3. OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET - IMMIGRATION LAW CLINIC -**

15 **EXEMPTION.** The appropriation in section 2 of this Act is for the purpose of providing a grant to
16 the university of North Dakota to fund an immigration law clinic at the university of North Dakota
17 school of law, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. Moneys
18 appropriated for this clinic are not subject to section 54-44.1-11. Funds shall be distributed
19 pursuant to the provisions of this section:

- 20 1. The office of management and budget may not distribute more than fifty percent of the
21 amount appropriated during the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30,
22 2027.
- 23 2. Moneys undistributed at the end of the biennium may be distributed during the
24 biennium beginning July 1, 2027, and ending June 30, 2029.

2025 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1600

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1600
2/19/2025

Relating to the establishment of the immigration law clinic at the university of North Dakota school of law; and to provide an appropriation.

10:51 a.m. Chairman Vigesaa-Opened the meeting.

Members present: Chairman Vigesaa, Vice Chairman Kempenich, Representatives Anderson, Berg, Bosch, Brandenburg, Fisher, Hanson, Louser, Martinson, Meier, Mitskog, Monson, Murphy, Nathe, Nelson, O'Brien, Pyle, Richter, Sanford, Stemen, Swiontek, Wagner

Discussion Topics:

- Law students
- Limited practice rule
- H2A

10:51 a.m. Representative Klemin Introduced the bill with testimony #38068.

10:56 a.m. Representative O'Brien Further explained the bill to committee.

11:10 a.m. Representative Murphy moved Do Pass.

11:10 a.m. Representative Richter seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Don Vigesaa	Y
Representative Keith Kempenich	Y
Representative Bert Anderson	Y
Representative Mike Berg	Y
Representative Glen Bosch	Y
Representative Mike Brandenburg	Y
Representative Jay Fisher	Y
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	Y
Representative Scott Louser	N
Representative Bob Martinson	Y
Representative Lisa Meier	Y
Representative Alisa Mitskog	Y
Representative David Monson	N
Representative Eric J. Murphy	Y
Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y
Representative Emily O'Brien	Y
Representative Brandy L. Pyle	Y

Representative David Richter	Y
Representative Mark Sanford	Y
Representative Gregory Stemen	Y
Representative Steve Swiontek	Y
Representative Scott Wagner	Y

Motion passed 21-2-0.

Representative Hoverson will carry.

11:12 a.m. Chairman Vigesaa closed the meeting.

Krystal Eberle for Risa Berube, Committee Clerk

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
ENGROSSED HB 1600 ([25.1322.03000](#))**

Appropriations Committee (Rep. Vigesaa, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (21 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1600 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

Fw: Costs regarding HB 1600

Klemin, Lawrence R.
-Grp-NDLA House Judiciary
Mon, Feb 3, 2025, 10:11PM

FYI

Larry

From: Pappas, Brian <brian.pappas@und.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2025 9:57 AM
To: Klemin, Lawrence R. <lklemin@ndlegis.gov>
Subject: Costs regarding HB 1600

You don't often get email from brian.pappas@und.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Chair Klemin,

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 - **Admin Support:** UND
 - **Office Supplies:** UND (printer/copier/scanner)

- **Equipment:** UND
- **Credit Card Services:** UND

Thank you,

Brian A. Pappas, J.D., LL.M., Ph.D.
Dean and Professor of Law
University of North Dakota School of Law
2022-2023 Chair, ABA Section of Dispute Resolution
PH: (701) 777-2104
Research: <https://ssrn.com/author=911671>

2025 SENATE EDUCATION

HB 1600

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

HB 1600
3/18/2025

Relating to the establishment of the immigration law clinic at the university of North Dakota school of law; and to provide an appropriation.

2:30 p.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:

- Create and enact a new chapter
- Full time staff attorney
- Nominal fees as needed
- Employment based immigration
- Documented immigrant
- Seasonal employee vs. professional employee recruitment
- Prioritize North Dakota employment

2:30 p.m. Representative O'Brien, District #42, introduced the bill and submitted testimony #42846.

2:40 p.m. Sue Swanson, Attorney Swanson Law Office, testified in favor, answered committee questions and submitted testimony #42837.

3:11 p.m. Chairman Beard opened committee discussion on effects of this bill and how the clinic would function.

Additional written testimony:

Taylor House, UND Student Government School of Law, submitted testimony in favor #42848.

Brian Pappas, Dean and Professor of Law University of North Dakota, submitted testimony in favor #42598.

3:20 p.m. Chairman Beard closed the hearing.

Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk

Brian Pappas

University of North Dakota School of Law

Dean and Professor of Law

701-777-2104

Brian.pappas@und.edu

Oral testimony

HB1600 Testimony
Brian Pappas
Dean & Professor of Law
University of North Dakota School of Law

Chair Beard and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

My name is Brian Pappas and I serve as Dean of the University of North Dakota School of Law. I write in support of HB 1600.

- Attorney fees for immigration matters often cost \$15,000-20,000. Providing services at low/no cost will be beneficial for North Dakota employers who are struggling to find workers.
- The clinic will be supporting legal immigration with the purpose of supporting businesses who are unable to hire employees in areas of need.
- We have a great need for immigration attorneys in North Dakota, with only one or two practicing in the entire state. As a result, this clinic would not take business away from any practicing attorneys.
- An immigration clinic will build capacity by training future lawyers to handle immigration matters. This clinic could train 5-20 students per year with the skills they need to provide much needed services once they become lawyers.
- While the law school has multiple clinical opportunities, we do not have funding to either hire an additional clinician or to operate this clinic.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB1600.

HB 1600 Testimony

Sue Swanson

Immigration Attorney, Adjunct Faculty University of North Dakota School of Law

Chairman Todd Beard and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

My name is Sue Swanson and I am an immigration attorney with a law office in Grand Forks, North Dakota. I write in support of HB 1600.

I am a solo practitioner of immigration law and own Swanson Law Office in Grand Forks. I have an extensive background in immigration law and practices it exclusively. My immigration law practice focuses on all areas of immigration law including family and employment immigration, naturalization, criminal defense and civil litigation in federal, district, and municipal court, deportation defense, and advising other attorneys on the immigration consequences of criminal convictions. I am a Specially Appointed Assistant Attorney General for the state of North Dakota, authorized to represent and provide immigration advice to ND state entities. I have served as a national speaker on immigration law, speaking at regional and national annual conferences. I am a three time graduate of the University of North Dakota, graduating with B.A.'s in Political Science and International Studies, a Masters of Business Administration, and Juris Doctorate of Law. Lastly, I serve as an Adjunct Professor at UND's School of Law, teaching immigration law.

I started working in the field of immigration law in 1999, serving as the Associate Director of International Programs at the University of North Dakota (hereinafter "UND") from 1999-2001. In that position, I represented the University directing and managing the University's F-1 (degree seeking students), J-1 (exchange students, short and long term researchers and faculty) and M-1 (vocational students) nonimmigrant visa programs. In that position, I was also in charge of filing for H-1B (professional and specialty occupations) and TN (NAFTA professional positions) nonimmigrant visas for UND's administrative staff, faculty and researchers.

In 2001, I left the state due to my husband's graduation from medical school and acceptance to a residency program at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida. In Jacksonville, I worked for four years for a senior immigration attorney as his Legal Assistant, working solely in the preparation and filing of business-based immigration petitions.

My family and I returned to North Dakota, settling in Grand Forks, ND. I could not get a job in immigration law as 1) I was not an attorney and 2) there were no attorneys in Grand Forks its surrounding area that practiced immigration law. In fact, at that time, there was only one attorney in the state that practiced immigration law. Due to this, I made the decision to go to law school to become an attorney. I graduated from law school and opened my immigration practice in May 2010 as a solo attorney.

Even after working in the field of immigration law for over 26 years, I do not call myself an expert in the field. Immigration law is extremely complicated in that the practitioner has to have and maintain a knowledge of:

1. State law;

2. Federal law,
3. Immigration law;
4. Follow all US Supreme court and federal circuit law throughout the US (I have clients living throughout the US and world)
5. Strong knowledge of the US Federal Code of Regulations
6. Maintain a working knowledge of the various government agencies' policy manuals (DOS Foreign Affairs Manual, USCIS Policy Manual, EOIR Court Manual, etc)
7. Follow all Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA decisions and how they relate to the circuit court in which my clients live)
8. Follow agency rulings (Board of Alien Labor Certification Appeals (BALCA), Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR, aka "deportation court" published and unpublished decisions)
9. Maintain a working knowledge of US government agency issued Memos, Cables and Minutes
10. Maintain a working knowledge of US government manuals for ICE, CBP, DOJ, USCIS, EOIR, FAM, etc.)
11. Maintain a working knowledge of Presidential Executive Orders and the litigation associated with them (complicates an immigration attorneys' ability to know when s/he can/cannot file applications that ordinarily would be able to be filed)
12. Maintain a daily working knowledge of world events, current US administration practices, and other daily/weekly events.

As an attorney, I am liable for all immigration advice I provide. Many people are attempting to practice immigration law without law school training, years of experience myself and my attorney colleagues have. Immigration law is not forgiving. Incorrect advice, failure to file a petition correctly or timely, missing a filing deadline, etc. can lead to permanent bars to future immigration filings and/or deportation for my clients.

Over the last 5-7 years, I have started witnessing non-profit groups and lay people in the state of North Dakota providing immigration advice and acting as immigration attorneys under the claim that they are "just filing out a form" or "helping someone complete a form." This is a very dangerous precedent that needs to be addressed and stopped. It results in loss of money spent in "legal fees," immigration petition denials, and many international people losing their legal immigration status, leading to deportation and removal from the U.S.

Currently, I believe there are only four attorneys in the state of North Dakota practicing immigration law full time, and I believe one attorney practicing it part-time. Myself and one other attorney in Fargo are the only attorneys in the state that practice employment immigration law. My Fargo colleague will be retiring soon. I am 55 years old and will be retiring in the next 10 years. It is imperative that we graduate new attorneys to replace us.

There is a steep learning curve to practice immigration law. Immigration attorneys specialize in areas of it, just like doctors special in areas of medicine. Business immigration is a specialty practice. A new attorney or even an experienced attorney coming to the field of immigration law cannot practice it in a vacuum and needs to either work for an experienced immigration attorney, or have mentors that are willing to share their time and experience to help the "young" attorney

learn and grow in immigration law. I have trained multiple attorneys who at the time they worked for me, thought I was too tough on them and demanded high of a level of knowledge and detail in their daily practice. All have come back to me to thank me for being tough on them and have stated that because of me, they are succeeding where their colleagues are failing.

As a state, employment immigration will play a critical role in our future. The world, US and ND are all facing declining birth rates, leading to a shortage of workers to fill open positions. ND employers are being forced to obtain workers overseas in order to run their day-to-day operations. I have worked closely with manufacturing plant business owners who cannot run full production lines or are forced to run less production lines due to labor shortages. The cost of recruiting, hiring and maintaining a qualified workforce is high. At least one employer has stated to me that they hired 300 workers in a fiscal year with only 10-13 staying, and almost all of them gone by the next year. The cost to the business for this is high.

In order to resolve labor shortages, the state and its businesses need to focus on legal business immigration where we invite businesses to invest in our state and where we are able to recruit and hire international workers to fill the open positions that US workers are unable, unwilling, or not wanting to fill. The state will need experienced, knowledgeable immigration attorneys to provide the business immigration services to employers.

With only two attorneys in the state of ND practicing immigration law, with one who will retire in the next few years and the other in 10 years, ND needs to plan for the future and graduate law students who want to practice immigration law in the state of ND. The only way to do this is to offer immigration classes at UND's School of Law and provide the law students a learning environment in which they can learn business immigration law under the supervision of a skilled business immigrant law attorney.

I humbly ask that you pass HB 1600, to create and enact an immigration law clinic at UND's School of Law to train the next generation of business immigration attorneys.

Thank you,

Sue Swanson
Immigration Attorney
Swanson Law Office



North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



Representative Emily O'Brien

District 42
2029 Second Avenue North
Grand Forks, ND 58203-3311
eobrien@ndlegis.gov

COMMITTEES:

Appropriations
Appropriations - Human Resources Division

03/18/2025

House Bill 1600 Senate Education Committee

Chairman Beard and members of the Senate Education Committee,

I am Representative Emily O'Brien, representing District 42 in Grand Forks. House Bill 1600 creates the establishment of an immigration law clinic.

I have the privilege to serve on the Workforce Development Advisory Council. Our role is to advise the governor and the public concerning the nature and extent of workforce development in the context of North Dakota's economic development needs and how to meet these needs effectively while maximizing the efficient use of available resources and avoiding unnecessary duplication of effort. At the end of this paragraph is the link to the report of the North Dakota Workforce Development Council Recommendations from December 2024. I would like to highlight Recommendation #3 which recommends support for opportunities with the Office of Legal Immigration (which is currently in the process of rebranding itself as Office of Global Talent). Link here: <https://www.medialibrary.nd.gov/assetbank-nd/assetfile/143272.pdf>

In January 2025, there were 15,025 open job positions listed on North Dakota Job Service Dashboard - which is an increase of 14.2% compared to December. The reality is there are more than likely around 30,000 available jobs in North Dakota, many of which are not listed on the dashboard - noting that our highest employment sectors are in agriculture, healthcare, and energy.

These industries may utilize foreign-born workers to help address the state's labor shortages. Capitalizing on one of our flagship institutions - the University of North Dakota and the law school. We can provide educational learning opportunities for our law students through training and this immigration law clinic, while filling a need in workforce shortages. But the necessary expertise to help aid in the legal process is scarce. We have less than a handful of immigration attorneys in North Dakota.

About the bill - before you is version 25.1322.03000. This would create and enact a new section to chapter 15-11 of the North Dakota Century Code.

Section 1 - Immigration Law Clinic.

Line 8 - Subsection 1. The university of North Dakota school of law shall employ one full-time staff attorney for the immigration law clinic. The immigration law clinic attorney may not have more than sixty matters open at any one time.

Line 11 - Subsection 2. Legal services may be provided, and legal work may be done remotely, depending on the needs of the client.

Line 13 - Subsection 3. The university of North Dakota law school may charge nominal fees, as needed, to operate the immigration law clinic.

Section 2. Provides the appropriation of \$400,000 to fund the immigration law clinic at the university of North Dakota school of law for the biennium beginning on July 1, 2025, and ending on June 30, 2027.

I will stand for any questions.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee.



Taylor House | School of Law Senator
taylor.house@und.edu | 507.358.4696

House Bill No. 1600
Senate Education Committee
March 18, 2025

Chairman Beard and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Taylor House, and I serve as the School of Law Senator at the University of North Dakota (UND). I am submitting testimony in favor of HB 1600 as amended on February 11, 2025, relating to the establishment of the immigration law clinic at the UND School of Law; however, I echo the testimony submitted by Dean Brian Pappas February 2, 2025.

The objective of HB 1600 will enhance the educational opportunities for students at the school of law, as well as promote access to legal services in the state. For law students, clinical experiences offer a unique opportunity to gain valuable skills in real-world application of legal research, writing, and advocacy in a faculty-supported setting. Much like other fields, immigration law is an intricate practice area, and this opportunity would equip North Dakota's aspiring attorneys with the knowledge and skills necessary to provide immigration-related services. By establishing an immigration law clinic at the School of Law, the University will be able to enrich the curriculum and offerings to students, strengthening the skillset of current students and attracting prospective students interested in immigration law. Moreover, students will gain practical skills through interacting with clients, strengthening their ability to communicate effectively, and explain the legal process with professionalism.

Chairman Beard and members of the Senate Education Committee, I respectfully request a Do Pass recommendation on HB 1600. Thank you for your time, and I am available to answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted,
Taylor House

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee Room JW216, State Capitol

HB 1600
3/31/2025

Relating to the establishment of the immigration law clinic at the university of North Dakota school of law; and to provide an appropriation.

9:39 a.m. Chairman Beard called the hearing to order.

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

Discussion Topics:

- One expert in North Dakota
- Higher education budget
- Require a report each
biennium

9:39 a.m. Chairman Beard opened the committee for discussion.

9:55 a.m. Senator Wobbema will work with the legal intern to work on wording for an amendment.

10:00 a.m. Chairman Beard closed the hearing.

Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee Room JW216, State Capitol

HB 1600
3/31/2025

Relating to the establishment of the immigration law clinic at the university of North Dakota school of law; and to provide an appropriation.

3:27 p.m. Chairman Beard called the hearing to order.

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

Discussion Topics:

- Report requirements
- Report subjects

3:28 p.m. Senator Wobbema updated the committee on possible language for an amendment, led committee in discussion regarding language changes and submitted testimony #44486.

3:42 p.m. Senator Wobbema moved Amendment LC #25.1322.03001.

3:42 p.m. Senator Axtman 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	Y

Motion Passed 6-0-0

3:43 p.m. Chairman Beard closed the hearing.

Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk

March 31, 2025

CO
3/31/25
1042

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1600

Introduced by

Representatives O'Brien, Sanford, Schreiber-Beck

Senators Axtman, Sickler

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15-11 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to the establishment of the immigration law clinic at the university of
3 North Dakota school of law; to provide for a report; and to provide an appropriation.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
6 and enacted as follows:

7 **Immigration law clinic.**

- 8 1. The university of North Dakota school of law shall employ one full-time staff attorney
9 for the immigration law clinic. The immigration law clinic attorney may not have more
10 than sixty matters open at any one time.
11 2. Legal services may be provided and legal work may be done remotely, depending on
12 the needs of the client.
13 3. The university of North Dakota law school may charge nominal fees, as needed, to
14 operate the immigration law clinic.

15 **SECTION 2. UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL OF LAW - IMMIGRATION LAW**
16 **CLINIC - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.** The university of North Dakota school of
17 law shall prepare a report on the status of the immigration law clinic, including the impact of the
18 operation of the immigration law clinic on the school of law, the sustainability of the clinic based
19 on fee collection, the number of law students interested in participating in the clinic, the number
20 of law students participating in the clinic, and the student's hours of involvement. The report

1 also must include the number of businesses, employers, and individuals seeking legal services,
2 the location of the individuals or entities seeking services, and the scope of work requested. The
3 report also must identify any obstacles encountered in developing the clinic, potential future
4 challenges for the clinic, a detailed plan to meet these challenges, and any legislation
5 necessary to support the recommendations for the clinic's successful operation. The university
6 of North Dakota school of law shall present the report to the seventieth and seventy-first
7 legislative assemblies.

8 **SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET -**

9 **IMMIGRATION LAW CLINIC.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in
10 the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$400,000, or so much of the sum as
11 may be necessary, to the office of management and budget for the purpose of providing a grant
12 to the university of North Dakota to fund an immigration law clinic at the university of North
13 Dakota school of law, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

HB 1600
3-31-25 P.M.

Including, but not limited to...

- Expected goals and impacts on and for the UND School of Law in creating this clinic
- Based on historical effort to date, and considering identified obstacles to future success, detail plan for implementation that achieve desired effect
- Sustainability of the clinic operation based on the fees collected
- Number of law students participating and interested in participating
- Statistics of hours committed to the clinic per student/participation
- Number of businesses, employers, and individuals seeking legal services and scope of work desired from the clinic and location of business, employer, or individual
- I identify obstacles encountered in developing program. Identify program obstacles to future success
- Present any legislation necessary to implement recommendations
- Present reports to the seventieth and seventy-first legislative assembly.

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee Room JW216, State Capitol

HB 1600
4/1/2025

Relating to the establishment of the immigration law clinic at the university of North Dakota school of law; and to provide an appropriation.

10:49 a.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

10:55 a.m. Senator Boschee moved Do Pass as previously amended, LC# 25.1322.03001, and rerefer to Appropriations.

10:55 a.m. Senator Wobbema seconded the motion.

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

Motion Passed 4-1-1

Senator Wobbema will carry the bill.

10:57 a.m. Chairman Beard closed the hearing.

Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
ENGROSSED AND AMENDED HB 1600**

Education Committee (Sen. Beard, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.1322.03001](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (4 YEAS, 1 NAY, 1 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HB 1600, as amended, was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

2025 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1600

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Education and Environment Division Sakakawea Room, State Capitol

HB 1600
4/7/2025

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15-11 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the establishment of the immigration law clinic at the university of North Dakota school of law; to provide for a report; and to provide an appropriation.

10:03 a.m. Chairman Sorvaag called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Ronald Sorvaag, Senator Cole Conley, Senator Donald Schaible, Senator Paul J. Thomas, Senator Scott Meyer.

Discussion Topics:

- One-Time Funding.
- Shortage of Domestic Workforce.

10:04 a.m. Representative O'Brien, District 42, introduced the bill in favor and answered committee questions.

10:10 a.m. Senator Thomas moved a Do Pass.

10:10 a.m. Senator Meyer Seconded.

10:11 a.m. Senator Thomas withdrew motion of a Do Pass.

10:12 a.m. Chairman Sorvaag closed the meeting.

Steven Hall, Committee Clerk

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Education and Environment Division Sakakawea Room, State Capitol

HB 1600
4/7/2025

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15-11 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the establishment of the immigration law clinic at the university of North Dakota school of law; to provide for a report; and to provide an appropriation.

3:13 p.m. Chairman Sorvaag called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Ronald Sorvaag, Senator Cole Conley, Senator Donald Schaible, Senator Paul J. Thomas, Senator Scott Meyer.

Discussion Topics:

- Stripper-wells and Related Issues Regarding Funding.
- Line of Credit.

3:01 p.m. Chairman Sorvaag explained sections of the bill.

3:14 p.m. Senator Thomas moved to adopt the amendment LC# 25.1322.03003 to change language to one-time funding to be sourced from strategic investment fund and submitted testimony in neutral #44755.

3:14 p.m. Senator Meyer seconded.

Senators	Vote
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Cole Conley	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Paul J. Thomas	Y

Motion Passed:5-0-0.

3:14 p.m. Senator Thomas moved a Do Pass as amended.

3:15 p.m. Senator Meyer seconded.

Senators	Vote
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Cole Conley	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Paul J. Thomas	Y

Motion Passed: 5-0-0.

Senator Meyer will carry the bill.

3:15 p.m. Chairman Sorvaag closed the meeting.

Steven Hall, Committee Clerk

25.1322.03003
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council
staff for Senator Sorvaag
April 7, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO FIRST ENGROSSMENT

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1600

Introduced by

Representatives O'Brien, Sanford, Schreiber-Beck

Senators Axtman, Sickler

In place of the amendments (25.1322.03001) adopted by the Senate, House Bill No. 1600 is amended by amendment (25.1322.03003) as follows:

- 1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15-11 of the North Dakota
- 2 Century Code, relating to the establishment of the immigration law clinic at the university of
- 3 North Dakota school of law; to provide for a report; and to provide an appropriation.

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

- 5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
- 6 and enacted as follows:

7 **Immigration law clinic.**

- 8 1. The university of North Dakota school of law shall employ one full-time staff attorney
- 9 for the immigration law clinic. The immigration law clinic attorney may not have more
- 10 than sixty matters open at any one time.
- 11 2. Legal services may be provided and legal work may be done remotely, depending on
- 12 the needs of the client.
- 13 3. The university of North Dakota law school may charge nominal fees, as needed, to
- 14 operate the immigration law clinic.

- 15 **SECTION 2. UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL OF LAW - IMMIGRATION LAW**
- 16 **CLINIC - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.** The university of North Dakota school of
- 17 law shall prepare a report on the status of the immigration law clinic, including the impact of the
- 18 operation of the immigration law clinic on the school of law, the sustainability of the clinic based
- 19 on fee collections, the number of law students interested in participating in the clinic, the
- 20 number of law students participating in the clinic, and the number of student hours of

1 involvement. The report must also include the number of businesses, employers, and
2 individuals seeking legal services, the location of the individuals or entities seeking services,
3 and the scope of work requested. The report must also identify any obstacles encountered in
4 developing the clinic, potential future challenges for the clinic, a detailed plan to meet these
5 challenges, and any legislation necessary to support the recommendations for the clinic's
6 successful operation. The university of North Dakota school of law shall present the report to
7 the seventieth legislative assembly.

8 **SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS**

9 **FUND - OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET - IMMIGRATION LAW CLINIC -**

10 **ONE-TIME FUNDING.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the ~~general~~strategic
11 investment and improvements fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of
12 \$400,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the office of management and
13 budget for the purpose of providing a grant to the university of North Dakota to fund an
14 immigration law clinic at the university of North Dakota school of law, for the biennium beginning
15 July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The appropriation provided in this section is
16 considered a one-time funding item.

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Harvest Room, State Capitol

HB 1600
4/9/2025

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15-11 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the establishment of the immigration law clinic at the university of North Dakota school of law; to provide for a report; and to provide an appropriation.

8:55 a.m. Chairman Bekkedahl opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Bekkedahl, Vice-Chairman Erbele, and Senators Burckhard, Cleary, Conley, Davison, Dever, Dwyer, Magrum, Mathern, Meyer, Schaible, Sickler, Sorvaag, Thomas, Wanzek.

Discussion Topics:

- One-Time Funding Change
- Reporting Language
- Dept. of Commerce Office of Global Talent

8:56 a.m. Senator Meyer introduced the bill and submitted testimony #44833.

8:57 a.m. Senator Meyer moved amendment LC 25.1322.03003.

8:57 a.m. Senator Mathern seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	Y
Senator Cole Conley	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Jeffery J. Magrum	N
Senator Tim Mathern	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Jonathan Sickler	Y
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Paul J. Thomas	Y
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y

Motion Passed 15-1-0.

8:58 a.m. Senator Meyer moved a Do Pass as Amended.

8:58 a.m. Senator Thomas seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	Y
Senator Cole Conley	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Jeffery J. Magrum	N
Senator Tim Mathern	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Jonathan Sickler	Y
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Paul J. Thomas	Y
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y

Motion Passed 15-1-0.

Senator Wobbema will carry the bill.

9:03 a.m. Chairman Bekkedahl closed the hearing.

Elizabeth Reiten, Committee Clerk

25.1322.03003
Title.05000
Fiscal No. 1

Prepared by the Legislative Council
staff for Senator Sorvaag

April 7, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

CO
7/9/25
1043

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1600

Introduced by

Representatives O'Brien, Sanford, Schreiber-Beck

Senators Axtman, Sickler

In place of the amendments (25.1322.03001) adopted by the Senate, Engrossed House Bill No. 1600 is amended by amendment (25.1322.03003) as follows:

- 1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15-11 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to the establishment of the immigration law clinic at the university of
3 North Dakota school of law; to provide for a report; and to provide an appropriation.

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12 the needs of the client.
13 3. The university of North Dakota law school may charge nominal fees, as needed, to
14 operate the immigration law clinic.

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18 operation of the immigration law clinic on the school of law, the sustainability of the clinic based
19 on fee collections, the number of law students interested in participating in the clinic, the

1 number of law students participating in the clinic, and the number of student hours of
2 involvement. The report must also include the number of businesses, employers, and
3 individuals seeking legal services, the location of the individuals or entities seeking services,
4 and the scope of work requested. The report must also identify any obstacles encountered in
5 developing the clinic, potential future challenges for the clinic, a detailed plan to meet these
6 challenges, and any legislation necessary to support the recommendations for the clinic's
7 successful operation. The university of North Dakota school of law shall present the report to
8 the seventieth legislative assembly.

9 **SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS**

10 **FUND - OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET - IMMIGRATION LAW CLINIC -**

11 **ONE-TIME FUNDING.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the ~~general~~strategic
12 investment and improvements fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of
13 \$400,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the office of management and
14 budget for the purpose of providing a grant to the university of North Dakota to fund an
15 immigration law clinic at the university of North Dakota school of law, for the biennium beginning
16 July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The appropriation provided in this section is
17 considered a one-time funding item.

3043

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:**House Bill No. 1600 - Office of Management and Budget - Senate Action**

	Base Budget	House Version	Senate Changes	Senate Version
Immigration law clinic		\$400,000		\$400,000
Total all funds	\$0	\$400,000	\$0	\$400,000
Less estimated income	0	0	400,000	400,000
General fund	\$0	\$400,000	(\$400,000)	\$0
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Department 110 - Office of Management and Budget - Detail of Senate Changes

	Adjusts the Source of Funding for the Immigration Law Clinic ¹	Total Senate Changes
Immigration law clinic		
Total all funds	\$0	\$0
Less estimated income	400,000	400,000
General fund	(\$400,000)	(\$400,000)
FTE	0.00	0.00

¹ Funding is adjusted by the Senate to provide \$400,000 of one-time funding from the strategic investment and improvements fund for a grant for an immigration law clinic at the University of North Dakota School of Law. The House provided ongoing funding of \$400,000 from the general fund for the immigration law clinic grant.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
ENGROSSED AND AMENDED HB 1600**

Appropriations Committee (Sen. Bekkedahl, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.1322.03003](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (15 YEAS, 1 NAY, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HB 1600, as amended, was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

4-8-25

25.1322.03003
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council
staff for Senator Sorvaag
April 7, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO FIRST ENGROSSMENT

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1600

Introduced by

Representatives O'Brien, Sanford, Schreiber-Beck

Senators Axtman, Sickler

In place of the amendments (25.1322.03001) adopted by the Senate, House Bill No. 1600 is amended by amendment (25.1322.03003) as follows:

- 1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15-11 of the North Dakota
- 2 Century Code, relating to the establishment of the immigration law clinic at the university of
- 3 North Dakota school of law; to provide for a report. and to provide an appropriation.

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

- 5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
- 6 and enacted as follows:

7 **Immigration law clinic.**

- 8 1. The university of North Dakota school of law shall employ one full-time staff attorney
- 9 for the immigration law clinic. The immigration law clinic attorney may not have more
- 10 than sixty matters open at any one time.
- 11 2. Legal services may be provided and legal work may be done remotely, depending on
- 12 the needs of the client.
- 13 3. The university of North Dakota law school may charge nominal fees, as needed, to
- 14 operate the immigration law clinic.

- 15 **SECTION 2. UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL OF LAW - IMMIGRATION LAW**
- 16 **CLINIC - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.** The university of North Dakota school of
- 17 law shall prepare a report on the status of the immigration law clinic, including the impact of the
- 18 operation of the immigration law clinic on the school of law, the sustainability of the clinic based
- 19 on fee collections, the number of law students interested in participating in the clinic, the
- 20 number of law students participating in the clinic, and the number of student hours of

1 involvement. The report must also include the number of businesses, employers, and
2 individuals seeking legal services, the location of the individuals or entities seeking services,
3 and the scope of work requested. The report must also identify any obstacles encountered in
4 developing the clinic, potential future challenges for the clinic, a detailed plan to meet these
5 challenges, and any legislation necessary to support the recommendations for the clinic's
6 successful operation. The university of North Dakota school of law shall present the report to
7 the seventieth legislative assembly.

8 **SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS**

9 **FUND - OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET - IMMIGRATION LAW CLINIC -**

10 **ONE-TIME FUNDING**. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the generalstrategic
11 investment and improvements fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of
12 \$400,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the office of management and
13 budget for the purpose of providing a grant to the university of North Dakota to fund an
14 immigration law clinic at the university of North Dakota school of law, for the biennium beginning
15 July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The appropriation provided in this section is
16 considered a one-time funding item.