

**2025 SENATE EDUCATION**

**SB 2275**

# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Education Committee**  
Room JW216, State Capitol

SB 2275  
1/28/2025

Relating to a pilot program to provide stipends for kindergarten through grade three teachers who teach students a foreign language; and to provide an appropriation.
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9:30 a.m. Chairman Beard called the hearing to order.

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

## **Discussion Topics:**

- Foreign language pilot program
- Teacher stipends
- Proposed amendment

9:30 a.m. Senator Luick testified in favor.

9:36 a.m. Ann Ellefson, Director of Academic Support ND Department of Public Instruction, testified neutral.

9:49 a.m. Chairman Beard closed the hearing.

9:50 a.m. Committee discussion

## **Additional written testimony:**

Nick Archuleta, President ND United, submitted testimony #31939 in favor.

10:01 a.m. Chairman Beard recessed the meeting.

*Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk*



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*Great Public Schools**Great Public Service*

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**Testimony Before the Senate Education Committee  
SB 2275  
January 28, 2025**

Chair Beard and members of the Committee, my name is Nick Archuleta, and I am the president of ND United. and I am writing to you today in support of SB 2275, and to urge a ***do pass*** recommendation for this proposed legislation.

It is no surprise that we are living in an increasingly intertwined world. Ongoing technological advances have managed to shrink our world, allowing for innumerable cultural and academic interactions around the globe. There is no greater cultural touchstone than language and the acquisition of language skills is more important than ever. Those who teach world languages know that the younger the learner, the more inclined they are to learn a foreign language because the part of the brain that enables language acquisition is wide open. Kids want to communicate, regardless of the target language.

HB 2275 provides a welcome incentive for teachers to teach a foreign or world language. If the pilot program is successful, we will be instilling young learners with an unbelievably valuable skill that will serve them well throughout their academic career and beyond. Chair Beard and members of the Committee, please give SB 2275 a ***do pass*** recommendation.

Mil gracias.

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Room JW216, State Capitol

SB 2275  
1/28/2025

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3:05 p.m. Chairman Beard called the hearing to order.

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

**Discussion Topics:**

- Foreign language pilot program

3:05 p.m. Senator Gerhardt introduced proposed amendment testimony #32630.

3:18 p.m. Chairman Beard adjourned the meeting.

*Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk*

**SB 2275 Suggestions for Amendment January 29, 2025 Senator Gerhardt**

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15.1-21 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to a pilot program to provide grants to schools that provide instruction in a foreign language to students in kindergarten through grade three; and to provide an appropriation.

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

5       **SECTION 1. A new section to chapter 15.1-21 of the North Dakota Century Code is created**  
6 and enacted as follows:

7       Curriculum - Kindergarten through grade three - Foreign language - Pilot program.  
8       Beginning with the 2025 - 26 school year and continuing through the 2026 - 27 school year,  
9       the superintendent of public instruction shall establish and operate a pilot program to provide  
10       annual grants to schools that provide instruction in a foreign language to students  
11       in kindergarten through grade three  
12       . Grants awarded under the program may be used for program costs,  
13       materials, or stipends. Grants awarded under this program may not exceed two thousand five  
14       hundred dollars per school per year. The superintendent shall develop the requirements  
15       and procedures for a school to participate in the program.

16       **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION - FOREIGN**  
17       **LANGUAGE TEACHER STIPENDS.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general  
18       fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$49,500, or so much of  
19       the sum as may be necessary, to the department of public instruction, for the purpose of  
20       creating a pilot program to provide grants to schools that provide instruction in a  
21       foreign language to students in kindergarten through grade three  
22       , for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30,  
23       2027.

# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Education Committee Room JW216, State Capitol

SB 2275  
1/29/2025

Relating to a pilot program to provide stipends for kindergarten through grade three teachers who teach students a foreign language; and to provide an appropriation.

10:42 a.m. Chairman Beard called the hearing to order.

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

### Discussion Topics:

- Committee Action

10:42 a.m. Committee discussion on amendment regarding grants to school.

10:52 a.m. Senator Axtman moved to adopt amendment LC #25.0702.01001.

10:52 a.m. Senator Wobbema 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

11:00 a.m. Chairman Beard closed the meeting.

*Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk*

January 29, 2025

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2275**

Introduced by

Senators Luick, Bekkedahl, Davison, Lemm

Representative Fisher

*JB*  
*1-29-25*  
*1062*

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15.1-21 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to a pilot program to provide ~~stipends for~~ grants to schools that provide  
3 instruction in a foreign language to students in kindergarten through grade three ~~teachers who~~  
4 ~~teach students a foreign language~~; and to provide an appropriation.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15.1-21 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
7 and enacted as follows:

8 **Curriculum - Kindergarten through grade three - Foreign language - Pilot program.**

9 Beginning with the 2025-26 school year and continuing through the 2026-27 school year,  
10 the superintendent of public instruction shall establish and operate a pilot program to provide  
11 annual ~~stipends~~ grants to schools that provide instruction in a foreign language to students in  
12 kindergarten through grade three ~~teachers who provide students instruction in a foreign~~  
13 language. ~~Stipends~~ Grants awarded under the program may be used for program costs,  
14 materials, or stipends. Grants awarded under this program may not exceed two thousand five  
15 hundred dollars per ~~teacher~~ school per year. The superintendent shall develop the requirements  
16 and procedures for a ~~teacher~~ school to participate in the program.

17 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION - FOREIGN**  
18 **LANGUAGE TEACHER STIPENDS.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general  
19 fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of ~~\$25,000~~ \$49,500, or so much  
20 of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of public instruction, for the purpose of

- 1 creating a pilot program to provide ~~stipends for~~ grants to schools that provide instruction in a
- 2 foreign language to students in kindergarten through grade three ~~teachers who teach students a~~
- 3 ~~foreign language~~, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.



# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Education Committee**  
Room JW216, State Capitol

SB 2275  
1/29/2025

Relating to a pilot program to provide stipends for kindergarten through grade three teachers who teach students a foreign language; and to provide an appropriation.

2:43 p.m. Chairman Beard called the hearing to order.

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

## **Discussion Topics:**

- Pilot Program for grants
- Committee Action

2:46 p.m. Senator Axtman moved a Do Pass as Amended with LC # 25.0702.01001.

2:46 p.m. Senator Gerhardt seconded the motion.

<b>Senators</b>	<b>Vote</b>
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

Senator Gerhardt will carry the bill.

2:47 p.m. Chairman Beard closed the meeting.

*Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
SB 2275**

**Education Committee (Sen. Beard, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0702.01001](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2275 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

**2025 HOUSE EDUCATION**

**SB 2275**

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Education Committee Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

SB 2275  
3/10/2025

Relating to a pilot program to provide grants to schools that provide instruction in a foreign language to students in kindergarten through grade three; 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:

- Foreign languages
- Teacher requirements

11:00 a.m. Senator Luick introduced the bill.

11:07 a.m. Chairman Heinert closed the hearing.

11:07 a.m. Representative Morton moved a Do Pass.

11:07 a.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	N
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: 13-1-0

Bill carrier: Representative Jonas

11:07 a.m. Chairman Heinert closed the hearing.

*Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
ENGROSSED SB 2275 ([25.0702.02000](#))**

**Education Committee (Rep. Heinert, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 1 NAY, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2275 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.