

2011 SENATE EDUCATION

SB 2056

2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Education Committee
Missouri River Room, State Capitol

SB 2056
January 5, 2011
12577

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to an electronic portfolio pilot program and a student opportunity website; relating to the new jobs training program, workforce training program, and operation intern program; and to declare an emergency.

Minutes:

See "attached testimony."

Chairman Senator Freborg opened testimony on SB 2056; fiscal note attached.

Jennifer Clark, Legislative Council, introduced the bill and explained each section. Sections 1 & 2 addresses community colleges as primary responsibility for workforce training (Train ND program and New Jobs Training), include them in the definition of "community" for funding sources. Section 3 addresses internships and funding levels. Section 4 creates a pilot program for an e-folio system; and Section 5 creates a student opportunity website. Also includes an emergency clause.

Train ND in Sections 1 & 2; body of law is new jobs training law, new Social Security title administered by Job Service. Section 1 says that two year community colleges are considered a community under new jobs training program; allows them to help facilitate new training activities. They are reimbursed for time and energy; and can be used as a funding source for them, as well as furthering workforce training activities.

Section 2 amends law relating to Train N D program, and is complementary to Section 1 by clarifying they have authority to work under the new program and help facilitate those agreements. Also directs that state funds for this program need to be used for business and customized training activities.

Section 3 Operation Intern program that is administered by the Department of Commerce; changes made last session relating to who is qualified to receive funding (which employers are qualified). Made a requirement that said they had to be creating a new intern program or be expanding a program. This section overstrikes that language and reverts to where it was previously.

Section 4 creates an e-folio pilot program; it would be administered by the Department of Commerce, Division of Workforce Development. Subsections 1 & 3 outlines others that are

cooperating to do this—university system, Job Service, institutions of higher ed, working to put a pilot program together. No expiration date. Subsection 2 outlines the goals of the program.

Section 5 would create a student opportunity website; recommendation of the North Dakota Youth Council. Website that would allow students to access information about all colleges, internships, grants, scholarships, etc. Intends for a single website that students can use to access all of this information. Section 6 is an emergency clause; effective upon passage.

Senator Flakoll questioned the need for an emergency clause.

Jennifer Clark stated her recollection that it pertained to the Operation Intern program that it would be helpful if that law were changed immediately.

Senator Heckaman asked which institutions would benefit from pilot program. Has criteria been set for that or not yet determined? Is it more for 2 year schools or could it be for 4 year schools.

Jennifer Clark stated it has not been determined which institutions it would be open for. It was not limited to 2 year schools; a special connection to technical programs but not anticipated to be limited to that to her knowledge. The breadth of services offered under the e-folio program would vary greatly depending on how they appropriate for that; could contract for a large range of services under an electronic folio program. That would also dictate what was offered.

Representative Heilman, District 45 and North Dakota Youth Council member testified in support of SB 2056 (testimony #1). Testimony was in support of Section 5 of the bill (student website). Would be nice to have a "one-stop shop" for students/parents to access all information in one place.

Representative Beadle, District 27 and North Dakota Youth Council member testified in support of SB 2056, Section 5. Students need a good simple information source.

Dale Niezwaag, Sr. Legislative Representative, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. and FTCND testified in support of SB 2056, specifically Sections 3 & 4. (see testimony #2)

No testimony in opposition to SB 2056.

Senator Flakoll requested that someone from the Department of Commerce explain the Fiscal Note.

Beth Zander, Director of Workforce Development Division, Department of Commerce, answered the Fiscal Note questions.

Fiscal Note is prepared for Sections 3 & 4. The first piece regards the e-folio system, based on the term pilot. Run as a pilot, not statewide due to cost. Contacted one provider, AvNet, and they indicated that a statewide pilot would run about \$1 million. They said to run it in one quadrant of the state and the system cost would be about 1/3 of what he

estimated. Also built in a ½ time FTE to assist with things that have to happen in determining a system, and help put everything into place to make this work. Includes some promotion and training costs.

The Youth Opportunities website includes a FTE employee that would assist with purchase of needed items, working with all entities that need to participate, train, troubleshoot, and make sure system is operational and fully used. Would like to see it used by students, parents, employers with internships, the colleges. Build or modify a current site that would be appealing and well used.

Senator Gary Lee stated he doesn't believe there is an end date in terms of its expiration. Would the cost of the ongoing cost to keep the program up be included in the Fiscal Note?

Beth Zander stated that the cost was based on a biennium but did build the costs forward into subsequent biennium as well. Did so based on the small pilot costs; can determine full costs if needed.

Senator Gary Lee asked if the parts stricken from Section 3 affect the fiscal note.

Beth Zander stated that it does not.

Senator Flakoll \$100,000 set aside for website development; any cutting back in other areas by consolidating websites into one source.

Beth Zander If a suitable front end is found, may reduce costs; however, the back end functionality that is going to take expense.

Senator Flakoll upcoming biennium there appears to be a reduction of \$35,000; shouldn't the costs be dramatically reduced in years 3 & 4 after the website is developed. Wouldn't it be more in the maintenance mode.

Beth Zander the data they compiled shows reduced costs of about \$100,000 after the second year. \$100,000 for website development in coming biennium, \$50,000 for subsequent biennium. Promotion and training would drop by \$40,000.

Senator Flakoll part of costs would be vendor costs for 18 months in the first biennium and 24 months in the 2013-2015 biennium.

Beth Zander stated that she thinks there is confusion between the website and e-folio. The e-folio is at 18 mths. Yes, the increase between bienniums is due to going a full 24 months, rather than 18.

Senator Heckaman--the first page of the fiscal note on paragraph 2, section 5, states one FT temporary employee; questioned how long they anticipate the position lasting. Why is it listed that way when the job would be on-going maintenance, promotion, etc.

Beth Zander stated that is an error; if this gets a Do Pass it will have to be dealt with. It was intended to be one FTE permanent position, but there was an error in translation.

2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Education Committee
Missouri River Room, State Capitol

Committee Work - SB 2056
January 12, 2011
12822

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Teresa Jorgenson

Minutes:

No testimony attached

Senator Flakoll presented an oral amendment to remove Section 5 of SB 2056 relating to a student opportunity website due to the costs involved in implementing. \$100,000 for website development, \$50,000 for maintenance, \$75,000 for promotional and training seems a little excessive. Move to delete Section 5 to SB 2056 and renumber accordingly; second by **Senator Heckaman**.

Senator Freborg: We will refer to this as the Flakoll amendment since there is no number available.

Discussion on motion:

Senator G. Lee: How much would this reduce the fiscal note by? The third paragraph on the second page; the student opportunities website would cost \$280,000?

Senator Flakoll: It would be my understanding that would take that full \$280,384 out of the fiscal note by removing Section 5.

No further discussion on the amendment; motion carried; 7 - 0.

Senator Flakoll: Motion for a DO PASS, as amended to SB 2056, and rerefer to Appropriations; second by **Senator Marcellais**. No discussion on the motion; motion carried 7 - 0. Carried by **Senator Flakoll**.

FISCAL NOTE
 Requested by Legislative Council
 03/30/2011

Amendment to: Engrossed
 SB 2056

1A. **State fiscal effect:** *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2009-2011 Biennium		2011-2013 Biennium		2013-2015 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Appropriations	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

1B. **County, city, and school district fiscal effect:** *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

2009-2011 Biennium			2011-2013 Biennium			2013-2015 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

2A. **Bill and fiscal impact summary:** *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

As amended by the House, Engrossed Senate Bill No. 2056 amends the new jobs training program to allow participation by the workforce training system and removes restrictions on Operation Intern. It does not have any fiscal impact.

B. **Fiscal impact sections:** *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

None.

3. **State fiscal effect detail:** *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

A. **Revenues:** *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

None.

B. **Expenditures:** *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

None.

C. **Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation is also included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

None.

Name:	Justin Dever	Agency:	Department of Commerce
Phone Number:	328-7258	Date Prepared:	03/30/2011

FISCAL NOTE

Requested by Legislative Council
01/18/2011

Amendment to: SB 2056

1A. State fiscal effect: *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2009-2011 Biennium		2011-2013 Biennium		2013-2015 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues						
Expenditures			\$286,959		\$336,159	
Appropriations						

1B. County, city, and school district fiscal effect: *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

2009-2011 Biennium			2011-2013 Biennium			2013-2015 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts

2A. Bill and fiscal impact summary: *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

This bill amends the new jobs training program to allow participation by the workforce training system; removes restrictions on Operation Intern; and establishes a pilot higher education electronic portfolio system.

B. Fiscal impact sections: *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

Section four is projected to have a fiscal impact.

Section four establishes a pilot program for a higher education electronic portfolio system to be administered by the Department of Commerce. Under this program, select public higher education institutions will implement an electronic portfolio system that meets certain criteria laid out in the bill. The projected fiscal impact includes the purchase of an off the shelf portfolio license, hosting, maintenance and related expenses. Vendor costs assume 18 months for the 2011-13 biennium, due to initial start up. Expenditures for the 2013-15 biennium are based on continuation of the pilot at the same volume for a full 24 months. This fiscal impact also includes funding for a half time temporary project coordinator/trainer, as well as outreach and promotional costs.

3. State fiscal effect detail: *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

A. Revenues: *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

None.

B. Expenditures: *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

We anticipate that the pilot electronic portfolio system would cost \$286,959 during the 2011-13 biennium. This is comprised of \$66,667 for the software's license fee; \$36,000 for hosting costs; \$51,600 for customer services; \$60,000 for software maintenance; \$20,000 for promotional expenses; and \$52,692 for a half time temporary employee.

C. Appropriations: *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency*

and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation is also included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.

No appropriations were included in this bill nor were they included the executive budget.

Name:	Justin Dever	Agency:	Department of Commerce
Phone Number:	701-328-7258	Date Prepared:	01/19/2011

FISCAL NOTE

Requested by Legislative Council
12/16/2010

Bill/Resolution No.: SB 2056

1A. State fiscal effect: *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2009-2011 Biennium		2011-2013 Biennium		2013-2015 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues						
Expenditures			\$584,563		\$549,032	
Appropriations						

1B. County, city, and school district fiscal effect: *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

2009-2011 Biennium			2011-2013 Biennium			2013-2015 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts

2A. Bill and fiscal impact summary: *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

This bill amends the new jobs training program to allow participation by the workforce training system; removes restrictions on Operation Intern; establishes a pilot higher education electronic portfolio system; and creates a student opportunity website.

B. Fiscal impact sections: *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

Sections four and five are projected to have a fiscal impact.

Section four establishes a pilot program for a higher education electronic portfolio system to be administered by the Department of Commerce. Under this program, select public higher education institutions will implement an electronic portfolio system that meets certain criteria laid out in the bill. The projected fiscal impact includes the purchase of an off the shelf portfolio license, hosting, maintenance and related expenses. Vendor costs assume 18 months for the 2011-13 biennium, due to initial start up. Expenditures for the 2013-15 biennium are based on continuation of the pilot at the same volume for a full 24 months. This fiscal impact also includes funding for a half time temporary project coordinator/trainer, as well as outreach and promotional costs.

Section five directs the Department of Commerce to create a student opportunity website to provide a single portal for students to search for internship and scholarship opportunities within North Dakota's public institutions of higher education. The projected fiscal impact includes costs for website development and related maintenance costs. It includes 1 full-time temporary employee for development, maintenance, ongoing promotion, technical assistance and support to students, educators, parents and employers, and daily site maintenance. It also includes promotion and training costs. Expenditures for the 2013-15 biennium include reduced development and promotion/training costs.

3. State fiscal effect detail: *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

A. Revenues: *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

None.

B. Expenditures: *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

We anticipate that the pilot electronic portfolio system would cost \$304,179 during the 2011-13 biennium. This is comprised of \$66,667 for the software's license fee; \$36,000 for hosting costs; \$51,600 for customer services; \$60,000 for software maintenance; \$20,000 for promotional expenses; and \$69,912 for a half time temporary employee.

We anticipate that the student opportunities website would cost \$280,384 during the 2011-13 biennium. This is comprised of \$105,384 for a full-time temporary employee; \$100,000 for website development and maintenance; and \$75,000 for promotional and training expenses. Promotional and training activities include onsite technical assistance and promoting product usage; facilitating pilot development; implementation and modification discussions; and student promotion.

C. Appropriations: *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation is also included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

No appropriations were included in this bill nor were they included the executive budget.

Name:	Justin Dever	Agency:	Department of Commerce
Phone Number:	328-7258	Date Prepared:	01/03/2011

January 13, 2011

JB
1-13-11

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2056

Page 1, line 1, replace "two" with "a"

Page 1, line 1, replace "sections" with "section"

Page 1, line 2, remove "and a student opportunity"

Page 1, line 3, remove "website"

Page 3, remove lines 21 through 31

Page 4, remove lines 1 through 7

Renumber accordingly

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2056: Education Committee (Sen. Freborg, Chairman) recommends AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (7 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2056 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 1, replace "two" with "a"

Page 1, line 1, replace "sections" with "section"

Page 1, line 2, remove "and a student opportunity"

Page 1, line 3, remove "website"

Page 3, remove lines 21 through 31

Page 4, remove lines 1 through 7

Renumber accordingly



2011 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2056

2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Appropriations Committee
Harvest Room, State Capitol

SB 2056
January 24, 2011
Job # 13252

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature *Alice DeBeyer*

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL relating to an electronic portfolio pilot program relating to the new jobs training program, workforce training program and operation intern program

Minutes:

See attached testimony.

V. Chair Bowman called the committee to order on SB 2056 at 10:30 am on 01-24-11. All committee members were present except Chairman Holmberg. Sheila M. Sandness, Legislative Council and Joe Morrissette, OMB were also present.

Senator Tony Grindberg, District 41, Fargo: Testified in support of Senate Bill 2056 and explained the different sections of the bill to the committee. He stated Section 5 had been amended out of the Bill and that is the reason for the two fiscal notes on the Bill. Section 4 would be explained further by Eric Johnson, a software business man from Minneapolis, who will be giving his testimony concerning eFolioND System, by a conference call during this hearing. Senator Grindberg concluded his testimony by stating he can't think of a more powerful list or impact on any given year, any given time, the number of graduates and what their levels of education and experience are and match it up against the workforce and then making decisions appropriately. (Meter 7.58)

Eric Johnson, CEO of Avenett LLC testified by conference telephone in favor of SB 2056 and provided Testimony attached #1 (Meter 19.34).

Senator Krebsbach: How does your program tie in with Job Service of ND and the services they provide?

Eric Johnson: He stated it ties in in a number of ways. Traditionally job service programs have primarily served populations that have a lower level of education. This system is designed for individuals with a lower level of education but also to bring in individuals with high level of education, the knowledge workers of tomorrow. Typically those knowledge workers are not part of job systems or state workforce systems.

V. Chair Bowman asked for anyone who wants to testify in support of the Bill or if there is any opposition to the Bill. There was no further testimony. The hearing on SB 2056 was closed.

2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Appropriations Committee
Harvest Room, State Capitol

SB 2056
February 18, 2011
Job # 14729 (Meter starting at 34:34)

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A committee vote on SB 2056 which is an electronic portfolio pilot program relating to the new jobs training program, workforce training program and operation intern program.

Minutes:

You may make reference to "attached testimony."

Chairman Holmberg opened the committee hearing on SB 2056.

Senator Grindberg said this bill is a product of the interim workforce committee. One of the main points of the establishment of an e-portfolio higher education electronic portfolio system is to provide students with career assessment and lifelong inventory of their skills and educational attainment. That pilot would cost approx. \$286,000 with the fiscal note dated January 18, 2011. There is no funding in this bill.

Section 1 & 2 provide for that addition for four two-year institutions to participate. Typically the economic development units provide that service. So this brings the training closer to the opportunity as well.

Senator Grindberg moved Do Pass.

Senator Robinson seconded.

A Roll Call vote was taken. Yea: 11 Nay: 2 Absent: 0

Senator Grindberg will carry the bill.

Date: 2-18-11
Roll Call Vote # 1

2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2056

Senate Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Adopt Amendment
 Rerefer to Appropriations Reconsider

Motion Made By Grindberg Seconded By Robinson

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chairman Holmberg	✓		Senator Warner	✓	
Senator Bowman		✓	Senator O'Connell	✓	
Senator Grindberg	✓		Senator Robinson	✓	
Senator Christmann		✓			
Senator Wardner	✓				
Senator Kilzer	✓				
Senator Fischer	✓				
Senator Krebsbach	✓				
Senator Erbele	✓				
Senator Wanzek	✓				

Total (Yes) 11 No 2

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Grindberg

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2056, as engrossed: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Holmberg, Chairman)
recommends **DO PASS** (11 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
Engrossed SB 2056 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

Testimony to the ND Senate

Committee on Appropriations

Re: Senate Bill 2056

Eric Johnson, CEO, Avenet LLC

January 14, 2011

Chairman Holmberg and Members of the Committee,

I am Eric Johnson, CEO of Avenet LLC, and I thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Senator Tony Grindberg requested that I testify and provide the committee background information on the electronic portfolio initiative proposed in Senate Bill No. 2056. The bill was introduced by the Workforce Committee and relates to the Department of Commerce, workforce development, economic development and higher education.

By way of background, I'm a North Dakota native, NDSU graduate and currently the CEO of Avenet LLC, a Web solutions company based in Minneapolis. While our headquarters are in Minneapolis, I want to note that Avenet's leadership team includes several North Dakota natives with strong ties to our home state, and that we have had several employees and contractors based in North Dakota for over 10 years.

Avenet developed and deployed the award-winning electronic portfolio system (www.efoliomn.com) for the Minnesota State College and University system (MnSCU). Designed to help the state's students and workers advance their education and careers, eFolioMinnesota was the nation's first statewide electronic portfolio system. The system is used by K-12 and higher education schools across Minnesota, including both MnSCU and the University of Minnesota, and has won two national awards for technology innovation.

Avenet also developed and deployed eFolioPA (www.efolioPA.com), an initiative sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry. This is the first state-wide initiative in the US designed to leverage electronic portfolio technology to create a stronger, seamless bridge between higher education and workforce/economic development systems. Although still in its early stages, eFolioPA has been featured as one of two innovative workforce initiatives in a symposium sponsored by Stanford University and a higher education technology consortium in the UK.

Our company is currently working on deploying our eFolio system for the University System of Ohio, one of the nation's largest higher education systems.

We believe these groundbreaking projects have direct application and great value to the State of North Dakota. One of North Dakota's greatest assets is its highly educated and trained people – the knowledge workforce. An 'eFolioND' project could be an innovative initiative to help transition knowledge workers - students, workers and professionals - into jobs and careers that maximize their skills and talents and position North Dakota to meet the workforce and economic development challenges of tomorrow.

As background, electronic portfolios, or eFolios, are multimedia web sites for organizing, managing and showcasing education, skills, career achievements and experience. eFolio's have been described as "the next generation of resumes", "resumes on steroids" and "Facebook Professional". An eFolio allows the user to organize and display his or her skills, knowledge, and experience beyond the confines of a traditional resume. With eFolio's, individuals can utilize multiple media formats to more clearly demonstrate competencies, creating opportunities for use within both education and workforce system.

Traditional resumes and online resume-driven job banks fail to adequately showcase individuals' work products and educational knowledge that are essential to the demonstration of skills in the knowledge-based economy. In contrast, ePortfolios, with familiar Web2.0 and social networking capabilities are more rapidly embraced by students and graduates, increasingly used by employers as an additional tool to appraise job applicants, and required by educators to evaluate and assess program outcomes.

Benefits to ND Higher Education and K-12

An *eFolioND* system could be utilized by higher education institutions across the state to meet their growing needs for online student and faculty portfolios. Through a statewide approach, all students and faculty in North Dakota could utilize a single state-of-the-art ePortfolio system rather than licensing and implementing multiple systems, resulting in significant cost avoidance to these institutions while providing a consistent, yet flexible, integrated system. Our eFolio system is already being utilized in pilot projects at the following ND higher education institutions:

- NDSU
- NDSCS
- Williston State College
- University of Mary

By implementing a statewide ePortfolio system, rather than separate institution-sponsored systems, the higher education system would facilitate the effective integration of future workers into the workforce system, and enhance the ability of state and local economic development officials to effectively market the state's highly educated workforce. It would further provide policymakers, economic developers and businesses with both quantitative and qualitative data on the state's workforce by location, profession, experience, and a wide range of factors.

A Groundbreaking Tool for Workforce & Economic Development

As envisioned, *eFolioND* would provide access to lifelong personal ePortfolio accounts and services to all students, job-seekers and professionals seeking to advance their careers in North Dakota. It could also be made available to job-seekers residing outside the state who may wish to relocate or return. Further, this application would be complementary to and could integrate with existing Web based tools already provided by the Department of Commerce and ND's workforce system.

By utilizing a new Web 2.0 eFolio approach that appeals to students, the State could dramatically increase the number of students, alumni, job-seekers and professionals in its 'job bank'. Using this secure, integrated system, economic development officials and employers could search online 24/7/365 to determine the workforce potential by geographic region, skill, education, experience and other factors. To enhance such data, the ePortfolio system can also be utilized to build a "talent bank" to showcase former North Dakotans and ND graduates who have migrated to other states but who desire to return if suitable employment opportunities arise. This approach can help leverage a large, educated "hidden" labor force that has always been viewed as a tremendous asset.

In sum, an *eFolioND* system will:

1. enable job-seekers, students and professionals to showcase their education and skills to potential employers;
2. provide employers an online portal to rapidly access North Dakota's highly skilled workforce, and;
3. empower state and local economic development officials with a unique tool to efficiently market their skilled workforce to prospective employers and companies considering location or expansion in North Dakota.

We look forward to the opportunity to discuss this further with the Committee and its members and would be glad to provide Members a demonstration of the eFolio technology. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

2011 HOUSE EDUCATION

SB 2056

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Education Committee
Pioneer Room, State Capitol

SB 2056
03/07/11
15018

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



MINUTES:

Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch: We will open the hearing on SB 2056.

Sen. Tony Grindberg: Let me tell you what this bill does. Number one it provides for the four two-year colleges to participate in what view as a description of brokering new jobs training. For those of you may recall in 1993 we adopted the New Jobs Training Program to gain an economic development tool to provide workforce training assistance. What the New Jobs Training Program does if a company is going to hire 1000 new employees, they can project out over ten years and transfer that income tax withholding for that new group and they can use those dollars for training purposes. Up until this point in time, the approaches that have been used are programs administered by job service. A company can borrow the money on that projected amount over a ten year period and then have quarterly payments sent back to the tax department to reduce that note, or they can use a independent nonprofit entity to serve as an administrative pass through. Typically in most communities the development corporations for example, have been that pass through entity. Let's say on a quarterly basis that the company is entitled 10,000 dollars in projected withholdings, then the entity would use that pass through and then they would charge a small fee. The first thing the bill does is allow the four two-year colleges to also participate in that financing administrative pass through option. In conference committee last session during the commerce budget it was agreed that we would put a restriction on Operation Intern. I will use Rep. Joe Heilman's company for an example. Year one of the biennium they hire X number of interns and those interns complete their obligation and experience. We are proposing that the restriction be taken off so if company A wants to hire two different interns they would be allowed to do that. We had a number of presentations during the interim from a group out of Minneapolis/St. Paul. If you googled Avenet, you would find that one of their services and software programs is an eFolio system. We were intrigued that North Dakota had a pilot, an eFolio project, within a certain number of campuses in the North Dakota University System to prove and identify that what their service and software would provide would be valuable information to us as policy makers as well as campuses and business and industry for alignment of our college and university curriculum to business and industry needs. An example would be this spring that there is a 1000 graduates that would graduate from the North Dakota University System. I am just using that number as an example. By having the students involved with inputting their career assessment, their work experience, and their academic achievement it would be a career planning tool to use throughout their career. It would be an online portfolio. At the end of the entry period the

state could pull out the aggregate of those students and pull out their degrees, work experience, and match that with the needs of the North Dakota workforce. It would let us align the graduates year by year. That is the intent behind the eFolio. Right now that particular program, that pilot, would be about 258-268 thousand dollars. We intend to fund that on the senate side in the commerce budget. We hope that you would support the concept in the bill.

Rep. Bob Hunskor: Are those four two-year colleges set yet?

Sen. Tony Grindberg: The four were set in statute. In 1995 there was an interim study with private sector interim committee that established a model of workforce training similar to the state of Iowa. The northwest is served by Williston State College, northeast by Lake Region, southwest by BSC, and the southeast by NDSCS.

Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch: As the bill came over from the senate it was just an additional line item in the budget or what we consider an overage in the current budget because it was not accounted for in the governor's budget and it was not accounted for in the commerce budget as it came over. The commerce bill as it left the house and went over to the senate did not have the appropriation in it. Is that correct?

Sen. Tony Grindberg: That is correct. There is no appropriation in the bill we received from the house. There is a fiscal note on what it will cost to implement at this point.

Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch: Is the fiscal note still correct?

Sen. Tony Grindberg: To my knowledge it is correct.

Rep. Karen Karls: Are any private colleges included in any of this?

Sen. Tony Grindberg: The short answer at this point is no. Private colleges are not included in the New Jobs Training Program or the four two-year as public institutions. It is just the way it is. I believe private can participate in Operation Intern. If your committee would like to have that option and the private colleges wanted to opt in it would be something that would make sense. I don't think we can force private institutions to participate. It would be their option.

Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch: In Operation Intern can students from North Dakota still participate through that program with the Washington Center? Does the way we have written the language now for those internships make it something that can no longer be done?

Sen. Tony Grindberg: Would that be the two positions?

Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch: It would be the five.

Sen. Tony Grindberg: My understanding is that it continues.

Rep. Brenda Heller: Who is going to decide who gets to do this pilot program with the portfolio system?

Sen. Tony Grindberg: My understanding is commerce and the university system.

Rep. Brenda Heller: So if the bill would pass it would be out of our hands and it would just be up to commerce and the university system on who gets the pilot project?

Sen. Tony Grindberg: I think that would be the appropriate way to approach it.

Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch: Questions? Support?

William Woodworth – Legislative Lobbyist, North Dakota Student Association: (Testimony attachment 1).

Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch: Questions? Seeing none thank you. Further support?

Robert Vallie – NDSU Student Government: The students of NDSU support the passage of SB 2056. While we do recognize that under the current provisions that many of the benefits would go toward our two-year institutions, we do believe that this particular piece of legislation and the components to it would benefit both two-year and four-year institutions through the continued internships and apprenticeships as well as the pilot portfolio program. For the two-year institutions being able to allow students who intend to go into the workforce after receiving that two-year degree would have a better opportunity to gain work experience in terms of internships and apprenticeships and gain that necessary real world experience. We believe with the passage such a piece of legislations that it would allow for continued opportunities for institutions of higher education and private industries to be able to work together in order to meet the demands of North Dakota and what we currently have out there in the job service areas. We also believe that if this is developed and implemented that it offers potential possibilities to the four-year institutions in terms of allowing engineers to gain some of the similar experiences and potential benefits of these programs.

Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch: Questions? Seeing none thank you.

Jennifer Clark – North Dakota Legislative Council: I don't have any comments to make but I want to let you know that I am here for questions on the description.

Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch: Does anyone have any structural questions?

Rep. Phillip Mueller: Could you walk through the e-portfolio process?

Jennifer Clark – North Dakota Legislative Council: I think a lot of what it is will depend on the vision of the parties that put it together. If you look at page 2 of the bill you will see that it is the Department of Commerce, Job Service, and intuitions of higher education. They will have to work together and put that together. The fiscal note would probably be a better statement on how they envision it.

Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch: Section 5 of the bill was removed and I'm wondering if that affects the fiscal note or not? It seemed as though that part took away some of the fiscal note.

Rep. Karen Rohr: Can you define target industries for me? It refers to target industries under section 3. What would that involve?

Jennifer Clark – North Dakota Legislative Council: I think the Department of Commerce would be better in addressing that.

Rep. Mike Schatz: I'm looking at the fiscal note and it says to remove the restrictions on Operation Intern. Could you refresh me on those restrictions?

Jennifer Clark – North Dakota Legislative Council: What is taking place in that portion of the bill, section 3, is that under existing law we limit that program to expanded internship opportunities so these businesses have to be increasing the use of interns. We would be taking that restriction out.

Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch: And maybe the Department of Commerce can explain why that was taken out. Do you know why? You must have talked about that during the interim.

Jennifer Clark – North Dakota Legislative Council: My recollection is that we had a meeting that businesses participated in and one of their comments was that they would like to use this but to do so they would have to expand on their program.

Rep. David Rust: Looking at the fiscal note it also includes a halftime temporary project coordinator. Is that correct?

Jennifer Clark – North Dakota Legislative Council: I would defer that question.

Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch: Questions? Further support?

Deana Wiese – Executive Director, ITCND: We are here in support of SB 2056. The testimony you have in front of you is from Doug Remboldt. (Testimony attachment 2).

Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch: I can tell you that I served on the Chamber Board of Directors and this was an issue that was discussed in particular about the automation intern program and it was not being utilized as much because of the way the language was written in the bill and I know a number of businesses wanted to utilize it more. That was a good change to that program.

Rep. Karen Rohr: On the back side of testimony you said the program has had great success. Do you have a summary of those successes so we have something to actually look at and see what the successes are?

Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch: I am guessing that would have to come from the Department of Commerce.

Deana Wiese – Executive Director, ITCND: Of the internships I believe there was 119 in the past biennium and 35 of those were IT internships. Our industry does heavily rely on this program.

Rep. Bob Hunsakor: My question has to do with the internship. Do the students involved in this practice their internship while they are in school? Is it after graduation? When do they get involved in this?

Deana Wiese – Executive Director, ITCND: It is my understanding that last session the program was expanded to 11th and 12th graders so those wanting internship experience could have the opportunity which would most likely be during the summer. They are eligible as well as those that are in college.

Beth Zander – Department of Commerce: I am approaching this in a neutral position and I can take questions.

Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch: I think because there are so many questions that you need to answer, why don't you talk a little about the Operation Intern Program, how it is utilized, how successful it is, the fiscal note, and section 5 being removed. It is my understanding that section 5 was removed thinking that the fiscal note would potentially go away.

Beth Zander – Department of Commerce: With regard to Operation Intern successes, I do have some information that indicates that in this current biennium that we are fully obligated. As a matter of fact we over obligate those funds because we know some funds that are promised will not get spent. So the 900,000 that was allocated is fully committed and has been for several months now. This biennium 119 physicists participated and 6 of those were federal internships. 189 new positions were created this biennium through Operation Intern. If I understand correctly they create positions to utilize the internships. I could be an intern for two semesters and I can actually be an intern in one position and then move to another position so it is slightly higher than the 119.

Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch: I'll have you address Rep. Karen Rohr's questions.

Rep. Karen Rohr: My two questions dealt with the target industries that you have success with and I what do you mean by success?

Beth Zander – Department of Commerce: I'll put something together to define what would be considered successful.

RaeAnn Kelsch: I think there are a few major industries that utilize the Operation Intern Program and one would certainly be NISC. I think one of the measures of success is exactly what Doug had said in this testimony. I also need you to talk about the fiscal note.

Beth Zander – Department of Commerce: I will give you the target industries as well.

Rep. Karen Rohr: Could you also expound on the federal internships and what exactly that is?

Beth Zander – Department of Commerce: The five target industries are energy, advanced manufacturing, value added agriculture, tourism, and technology based business. To my understanding when that statute was written is was focusing on those five and it does say in statute to focus on those. The fiscal note was not tied to this. The commerce budget was asking again for the 900,000.

Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch: So the fiscal note is reflected off the implementation of the eFolio.

Beth Zander – Department of Commerce: Correct.

Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch: When section 5 was removed from the bill that did not affect the fiscal note?

Beth Zander – Department of Commerce: We rewrote the fiscal note when that was removed so what you are seeing is what we have left for the eFolio. I wrote the fiscal note to accommodate both sections.

Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch: The fiscal note I have was done on 01/18/11. Would that be the most current date for the fiscal note?

Beth Zander – Department of Commerce: The first fiscal note was written in December. That contained 314 thousand for the youth opportunity website. That was removed from the fiscal note.

Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch: Could you talk about the federal internships?

Beth Zander – Department of Commerce: There was not intent to include federal internships because the focus was to expand internships for businesses in North Dakota. Sometime during the biennium the question was raised and the commissioner agreed that a limited number of internships at the federal level could be built in and that was 5.

Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch: And those federal internships are not done at the Capitol. They are done in federal agencies and they can be done in private sector businesses based in Washington D.C.

Beth Zander – Department of Commerce: That may be true and I can verify that for you.

Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch: That is true because it is done through the Washington Center. They are not congressional internships. They are internships that are done either the federal departments themselves or they can be done in some of the private sector businesses that are more active on the hill. The reason that we got involved with the Washington Center was due to the fact that giving young people exposure to what happens in Washington D.C. we felt was important. During that time we had 3 Democrats in D.C. and thought that perhaps getting involved in some of the agencies would be important as well. That is where that came from.

Rep. Karen Rohr: Just so I'm clear on the information you are going to provide for us, you indicated 5 target industries and a federal internship program. What I would like to see is each of those entities with the businesses under each of those and the number of internships that you provided.

Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch: The only ones not in North Dakota would be the 6 federal ones right?

Beth Zander – Department of Commerce: Correct. Do understand that the statute calls for a focus on the target industries which means that there are some internships provided outside of those target industries as well.

Rep. Mark Sanford: When you talk about that there were 5 interns and 4 were hired at the end of the internship, does that mean that there were 4 new jobs created?

Beth Zander – Department of Commerce: That is not necessarily accurate because the internship has to be a new internship. So I come on board as an intern in an internship that hadn't existed in the past. When I'm hired I could be hired for a job that existed. It wouldn't necessarily be a new job. It would be me staying in North Dakota.

Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch: However that is not to say that at a business like NISC that they didn't create new positions and it is a new position. We are just making the assumption as a whole but not on a business by business.

Rep. Mark Sanford: What is the involvement of high school students?

Beth Zander – Department of Commerce: High school students can participate in what we call a work experience. Traditionally an internship is the post-secondary focus on your occupational training. At the high school level it more of an exposure.

Rep. Mark Sanford: One of the things that this reminds me of is our school district was involved in a graduate internship with new minted bachelor's degree in teaching. They could be an intern in the district while we work on their master's degrees. At the end of the day they were really good and we maintained some if not all. It feels like growing your own and providing opportunities.

Rep. Joe Heilman: The original bill had the student opportunity website built into it. Do you know why that was cut out?

Beth Zander – Department of Commerce: No I don't.

Rep. Brenda Heller: Was this just a new idea beginning in December because it wasn't in the executive budget or the commerce budget? Why wasn't this anywhere?

Beth: Which particular thing?

Rep. Brenda Heller: I'm talking about the fiscal note. I'm surprised it wasn't in anyone's budget.

Beth Zander – Department of Commerce: It wasn't put in our budget. The legislation was drafted and submitted.

Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch: It came out of an interim committee which typically when they come out of the interim committee they may or may not be included in a budget because they are a legislative idea.

Rep. Brenda Heller: With the 900,000 dollar appropriation, do businesses apply for that money for grants to fund these kids to work for them?

Beth Zander – Department of Commerce: Yes. We work with the business. The student can come to use and we can assist that student in locating the business but the reimbursement goes to the business. The business is who we would check with to make sure it is a new internship.

Rep. David Rust: Can you elaborate a little on the half-time FTE that is in this?

Beth Zander – Department of Commerce: I was trying to take a very conservative approach. I did make a list of the things that I felt would need to be done. This may have to be RFP'd. I suspect I can't sole source the contract for this project and so there is a lot of work behind our team. When I obtained the information for the fiscal note I did contact this individual, which Sen. Tony Grindberg referred to, to get an idea of cost. He recommended one quarter of the state assuming about two colleges and that cost is reflected in here. I knew I would have to have a staff person that would help me work with select schools, help them understand the system, be that go-between with the company, help promote and make sure the students do use it. A lot of the success will hinge on whether it gets fully utilized.

Rep. Bob Hunsakor: Are there perks for the interns through the business through stipends, tuition waivers, or how does that work?

Beth Zander – Department of Commerce: The intern is expected to be paid wages. The reimbursement is 50% to the employer of the wages paid. An employer may have additional benefits or perks.

Rep. Phillip Mueller: What is the eFolio going to do that isn't currently available to be done electronically now?

Beth Zander – Department of Commerce: It is my understanding that the eFolio system is a comprehensive system that can be used from elementary or most preferably secondary schools through adulthood. If I were developing mine it would have my high school focus, certifications, degrees, etc. The systems I have been exposed to have actually let me video so if I am going into education I may video myself instructing. If I am a welder I may do a weld job. You can video those and retain them in your folder and an employer can look at that. The aim is to have one place where your education and career information are available for your employer or various entities can tap into. On an aggregate basis we could say we want to see the data from a certain area in the state.

Rep. Phillip Mueller: Wouldn't an employee or an employer be able to do all that stuff already that is being done here?

Beth Zander – Department of Commerce: I am not certain how you envision that. There are pieces around the state that allow for some of that. Some of the colleges have systems or are starting to build systems. Job Service has a piece that allows you to search based on what I put out there for a resume. This takes it a bit further.

Rep. David Rust: Why wouldn't we want to do this through Job Service North Dakota? It seems to me that it would be the place to do this or to expand upon what they currently have.

Beth Zander – Department of Commerce: Should that company choose to expand to this level that would be great. If not and we choose to modify that package it becomes increasingly expensive to maintain because now you have customized a package. Unless that vendor decides to redesign or create that package in addition to what is available through Job Service you would also have to design the entire system and build it. In the statute I see that it says that it should complement the other system. I would suspect that if this passes that I would work with Job Service and other entities to make sure that we don't duplicate. If there the package we end up going with has sectors that you can pick up or not pick up, obviously we won't want to duplicate. We will want to try to build a function so that I as a student or employer can travel from one system to the other. Modification to an off-the-shelf piece is not cheaper than buying another off-the-shelf piece.

Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch: Reps. Karls, Heilman, and Mock, was this one of the issues that was before the North Dakota Youth Council?

Rep. Joe Heilman: I don't remember discussions around an eFolio system specifically. In section 5 you mention the student opportunity website. That was an initiative from the youth council. I think we did talk about some online resume systems.

Rep. Corey Mock: The eFolio system was new to a lot of people. I never heard of this until we had that presentation as Rep. Joe Heilman pointed out we did talk a lot about. We did talk more about internships and connecting graduates with employers and streamlining the process so students can find opportunities in their communities or in the state. That is as close as we got to this.

Rep. Karen Karls: We did not do the eFolio at all. Linking degrees with jobs was an important part and we wanted a one-stop website.

Vice Chair Lisa Meier: If we pass this with the appropriation tied into the data system, what would be the charge to the employers that actually want to utilize this?

Beth Zander – Department of Commerce: To date it is my understanding that there wouldn't be a charge. If this is passed it would be my job to explore the systems that are out there and see what occurs.

Vice Chair Lisa Meier: In the bill with the emergency clause, what is the reason for that?

Beth Zander – Department of Commerce: It was put in because the Operation Intern funds are fully committed. It would allow us to not have that break for some of those internships.

Rep. Mark Sanford: I'm assuming that something like this needs to fit in to a bigger picture and I know one of the big pieces you have stressed to us has been this longitudinal data study. This has the potential to be a successful pilot. Does that serve us well not only in placing students but serving them as well? Is there potential of it being useful from the longitudinal data system?

Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch: We haven't specifically talked about the e-portfolio but it seems to me that it would link in quite nicely. It would seem to work in very well with the longitudinal data system.

Vice Chair Lisa Meier: We didn't discuss that linkage but in thinking about this it would be the time for higher education for the long. Vice Chair Lisa Meier you were on the workforce development committee and did you discuss that as well?

Rep. David Rust: We didn't discuss that linkage but in sitting here thinking of all this, it would be the tie-in for higher education with the longitudinal data system.

Rep. David Rust: In regard to eFolio and the participants in that, are there any thoughts about confidentiality, security, and privacy with the information that is entered into this?

Beth Zander – Department of Commerce: Certainly that will be a key issue in our search for an adequate system if this is passed. It is my guess that a developer of a system like this has carefully and tightly built the security because that would be a concern.

Rep. David Rust: So individuals who would participate in that would probably express an interest or give permission for that information to be utilized. I'm thinking of when I was superintendent and we used to ask colleges who they had graduating in math because we were looking for a math teacher and that college would give us names of 5 or 6 people, addresses, and phone numbers. It was a nice thing as administrators to call these people. Anymore it has become difficult to get that information because of the confidentiality and privacy. Sometimes those things work against you as opposed to helping you. I'm wondering if that would happen here.

Beth Zander – Department of Commerce: I suspect that there will be two scenarios and one is if I don't want that information out there I better choose not to utilize the system and that is the least likely scenario. The second is if I am a student I have the option to choose who I want to see my information and that seems logical to me. You have to have a mechanism to stop the process of employers looking through the information.

Rep. Brenda Heller: Since this is considered a pilot project I was wondering much of the expenses could be recouped if it is considered a failure at the end of the project?

Beth Zander – Department of Commerce: I would say very little. The major cost is the purchase of the system we would set up. Depending on how that RFP and the purchase occur, I could maybe purchase it for 6 months to 1 year increments. My expectation is that I would purchase that for 18 months. I would get somebody on board and by the time we RFP'd, and we determine the best system, we would have it in place by December. If in a year from then we said absolute failure, depending on the nature of that purchase there might be a time period where I don't have to pay. Maybe some of those promotional and educational costs could be recouped. It really does rely on the nature of the resulting contract and purchase agreement.

Rep. Brenda Heller: So actually pilot here probably just means a starting point?

Beth Zander – Department of Commerce: I didn't write this.

Rep. Brenda Heller: When it says select institutions both in the fiscal note and the bill, do you have any idea how you will select them and how many you will select?

Beth Zander – Department of Commerce: Because we asked for a price scale based on a quarter of the state in the estimate for the software, I am sort of looking at two institutions. I do know that some institutions have started with systems so maybe there will be some savings.

Rep. Brenda Heller: Since this is considered a pilot I was surprised that there wasn't a resorting mechanism to tell us how it is working, if it should continue, and there is no expiration or a report back to us.

Beth Zander – Department of Commerce: I would fully expect that I would be reporting back to the workforce committee if that continues.

Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch: Further Support? Opposition? We will close the hearing on SB 2056.

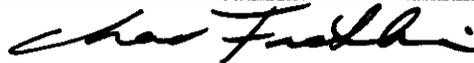
2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Education Committee
Pioneer Room, State Capitol

SB 2056
03/28/11
16091

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



MINUTES:

Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch: We will open on SB 2056. This is the intern program bill and it has a fiscal effect to it. I know when Sen. Grindberg was here testifying he said he would take care of the appropriation on the senate side because they have the Department of Commerce bill.

Rep. Joe Heilman: Just for conversation starter I do support the expansion of Operation Intern Program to be extended to multiple years. I think as a retention device for North Dakota companies and youth it is a very important thing. I believe my internship was through Operation Intern and I was in a marketing firm in North Dakota and now here I am. The ePortfolio pilot program has merit. I'll be interested to see where it goes. I think with the addition of the longitudinal data system and all of these things can work together. I haven't seen any examples of what they want to use so I'm a little hesitant on it but I'll probably support it in the end.

Rep. Mike Schatz: The fiscal note is not in the Governor's budget?

Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch: It was not in the Governor's budget. It was a legislative interim study recommendation so it was not included in there and Sen. Grindberg was adding it in there on the senate side as part of the commerce budget.

Rep. Phillip Mueller: Just so I'm clear, it seemed to me that the thrust was to take out the ePortfolio part early on and we talked about that. Now that is basically still in the bill and I am not totally convinced that it still needs to be in there but I am sure I will support the bill.

Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch: Well you certainly could remove it if you want if that makes you feel more comfortable.

Rep. Phillip Mueller: I would so move.

Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch: I am guessing what you are doing is you are removing section 4 of the bill?

Rep. Phillip Mueller: Yes.

Rep. Karen Rohr: Second.

Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch: We have a motion and a second to remove section 4. I'm guessing once that is removed there is no need for the bill to go down to appropriations because that is the cost in the bill. We will try a voice vote.

Voice vote: motion carries.

Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch: We now have amended SB 2056 before us. What are the wishes of the committee?

Rep. Phillip Mueller: I move a do pass as amended.

Vice Chair Lisa Meier: Second.

Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch: We have a motion for a do pass as amended on SB 2056. We will take the roll. Motion carries. We will close on SB 2056.

15 YEAS 0 NAYS 0 ABSENT
CARRIER: Rep. Phillip Mueller

DO PASS as Amended

March 28, 2011

VK
3/28/11

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2056

Page 1, line 1, remove "to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-60 of the North Dakota"

Page 1, line 2, remove "Century Code, relating to an electronic portfolio pilot program;"

Page 2, remove lines 20 through 31

Page 3, remove lines 1 through 20

Renumber accordingly

Date: 03-28-11
Roll Call Vote #: VOICE VOTE

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2056

House EDUCATION Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Adopt
Amendment

Rerefer to Appropriations Reconsider

Motion Made By REP. MUELLER Seconded By REP. ROHR

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Kelsch			Rep. Hanson		
Vice Chairman Meier			Rep. Hunsakor		
Rep. Heilman			Rep. Mock		
Rep. Heller			Rep. Mueller		
Rep. Johnson					
Rep. Karls					
Rep. Rohr					
Rep. Rust					
Rep. Sanford					
Rep. Schatz					
Rep. Wall					

Total (Yes) _____ No _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

MOTION TO REMOVE SECTION 4
MOTION CARRIES

Date: 03-28-11
Roll Call Vote #: _____

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2056 engrossed

House EDUCATION Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Adopt
Amendment

Rerefer to Appropriations Reconsider

Motion Made By REP. MUELLER Seconded By VICECHAIR MEIER

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Kelsch	X		Rep. Hanson	X	
Vice Chairman Meier	X		Rep. Hunskor	X	
Rep. Heilman	X		Rep. Mock	X	
Rep. Heller	X		Rep. Mueller	X	
Rep. Johnson	X				
Rep. Karls	X				
Rep. Rohr	X				
Rep. Rust	X				
Rep. Sanford	X				
Rep. Schatz	X				
Rep. Wall	X				

Total (Yes) 15 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment REP. MUELLER

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2056, as engrossed: Education Committee (Rep. R. Kelsch, Chairman) recommends AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS and when so amended, recommends DO PASS (15 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SB 2056 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 1, remove "to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-60 of the North Dakota"

Page 1, line 2, remove "Century Code, relating to an electronic portfolio pilot program;"

Page 2, remove lines 20 through 31

Page 3, remove lines 1 through 20

Renumber accordingly

2011 SENATE EDUCATION

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

SB 2056

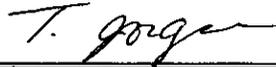
2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Education Committee
Missouri River Room, State Capitol

SB 2056
April 13, 2011
16544

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Electronic portfolio pilot/student opportunity website/new jobs & workforce training programs; operation intern program/declare emergency.

Minutes:

No "attached testimony."

Committee Chairman Senator Flakoll opened the Conference Committee meeting on SB 2056; all members present—**Senators Flakoll, Schaible, Heckaman; Representatives Wall, Heilman, Mock.**

Senator Flakoll: Asked the House to explain the amendments to the bill.

Representative Wall: Lines 1-2 we deleted; that deals with Section 4 which is deleted. Section 1, lines 11 & 12 starting with "institution"; expands the definition of community to include institutions of higher education that the primary responsibility is for Workforce Training. Lines 20-23 dealing with the business plan and what the state funds will be used for, simply clarification making it clear what the money is to be used for. Page 2, line 8 under Section 3 removes restrictions on internships that have been allowed only for new and expanded internship programs. Biggest change is Section 4 which dealt with the pilot program, the Higher Education electronic portfolio system was removed by the House. The feeling there was there was a current system already in place that did a lot of this. The fiscal note \$300,000 for each of the next bienniums we didn't think we could sell it. Since that time, Section 4 the policy and the monies are in the Commerce bill. Apologized as he didn't have that number written down. Everything in Section 4 is alive within the commerce bill.

Representative Mock: Would appreciate if we could track down a copy of the Commerce bill so we could see if Section 4 that was removed by the House Education committee to verify that the pilot program is located in another piece of legislation.

Senator Flakoll: Little confused if the House knowingly or unknowingly removed the language on March 28 for the e-folio with the intent that—did they not like it or did they think it was cared for in other areas?

Representative Wall: Believe we did not know at the time that it would be included in the Commerce bill. Felt that Job Service other places might be covering it, and felt it was too rich. We had nothing against it, in fact had many committee members who thought the e-

folio was a good program. Had very good discussion on it; think the bottom line on it was the fiscal note. I don't think we knew it would be in the commerce bill.

Representative Heilman: Agree; add that there was some hesitancy in the House chamber on the removal of the restrictions on the internship programs in terms of it only being for new positions. Felt it was important that we remove those restrictions so that existing internships could continue under the program which also had some fiscal effect. Felt that was the more important piece of the bill, and that it would be pretty difficult to--in the interest of keeping the bill alive—thinks the sell was easier by not including the e-portfolio system. There were some committee members that thought it was doubling up on some efforts on the campuses with career service centers and those types of things. Understand the merit of it, but . . .

Representative Mock: The version 3001 is the Senate version with the overstrikes being the changes the House made, correct? (Yes) Then the only changes that the House made according to this is to remove Section 4 but all other language either added or removed was in the original bill as it came from the Senate? **Senator Flakoll:** Yes. Is the e-portfolio similar to what was discussed and supported by the North Dakota Youth Council; in line with their recommendations? And is this similar to what we had in the interim Workforce Development Committee?

Representative Mock: In the youth council there was a large amount of support for a centralized system for students as they advance through their educational career, and move into the workforce. Do believe what we have received from the Senate in SB 2056 was also recommended from the Workforce Committee which he also serves on. This did meet those expectations. He actually opposed the removal of Section 4; may speak to why he is on this committee. This was a similar version of what was supported by the Youth Council and it did come out of the Workforce Committee. Did hear pretty captivating testimony during the interim from a couple of software engineers who work on e-portfolio, and had given real life examples from what other states are doing. Knows the Workforce Committee thought that was an interesting direction and that the state should consider a pilot program.

Senator Flakoll: One of his concerns may be the degree to which there would be support of this, because it was stated that the Senate may be putting this in the commerce budget, but that vote on the bill was taken on March 28th and the Senate did not act on the Commerce budget until April 7th, so there was a fair degree of separation there. Is there an appetite for this if it were at a lower rate? As it is now, it is \$150,000 for the e-portfolio program and just wondering the level of support at least with you three before looking at kind of movement away on the Senate side.

Representative Heilman: The main concern was the cost of the program. If there was a reduction in the price it may be easier to sell. Need to stress that this is not only for students to get into careers, but also key in our longitudinal data system so that we can track as they move forward through Job Service. I think if we can make that connection in the House in discussion, we may be better able to get it through. Would be interested to know why the price went down since we talked about it.

Representative Wall: Quick question for clarification—the fiscal note that came to the House was for \$300,000 a biennium. What has changed that? **Senator Flakoll:** We'd have to vote in the Commerce budget.

Senator Heckaman: Can't answer that completely since Appropriations changed that. Do see in the document we received at our desk that there is no ½ time position listed. That was one of the decreases in here, and imagine they just threw out a round figure and said take it or leave it.

Senator Schaible: Looks like we are in agreement on where we're at, so am not sure how to make the motion-- **Senator Flakoll:** He would entertain a motion that the Senate accede to the House amendments. **Senator Schaible:** Would so move; second by Senator Heckaman. Any discussion? Did visit with Senator Grindberg who has worked on the e-portfolio, and was fine with the changes knowing it is now in the Commerce budget. Will go to Conference committee on the Commerce side now.

Representative Wall: Echo your remarks; also visited with Senator Grindberg and he told me the same.

Representative Mock: \$150,000 is in the current budget in HB 1018 fiscal note. Will support the motion on the table with the understanding that this is in the current budget, supporting the program and his wish is that it stays and do fund the pilot program for the electronic portfolio system for the upcoming biennium.

No further discussion; motion carried 6-0 (Vote 1)

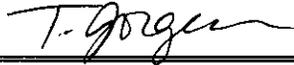
2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Education Committee
Missouri River Room, State Capitol

SB 2056, CC#2
April 15, 2011
16643

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Electronic portfolio pilot/student opportunity website/new jobs & workforce training programs; operation intern program/declare emergency.

Minutes:

No "attached testimony."

Committee Chairman Senator Flakoll opened the Conference Committee meeting on SB 2056; all members present—**Senators Flakoll, Schaible, Heckaman; Representatives Wall, Heilman, Mock (came 10 min. late).**

Senator Flakoll: The Senate sent the bill back down; after we were told it was no problem, this is in the commerce budget (1018) and then three hours later the commerce budget was defeated on the House side. We felt we wanted to visit more about the things that were missing that we felt we may have provided for in HB 1018.

Representative Heilman: For the record, the House members on this committee had no prior knowledge to that maneuver. **Senator Flakoll:** Are you speaking for everyone, or just yourself? **Representative Wall:** He seconds that; in all good faith when they saw it was removed yesterday they were on the phone immediately to decide what to do. Think this is the right thing to do.

Senator Flakoll: Just having a confessional on the killing of HB 1018 as it pertains to SB 2056, and that we no longer have the e-folio and the reason why the Senate acceded to the House amendments. The other two members were just telling us that they were not aware this would happen with HB 1018. **Representative Mock:** Thank you—certainly say that he also was not aware that would happen. Disappointed with the actions that the House took in killing 1018, and ultimately the e-portfolio system and provision in there. Subsequently not including that in the amendments to SB 2057, certainly hope this conference committee can reconsider and keep Section 4 of SB 2056 alive. **Senator Flakoll:** And how did you vote on 1018? **Representative Mock:** Opposed the amendments to SB 2057 and for HB 1018. **Senator Flakoll:** Is there anyone here that voted against 1018?

Senator Heckaman: Do we have to reconsider our actions then or don't have to do that for Conference Committee? **Senator Flakoll:** Don't think we have to do that in conference committee; by sending it back down here we are told to reconsider it.

Representative Wall: Has some real concerns; think we need to discuss it—by bringing it back and passing Section 4 which we took out because it was in the Commerce bill, if we put it back it and pass that and bring it to the floor think we could be in for some problems. This bill without Section 4 passed 60-34 in the House; think there are questions on just the internship part. Think it would be a death nail if we put it back into 2056 and bring it to the floor—simply his feeling. After giving it a lot of thought, think the best bet to salvage Section 4 (e-folio) it has to be done in Conference committee on the Commerce bill. Just his feeling because the Commerce bill does have in it the other three parts (internship) but if we add it to 2056 we could kill it all including the internship. **Senator Flakoll:** We are a conference committee so what gives those that are on 2057 any more power or authority to set public policy than those of us on this one that were elected by the same number of people?

Senator Heckaman: Would be a little leery because if none of us are on that conference committee on that other bill, it might not even get considered. Where would we be sitting then? **Representative Wall:** The one thing we would have still is the first three sections; has fear of losing it all if we add it in here. **Senator Flakoll:** What are we losing if it is in 2057 then? Thought you said Sections 1-2-3 are in 2057? **Representative Wall:** 2056 right? (Ok)

Representative Mock: Has SB 2057 messaged to the Senate; do we know the status of that? It passed yesterday but a conference committee hasn't been established? **Senator Flakoll:** The clerk checked on LAWS and it passed the House on 4/14 and that is all that it says so far. It should have been messaged over to the Senate, but that doesn't mean that the Senate will accept it such as the case with constitutional amendments that took forever.

Representative Heilman: Will just echo some comments made by Representative Wall, even the piece on the e-folios—due to the fiscal note didn't make it out of the education committee in the House. Thinks for fiscal reasons, even though many supported the concept, think that putting it on there would give it a hard time passing through the House in full debate—due to death by fiscal note—that is his personal opinion. Then we lose the expansion of the operation intern even though it is not an expansion fiscally, it is an expansion with less restrictions. He thinks it is important for businesses and young people in the area. **Senator Flakoll:** The Senate Education and Senate Appropriations committee both did not support the Alternative Compensation Plan that the House has put some money in at different levels between the two committees. Added \$5 million to another program—do you think that the K-12 bill is in fear of being killed too?

Representative Wall: In response, do think these things will have a chance at hearing both sides in conference committee, and things may change. He thinks if we believe in this section (e-portfolio) think the best chance of it possibly coming out alive and well is through conference committee and think putting it back into 2056 has a lesser chance—his feeling.

Senator Flakoll: You said “a conference committee”, not this conference committee?
Representative Wall: Yes, that is what he means—a conference committee that will be held over the commerce bill. **Senator Flakoll:** So why is it called the “commerce bill” now? Just curious because Commerce didn't ask for it.

Representative Wall: Don't know why; that is what some have commonly come to call it.

Representative Mock: Given that 2057 just passed the House, thinks there is much uncertainty as to what will happen with the Department of Commerce budget. Any affiliated bills, including 2056, the provisions were removed—it was spoken to on the House floor yesterday. It didn't seem like the e-folio provision was intentionally left out or done for the purpose of killing the program. Think as it all transpired over 18 hours, it was one section not included in the amendment. Is it too soon for us? There hasn't even been a Conference Committee created for that bill; don't know if the Senate will concur or not concur with the House changes. Think we know what will happen, but until formal action is taken is it premature for us to make any final actions on 2056—if we wish to keep the e-folio pilot program alive.

Senator Heckaman: Thinks it is a very important system; heard criticism of the higher education system this year and that they aren't developing programs that meet the workforce needs. When look at the system we have here, think it is very important to the economic development of our state. For businesses, Job Service, etc. Maybe wait and see what happens with 2057?

Senator Flakoll: In terms of conference committees, how many are you currently involved in? Mock—last one; Heilman—last one; Wall—2056 & 2281; Heckaman—four others; Schaible—four others.

We will adjourn until next meeting.

2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Education Committee
Missouri River Room, State Capitol

SB 2056 CC#3
April 21, 2011
16833

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature <i>T. Goetz</i>

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Electronic portfolio pilot/student opportunity website/new jobs & workforce training programs; operation intern program/declare emergency

Minutes:

No "attached testimony."

Chairman Flakoll opened the third meeting of the conference committee on SB 2056. All members present: **Senators Schaible, Heckaman, Representatives Wall, Heilman, Mock.**

Chairman Flakoll: Would entertain a motion that the Senate accede to the House amendments. **Senator Schaible:** move that the Senate accede to the House amendments; second by **Senator Heckaman.** Motion carried 6-0-0 (Vote 2)

Meeting adjourned.

2011 SENATE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

Committee: Senate Education

Bill/Resolution No. 2056 as (re) engrossed

Date: 4-13-11

Roll Call Vote #: 1

- Action Taken**
- SENATE accede to House amendments
 - SENATE accede to House amendments and further amend
 - HOUSE recede from House amendments
 - HOUSE recede from House amendments and amend as follows

Senate/House Amendments on SJ/HJ page(s) 1056 ..

- Unable to agree, recommends that the committee be discharged and a new committee be appointed

((Re) Engrossed) SB 2056 was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar

Motion Made by: Schaible Seconded by: Heckaman

Senators				Representatives			
	4/13	Yes	No		4/13	Yes	No
Tim Flakoll	✓	✓		John Wall	✓	✓	
Donald Schaible	✓	✓		Joe Heilman	✓	✓	
Joan Heckaman	✓	✓		Carey Mock	✓	✓	

Vote Count: Yes 6 No 0 Absent 0

Senate Carrier Flakoll House Carrier Wall

LC Number _____ of amendment

LC Number 11.0036 . 03001 of engrossment

Emergency clause added or deleted

Statement of purpose of amendment

2011 SENATE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

Committee: Senate Education

Bill/Resolution No. 2056 as (re) engrossed

Date: 4-15-11

Roll Call Vote #: 2

- Action Taken**
- SENATE accede to House amendments
 - SENATE accede to House amendments and further amend
 - HOUSE recede from House amendments
 - HOUSE recede from House amendments and amend as follows

Senate/House Amendments on SJ/HJ page(s) _____

Unable to agree, recommends that the committee be discharged and a new committee be appointed

((Re) Engrossed) _____ was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar

Motion Made by: Sen. Schaible Seconded by: Sen. Heckaman

Senators	4/15		Yes	No		Representatives	4/15		Yes	No
	15	21					15	21		
T. Flakoll	✓	✓	✓			J. Wall	✓	✓	✓	
D. Schaible	✓	✓	✓			J. Heilman	✓	✓	✓	
J. Heckaman	✓	✓	✓			C. Mock	✓	✓	✓	

Vote Count: Yes 6 No 0 Absent 0

Senate Carrier _____ House Carrier _____

LC Number _____ of amendment

LC Number _____ of engrossment

Emergency clause added or deleted

Statement of purpose of amendment

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

SB 2056, as engrossed: Your conference committee (Sens. Flakoll, Schaible, Heckaman and Reps. Wall, Heilman, Mock) recommends that the **SENATE ACCEDE** to the House amendments as printed on SJ page 1056 and place SB 2056 on the Seventh order.

Engrossed SB 2056 was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

SB 2056, as engrossed: Your conference committee (Sens. Flakoll, Schaible, Heckaman and Reps. Wall, Heilman, Mock) recommends that the **SENATE ACCEDE** to the House amendments as printed on SJ page 1056 and place SB 2056 on the Seventh order.

Engrossed SB 2056 was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

2011 TESTIMONY

SB 2056

Senate Education Committee

January 5th, 2011

Prepared by: **Joe Heilman**, District 45 Representative and ND Youth Council Member

Subject: SB 2056, Section 5 – Support for a Student Opportunity Website

In its 2010 final report, the ND Youth Council expressed a need for a one-stop website that would contain opportunities for scholarships, internships, work-experience programs, and so on.

Currently, there are several websites that have information and opportunities for students to explore (campus websites, TeamND.org, Job Service, etc). While these sources individually are impactful, it is difficult for students and opportunity providers to know where to go.

Benefits provided by a single website:

- Employers may be more likely to post opportunities if it's easier to do
- Students may see more opportunities directly related to what they were searching for
 - They may also be exposed to other opportunities they weren't aware of
- Easier to promote and remember one, "all encompassing" site versus several sites with similar functions
- Economies of scale gained by managing a website of this nature versus several

In my opinion, a student opportunity website would be an enormous asset to the students and opportunity providers of ND and the initiative has my full support.

¹ SB 2056



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Testimony of Dale Niezwaag

Sr. Legislative Representative, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.

SB 2056

January 5, 2011

Chairman Freborg and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

My name is Dale Niezwaag, and I am a lobbyist for Basin Electric Power Cooperative in Bismarck. I also serve as the public policy committee chair for the Information Technology Council of North Dakota (ITCND) and am here to testify on behalf of ITCND in support of SB 2056.

ITCND was formed in 2000 by North Dakota business, government and education leaders who recognized the need to strengthen the state's information technology infrastructure and position the state as a national leader in information technology. ITCND has grown to nearly 100 members that believe in growing a stronger North Dakota through information technology excellence and development.

Workforce development remains a top priority for North Dakota's technology-based businesses. Within the next decade the IT industry will need to replace nearly 40 percent of its current workforce. To address these needs, ITCND has created the state's first-ever IT Career Awareness Program focused on informing 7-9th graders, parents and educators of the North Dakota IT job opportunities. The development of a high-quality workforce is vital to the future growth of North Dakota's IT industry, which is why the items in this bill are so important to ITCND.

North Dakota's IT industry thanks you for the creation of the Operation Intern program in 2007. Numerous technology-based businesses have taken advantage of the program to hire interns it might not have had the opportunity to hire otherwise. There are several instances where these interns have been hired as full-time employees following the internship. ITCND supports the

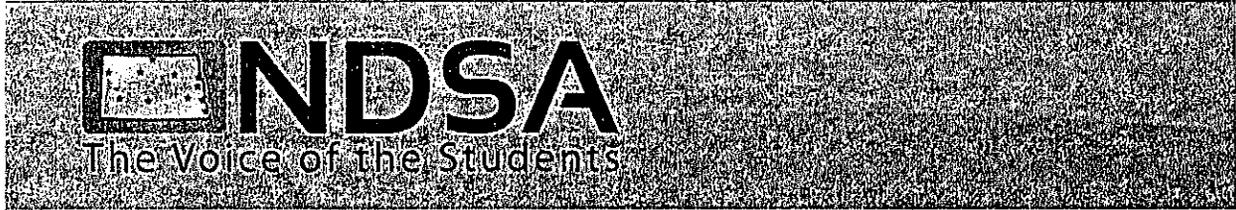
Section 3 Amendment which removes the language limiting the use of the program to only new or expanded internships. Without this change, several businesses are only able to use the program one year and are not incentivized to hire an intern in future years because the program no longer applies. We encourage you to eliminate this provision, thus allowing expanded eligibility.

ITCND also supports Section 4 which creates an e-folio pilot program and a student opportunity website as both would be beneficial workforce development tools.

We thank you for your support of workforce development efforts in the past, and we encourage you to give SB 2056 a DO PASS recommendation.

Thank you.

TESTIMONY ATTACHMENT



Chairman Kelsch, and members of the committee, my name is William Woodworth. I am the current Legislative Lobbyist for the North Dakota Student Association. We are here to testify in support of SB 2056. This bill will do several things to benefit both the economy of North Dakota, but also its college students. This bill will help students to be prepared when they enter the workforce. One of the main goals of higher education is to prepare students to be productive workers, and this bill helps higher education achieve that goal. More importantly, SB 2056 helps students to showcase their education and skills to potential employers by establishing the electronic portfolio system. For these reasons, the North Dakota Student Association urges the House Education Committee to give SB 2056 a do-pass recommendation.

Thank you for your time.

William Woodworth

North Dakota Student Association, Legislative Lobbyist



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Testimony of Doug Remboldt

Vice President of Technology, National Information Solutions Cooperative

In Support of SB 2056

March 7, 2011

Madam chair and members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Doug Remboldt, and I am vice president of technology for National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC) in Mandan. I also serve as the vice president of the Information Technology Council of North Dakota (ITCND) and am on the public policy committee as well. I am here to testify on behalf of ITCND in support of SB 2056.

ITCND was formed in 2000 by North Dakota business, government and education leaders who recognized the need to strengthen the state's information technology infrastructure and position the state as a national leader in information technology. ITCND has grown to nearly 100 members that believe in growing a stronger North Dakota through information technology excellence and development.

Workforce development remains a top priority for North Dakota's technology-based businesses. Within the next decade, the IT industry will need to replace nearly 40 percent of its current workforce. To address these needs, ITCND has created the state's first-ever IT Career Awareness Program focused on informing 7-9th graders, parents and educators of the North Dakota IT job opportunities. The development of a high-quality workforce is vital to the future growth of North Dakota's IT industry, which is why the items in this bill are so important to ITCND.

North Dakota's IT industry thanks you for the creation of the Operation Intern program in 2007. NISC is just one of 35 companies using the Operation Intern program to hire interns in the area



of information technology. These IT internships made up nearly 30 percent of the total internships the past biennium. Since the start of the program, our company has had 12 interns participate. Last year we had five. Of those five, four were hired full-time after graduation and one was not finished with school but has continued as an intern for us. This is just one example of how the program has allowed technology-based businesses to hire interns it might not have had the opportunity to hire otherwise and where those interns have been hired as full-time employees, thus keeping our youth in the state.

ITCND supports removing the language that limits use of the program to only new or expanded internships. Without this change, several businesses are only able to use the program one year and are not incentivized to hire an intern in future years because the program no longer applies. The program has had great success, and we encourage you to eliminate this provision, thus allowing expanded eligibility.

ITCND also supports development of the e-folio pilot program as it would be a beneficial economic and workforce development tool.



We thank you for your support of workforce development efforts in the past, and we encourage you to give SB 2056 a DO PASS recommendation.