

2013 HOUSE EDUCATION

HB 1248

2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Education Committee
Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1248
January 22, 2013
17537

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Ch. Nathe: We will open the hearing on HB 1248.

Rep. Mike Schatz: Sponsor, support (see attached #1). This bill sets the earliest start of school and the earliest start of extracurricular activities. You can start later than this, but the intent of this bill is to not start earlier. I think August is the nicest month in ND and I don't think we should be wasting the warm weather being in school. Football that starts early in August means very hot days for practice which can lead to health issues. This would mean moving the start date forward by five days.

Ch. Nathe: The way schools schedule the start date is how?

Rep. Schatz: The New England school district starts on the 15th of August. One of the problems I have with that, by standardizing the start date is important for everybody because, even though they want to do that, they coop with Trinity in Football, so then Trinity has to change everything as far as to accommodate for their early start in their football practices, which would then have to fall after 3:00 pm. They also start a week before the rest of the schools, I don't know how they can get away with that. I don't know how they do it. They can get started early and the kids just sit in the room and look at each other, because there is nothing to do, and the tests are given and they are already out of school. I know it shouldn't be done that way. That's one of the reasons that I would like to standardize the start of school. There are a lot of dates throughout the school year that the Legislature mandates and takes away local control about holidays.

Rep. Wall: I agree with you. I cherish August. I did find in my teaching career that students were pretty willing to come back in August, but senioritis set in in early May, and not only for seniors but all high school students that I dealt with. This would push graduation closer to June and students want out. I think the level of education might suffer because of this bill.

Rep. Schatz: I don't. If you have proper discipline in your school and things that are of importance, they shouldn't be too worried about that. No matter when you start the school, you're going to have so many contact days. Every state does it a little different. We're one of the earliest and I think it is too early.

Ch. Nathe: If we were to do this, how far back would it push the graduation, a week.

Rep. Schatz: A week. Some of the Class A schools are doing it this way right now. Many of the Class B aren't. There are many extracurriculars that take place after school is out for the year.

Rep. B. Koppelman: You mentioned other summer time sports and in here it talks about the start date of athletic and non-athletic activity, contests, clinics and others of that nature. When, by your determination, does the summer start. We know that football is a fall sport but starts in August. You would have to define summer.

Rep. Schatz: If you read line 14, it says a school district may not invite, require or permit a student to practice, train or compete in any interscholastic athletic or non-athletic activity, clinic, contest, or festival between the start of the school year and the Thursday of the 3rd week in August. The start of the school year is July 1, that is the fiscal start of the school year.

Rep. Rust: This bill applies to school districts so therefore it does not apply to non-public schools, so that non-public schools would be given local control but public schools would not. It says school district; which implies public school districts. It does not say "no school".

Rep. Schatz: You're right. It probably would not apply to non-publics. I guess that could be put in there. I don't know if you can tell a non-public when you can start or not, because they aren't state funded.

Rep. Rust: We do lots of things to non-public schools that we tell them to do.

Ch. Nathe: Under this bill, as far as setting the date to start football practice. How does that fall under what is currently happening. When do they normally start now.

Rep. Schatz: It varies according to the calendar. I haven't really seen it lately. All I remember was when I coached, that we started as early as August 5 one year. Lately it seems like they start quite early in August. I would say it's about 1 weeks prior to what is being proposed here. It was the 2nd Thursday.

Ch. Nathe: In your scenario it looks like it would just be a week later.

Rep. J. Kelsh: I'm not quite following on your calendar where it says a week means a 7 day period that begins on a Saturday; you have one day on Saturday and you would start counting. I don't think the first calendar is a whole lot different than what is normal practice in our area, at least.

Rep. Schatz: On the last line, line 9, that contains at least one day within the month of August, and it states the same on line 18 as well; a week means a 7 day period that begins on a Sunday and ends on the following Saturday and contains at least 1

day in the month of August. You can have one day in a week, according to that definition.

Rep. Wall: Would this exclude teacher in-services and teacher development days or do they also have to start after the official start date, or can they be run earlier.

Rep. Schatz: I believe they can be run earlier than the start of school, they are contact days as far as I'm concerned.

Rep. Hunsakor: As I recall some years ago, there was an issue over this and High School Activities got involved with the starting date and there were some problems with that. Did you visit with High School Activities Association, what effect if any, it would have on them if the bill were to pass.

Rep. Schatz: I have talked with them but not specifically on this bill. But we have had conversations about this. It just moves everything back by a week.

Rep. Al Carlson: Support. I'm a Labor Day to Memorial Day guy. I've supported that every time it has come through. I think you should look at contact days, in-service days and I challenge you to take a look at the calendar and count out those days, if you started on Labor Day and ran until Memorial Day. If you look at the way the breaks are scheduled and when school starts and all the various breaks along the way, the in-service days and the things we have mandated in some cases by state law, I think that you could quite easily see that you could fit our daily requirements and still have reasonable breaks within that timeline. It should be about, are the kids smarter because we have an earlier start and a later ending. Or are the test scores higher, are we getting more for the dollars and time we're spending. Or have we just moved things around for convenience sake. I would argue that most parents would like for summer to be a week longer, and that spring would be a little bit shorter for the school. You need to find out if the schedule we have now is working. I think this bill is worthy of a look.

Ch. Nathe: Thank you. Further support.

Mike Rud, ND Retail Association and the ND Petroleum Marketers: Support. As you know, labor is becoming very hard to come by. If you find a good high school student that you would like to keep around for another week or two it does make a big difference in the summer time that they aren't going to school on the 19th of August. You can work around football practice, but you can't work around a classroom schedule, it gets pretty tough if they are involved in activities. It costs us about \$2,000 to train someone for summer help, so we want to keep them as long as we can. We are also talking about the retail aspect dealing with tourism traffic and a busy season and a lot of our shops are seasonal, so that's our time to make hay.

Rep. J. Kelsh: I can understand going from Labor Day to Memorial Day, but does it make any difference if you get a good Labor Day or a good Memorial Day, if you have those kids working on those days. You would need them for both weekends don't you. I think people start travelling around on Memorial Day. I think that's

traditionally the beginning of the summer. If school is right up to those dates, people can't do that either. Is there a difference in how it's handled.

Mike Rud: We kind of have to get by Memorial Day with who we have on staff. If we can scrape up a few high school kids that aren't going to a graduation or aren't travelling somewhere on Memorial Day, we would certainly put them in place from a retail standpoint. It's hard to do no matter what, but that fits our schedule better because those last two weeks of August, leading up into Labor Day are crucial. Those are big travelling times, not only in ND but across the country.

Rep. Rust: Are some of the workers in the petroleum industry taking time off during between December and January.

Mike Rud: I really haven't seen that, no.

Rep. Hunskor: Would it not be true that in the fall, kids have been working with your retail stores in the summer, so it's easier to keep them on the job, they're going to want to stay there, they are making money; whereas in the spring it seems like if school is out just before Memorial Day, they're not ready to go to work yet. They want to take a little break before they would start working for the summer. So is it easier to keep them in your retail stores working for you in the fall rather than in the spring, there wouldn't be as many available.

Mike Rud: In some situations, that is the case; but for the most part, when you find somebody who wants to work, if they are interested they'll come whether it is early spring and work as late as they can possibly can, in most cases.

Ch. Nathe: Thank you.

Dana Bohn, Tourism Alliance Partnership: Support (see attached #2, read the written remarks of Bill Shalhoob, #3, #4).

Ch. Nathe: Thank you. Further testimony in support.

Rudie Martinson, Executive Director of the ND Hospitality Association: We are the trade association for the restaurant, lodging and retail beverage industries in ND. Support (see attached #5 & #6).

Ch. Nathe: Thank you. Further testimony in support of HB 1248. Testimony in opposition.

Doug Johnson, Exec. Director of ND Council of Educational Leaders: We are opposed. We have so many constraints placed on our school planning for calendars, such as when the state assessment has to be done, when the ACT testing has to be done, it really impacts school districts in making those decisions. Coupled with community needs and enrollments with dual credit, AP courses, when we have to coordinate those with the colleges. If we have to have an after Labor Day school start as part of our school calendar, then it needs to also be applied to our state

higher education institutions, because we are going to have a hard time coordinating our schedules with the professor schedules to teach those dual credits. We believe that it is the school district's prerogative to determine that calendar; 44 states allow education agencies to determine the start dates. Six states have statutes regulating starting dates. MN is one that has an after Labor Day start, NC not before August 25, TX not before the week in which August 21st falls. If we do this, we have to apply this to higher education for their start dates as well. Finally in regards to the NDHSAA, I cannot speak for them. I looked at their calendar before coming here, for their start and end dates. It is on their website. The biggest issue that they're going to have, if we change it and it impacts that planned calendar, they have been contractually obligated for many of their regional and state tournaments for 5 years out. So they probably would have to renegotiate those.

Ch. Nathe: You mean there aren't five days within the school calendar that we can't move, shuffle around.

Ben Auch, ND High School Activities Association board of directors: We interpreted the first day of school that Monday, the 5th week in August. That means July 1, that changes our activities and how activities can be done, but in visiting with our executive director, we wanted you to be aware of how activities are scheduled.

Doug Johnson: You can find those days, you are going to compress a lot of those particular issues. You do have to have constraints. One of the things that we build into the calendar are snow days. Typically we build in a few days for snow days in case we have a lot of snow and have to take them off. Generally they are going to fall around the state tournament for the school districts, so the students and families can attend those. You have the educational conferences, those two days that are off in October, we think are really important for our association to get our members to, we do have a tremendous turnout. We have about 75% of our members attend our fall conference and that is an important time, because a lot of church activities have been scheduled for their students to go and do activities for the long break in October, which I do believe benefits the tourism industry as well. Then you have the professional development days you want for the teachers. It's tight, it could be done, but there would have to be many sacrifices by all sides.

Ch. Nathe: I would just like to say that I have heard from many parents and feel like there would be support from the parents. You talked about the sports contracts with the venues. Again, we're talking about possibly five additional days, it's still going to be within that time. I have a hard time seeing where they would have to renegotiate contracts, not all of the events would have to be rescheduled.

Doug Johnson: If you do back that out, you do have a required 2 weeks of pre-conditioning before they can have the first contest, so if you work back from that date, for one they are going to schedule the first event that they have, schedule in the games that they're going to have and from that, the number of games that are scheduled for the different activities determine when the regionals are going to be held, depending on the activity, and the state tournament for that particular activity.

Then they have to build out a calendar, secure the Fargodome for the football, the track in Bismarck.

Ch. Nathe: I don't disagree that there would be some sports that would be impacted.

Rep. Heller: What would community needs be.

Doug Johnson: The community's needs that they have communicated to their school board members what are important for their students. It might be a situation where they have students that they feel should be in school at certain times, could be an issue of child care for some of those parents, it's helping them out in that situation. A situation for a family would like to take trips that are later in the year, or they would like to have those during the school year, too.

Rep. Heller: Then you referenced that you get a 75% attendance at the fall conference. Which conference is that.

Doug Johnson: We host a ND Council of Educational Leaders Conference for our membership. We have approximately 725 members. We have 500-525 members attending the conference each October.

Rep. Heller: That's just for educational leaders, such as the superintendents, principals.

Doug Johnson: We have 9 affiliated associations; they consist of superintendents, athletic directors, elementary and secondary principals, career and technology leaders, special ed. directors, a variety of groups are there.

Rep. Heller: You mentioned that if we move this to Labor Day, and this bill doesn't change it to Labor Day.

Doug Johnson: It doesn't move it to Labor Day but for the most part, when you look at the schedule, it's going to be scheduled that schools start more than likely after Labor Day.

Rep. Wall: What percentage of your administrators favor this bill, the ones you represent.

Doug Johnson: We have our representative assembly that adopts our resolutions and that is run by our whole membership as well as our board of directors and they adopt that. At this point in time, our association supports having local control over the school districts determining the start of school.

Rep. Schatz: Does that mean that you could start school on the 5th of August.

Doug Johnson: I guess if the school district decided to do that, and has the autonomy to make that decision, it's a local control issue, and if they think that is

best for their school district and the community and students in the school, I can imagine that could happen.

Rep. Meier: Do you know of any school districts that have actually surveyed parents in this situation where they wanted to check and see what the parents thought was reasonable for the start of school in the fall.

Doug Johnson: I do not know specifically of any school districts that are doing that currently. I do believe Bismarck School District does look at the calendar, send that out to the staff and members of the community, parents of students attending the school, to get the input on their calendar.

Rep. Meier: You brought up a good point, I know that in visiting with the Bismarck School District, they are looking at surveying parents and what they think.

Ch. Nathe: Thank you. Further testimony in opposition.

Rep. J. Kelsh: (directed to Mike Rud) How many of the high school students stay on with your businesses part-time even after school starts. College students get out earlier, would this put those students at a disadvantage of getting those jobs in the summer time and maybe a disadvantage to you that they don't have them in the fall, so they don't come to work for your businesses that would like them to stay there.

Mike Rud: The position that we're in right now from a labor standpoint, anybody who wants to work can find a job, it really doesn't matter what time I work, I can speak for myself as a business owner. I've always been loyal to kids who have worked for me before who want to come back, and they always get a first shot. We will employ them first and give them as many hours as they need. Certainly if you can find a qualified high school student in this day and age that wants to work outside of the school hours, you'll take them and do whatever you can to accommodate their needs in terms of their schedule, because they are valuable assets to your business.

Ch. Nathe: Thank you. Neutral testimony.

Ben Auck, Board of Directors of ND High School Activities Association: Neutral. We had interpreted line 16 incorrectly. From July 1 to the 3rd week in August does not affect us a whole lot. From visiting with the Exec. Dir., fall activities are planned based on Thanksgiving holiday, the volleyball tournament is then set the weekend before Thanksgiving and the Dakota Bowl, the state football tournament, the weekend before state volleyball. The schedules are worked backwards from those points to allow in for practice times. The opening date for football is August 14, 2014, August 13, 2015, August 12, 2016 and August 10, 2017. These schedules wouldn't change us a whole lot, it would probably give us about a week. It could be an issue for nine-man football. Class AAA football has 16 teams, Class AA has 16 teams, Class A has 32 teams, 9 man gets the remainder of any of those schools that currently puts 37 schools down from 40 in the previous plan. So we have 4 regions of 9 man football, allowing them to schedule 9 or 10 games depending on how their

schedule works out. The four regions in 9 man came about as a request of member schools and the coaches wanting to try and make the regions a little bit bigger and keep level competition. In football, our biggest concern with keeping those numbers, is keeping adequate level of competition so you don't have a small school having to field freshmen on the team playing against the bigger school who can field juniors and seniors. As far as Mr. Johnson had addressed our venues, we do have a 10 year plan rotation because that came at the request of the venues. The venue managers came to us and said we need more certainty in your schedule because we have so many people wanting to book their event and we don't want to boot out high school activities because it is important to the state and important to our communities, so they have a 10 year rotation with the major venues (Bismarck and Fargo) right now. Could that be worked around, yes we will do whatever we have to do based on what the legislature tells us to do. In the southwest, in probably the western 1/4, we are on what's called the Great West Network, ITD system. Their start date for 2013-14 is August 20-May 17, currently.

Rep. J. Kelsh: When you say you have the venues for 10 years, if the venue already had something scheduled for the new date, would you just have to shorten the season enough to adjust for that, how would that be handled.

Ben Auck: The first thing is to try and work with that date, if we can't, we would probably put out an invitation to other sites to host that event rather than shift the calendar completely. If there is no other site that could work, then we would probably have to look at a reschedule. It came up this year with hockey. We just approved a date move for the West Region hockey because we use the Amvets here in Bismarck and the Bobcats had scheduled a home game which made it almost impossible for us to have West Region hockey on our schedule date, so we sent out an invite and the agreed parties agreed to move it to Minot, so we approved a change to go to Minot.

Ch. Nathe: So every so often you do run into some of these problems, just with the nature of the business.

Ben Auck: Yes we do. We had a flood in Minot, and had to move all the events out of Minot for two years because of the flood. The golf dates aren't really scheduled out because we don't know what the spring conditions will be.

Ch. Nathe: You have to be fairly flexible.

Ben Auck: We try to tie in the big venues.

Ch. Nathe: Are you here on behalf of the High School Activities Board or just a member.

Ben Auck: I am here speaking for them. We just wanted you to have information and we'll work with whatever you tell us.

Ch. Nathe: We will take a look at HB 1248. What are the committee's wishes. I believe Rep. Johnson has a couple of words to say on this bill.

Rep. D. Johnson: Sitting at the table for 20 years, this is the 10th time I've heard this bill. I still support my original conviction that I think it is up to the local school district to decide when school starts.

Rep. Meier: One thing that I thought was really important in visiting with the Bismarck School District is that they're actually going to survey parents and see what they would like to see in their school calendar. When you talk about local control, I thought it was great that they were going to do that.

Rep. B. Koppelman: The driving force is what the staff wants. The parents hated it when the West Fargo district took time off for Christmas break. They couldn't get child care. I think this is a way to do it and one that the school districts may not have been able to do because of what their staff wants.

Ch. Nathe: I could support this bill. We're talking about five extra days. I asked if they could find 5 extra days within their calendar to do so and Mr. Johnson said they could. He said it would be some work, but they could do it. I grew up under a system like this and I don't see a problem with it.

Rep. Heilman: I also wouldn't have a problem with it except for the advent of all the dual credit and AP classes, this really presents a challenge. From that perspective, when the colleges are trying to fit them into the schedule and I was one of the first in Rugby High School that had a dual credit class, but that was taught by a local teacher, so we really didn't have an issue with getting that, but now I know there are more and more college courses being offered in the high schools. I didn't hear a good solution to that this morning. That's my challenge right now.

Ch. Nathe: Yes it would be a challenge but it is something they can work out. I think there is a lot of support in the public for this.

Rep. Mock: What is the earliest a school district in ND currently starts and what is the latest. Do we have that.

Ch. Nathe: It would be up to the school district when they start. If they wanted to start August 1, they could. We were told that the school year starts July 1 for the biennium. They could start school any time after that date.

Rep. Mock: They submit the calendar to DPI, correct. When is that due.

Rep. Rust: Generally it is submitted on two different occasions. In the fall of the year, and resubmitted in the spring of the year, so that if you had some changes with storm days, etc. you would be accounting for them.

Ch. Nathe: There is a lot of support for this bill from the business community, from the labor standpoint, from tourism. One of the concerns we talked about was high

school sports maybe having to change venues. I found it interesting that Ben Auck, who was here representing the NDHSAA was neutral and said that they could change these venues if they had to.

Rep. Hunskor: I find it interesting and I understand the business end of it and the employees, but if you talk to the superintendents who are working in the schools, working with the kids and teachers, they are the people who really understands what's going on when it comes to educating kids. I find in my district, it's pretty much all superintendents that were against this. If you go to Beach, Hillsboro, Wahpeton, you get a different story from each one because every situation is different. Leave it with local control.

Rep. D. Johnson: When we go to the meetings with the administrators, there isn't that outcry there to be regulated by the state when school starts. They really want to keep that as a local issue. If this is so important to start after Labor Day, the parents at home would be requesting this, and they're not at the local level. I can't support this.

Rep. J. Kelsh: I think they said there were 3 states that require a time to start. SD did do that. They had that you had to start after Labor Day and they had to go back. We talk about local control and they want to be able to set their own start dates.

Rep. B. Koppelman: A lot of the extracurriculars are becoming more and more either online or virtual classroom type of classes. Their teachers are taught by those from the university. A lot of teachers in West Fargo are taught by those at NDSU and are supervised in some way to make sure that they meet the criteria of the university, so they are able to get the credit. It is difficult for the districts to hold onto that control and say that we're the policy drivers, we're going to decide this and you work for us. It doesn't happen like maybe it should.

Rep. Wall: I have to resist the bill for several reasons. I think it is well intentioned. I think the proponents spoke well to the bill. I don't think time gained in August as far as having people in the work force or whatever offsets the lack of learning abilities in the spring. I think for academic testing which is locked in, the more days you can meet in instruction before ACT tests, I think these days are very valuable. I also agree that this is local control matter. If they want to start after Labor Day, they can.

Rep. J. Kelsh: I think the kids are ready to go back in August. They are probably more ready to learn.

Rep. Schatz: The month of August is the nicest month and we're in school. The 15th is the earliest when school started. As a coach, the later you start, the less likely you are for that heat, especially playing football, and moving it back a week, we're not moving it back any more than a week. It makes it a more palatable situation. As far as local control goes, as we go through all these bills, the curriculum is set by the Legislature, Kindergarten, they resisted that for many years. You're going to have preschool now. We're going to tell you if you have a concussion or not. We've got learning disabilities coming through the federal government and we've got 80% of

the funding coming from the state of ND. All I want to do is standardize the start of school. To have somebody be able to go the 15th, you can always go behind this date, but you have one date that's the start point. They could start later but not earlier. As far as being a coach, I don't like those hot days, I think it is very dangerous and I have seen heat stroke, and the 5th of August is too early to start.

Rep. Rohr: I move a Do Pass on HB 1248.

Rep. B. Koppelman: Second the motion.

5 YES 8 NO 0 ABSENT DO PASS MOTION FAILS

Rep. Rust: I move a Do Not Pass.

Johnson: Second the motion.

8 YES 5 NO 0 ABSENT DO NOT PASS CARRIER: Rep. Wall

Date: 1/22/13

Roll Call Vote #: 1

2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1248

House EDUCATION Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

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

Motion Made By Rep. Rohr Seconded By Rep. Koppelman

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Mike Nathe	✓		Rep. Bob Hunsakor		✓
Rep. Mike Schatz	✓		Rep. Jerry Kelsh		✓
Rep. Joe Heilman		✓	Rep. Corey Mock		✓
Rep. Brenda Heller	✓				
Rep. Dennis Johnson		✓			
Rep. Ben Koppelman	✓				
Rep. Lisa Meier		✓			
Rep. Karen Rohr	✓				
Rep. David Rust		✓			
Rep. John Wall		✓			

TOTAL (YES) 5 (NO) 8 (ABSENT) 0

FLOOR ASSIGNMENT _____

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

Motion failed.

Date: 1/22/13

Roll Call Vote #: 2

2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1248

House EDUCATION Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

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

Motion Made By Rep. Rust Seconded By Rep. Johnson

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Mike Nathe		✓	Rep. Bob Hunskor	✓	
Rep. Mike Schatz		✓	Rep. Jerry Kelsh	✓	
Rep. Joe Heilman	✓		Rep. Corey Mock	✓	
Rep. Brenda Heller		✓			
Rep. Dennis Johnson	✓				
Rep. Ben Koppelman		✓			
Rep. Lisa Meier	✓				
Rep. Karen Rohr		✓			
Rep. David Rust	✓				
Rep. John Wall	✓				

TOTAL (YES) 8 (NO) 5 (ABSENT) 0

FLOOR ASSIGNMENT Rep. Wall

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1248: Education Committee (Rep. Nathe, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** (8 YEAS, 5 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1248 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2013 TESTIMONY

HB 1248

Rep. Schatz

#1

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						SR 5:53 SS 9:30 1
SR 5:52 SS 9:31 2	SR 5:51 SS 9:32 3	SR 5:51 SS 9:32 4	SR 5:51 SS 9:33 5	SR 5:50 SS 9:34 6	SR 5:50 SS 9:35 7	SR 5:49 SS 9:35 8
SR 5:49 SS 9:35 9	SR 5:49 SS 9:37 10	SR 5:49 SS 9:37 11	SR 5:49 SS 9:38 12	SR 5:48 SS 9:39 13	SR 5:48 SS 9:39 14	SR 5:48 SS 9:39 15
SR 5:48 SS 9:40 16	SR 5:48 SS 9:40 17	SR 5:48 SS 9:40 18	SR 5:48 SS 9:41 19	SR 5:48 SS 9:41 20	SR 5:48 SS 9:41 21	SR 5:48 SS 9:41 22
SR 5:49 SS 9:41 23	SR 5:49 SS 9:41 24	SR 5:50 SS 9:41 25	SR 5:51 SS 9:41 26	SR 5:51 SS 9:41 27	SR 5:51 SS 9:41 28	SR 5:52 SS 9:41 29
SR 5:51 SS 9:41 30	31					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SR 8:09 SS 4:57 1	SR 8:09 SS 4:56 2	SR 8:10 SS 4:56 3	SR 8:11 SS 4:56 4	SR 8:12 SS 4:55 5	SR 8:13 SS 4:55 6	SR 8:14 SS 4:55 7
SR 8:15 SS 4:55 8	SR 8:16 SS 4:55 9	SR 8:17 SS 4:55 10	SR 8:18 SS 4:55 11	SR 8:19 SS 4:55 12	SR 8:20 SS 4:55 13	SR 8:21 SS 4:55 14
SR 8:21 SS 4:56 15	SR 8:22 SS 4:56 16	SR 8:23 SS 4:56 17	SR 8:24 SS 4:56 18	SR 8:24 SS 4:57 19	SR 8:25 SS 4:57 20	SR 8:25 SS 4:57 21
SR 8:26 SS 4:58 22	SR 8:26 SS 4:59 23	SR 8:27 SS 4:59 24	SR 8:27 SS 5:00 25	SR 8:27 SS 5:01 26	SR 8:28 SS 5:01 27	SR 8:28 SS 5:02 28
SR 8:28 SS 5:01 29	SR 8:28 SS 5:04 30	SR 8:28 SS 5:05 31				

#2

North Dakota Tourism Alliance Partnership

Testimony of Bill Shalhoob Chairman, Tourism Alliance Partnership HB 1248 January 22, 2013

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Fort Abraham
Museum Foundation

Greater Grand Forks CVB

International Peace Garden

Lewis & Clark Fort
Mandan Foundation

Minot CVB

Municipal Airport Authority
of the City of Fargo

Newman Outdoor Advertising

Norsk Hostfest Association

North Dakota Association of
Rural Electric Cooperatives

North Dakota Tourism Division
(ex-officio)

Odney

Ramada Grand Dakota Lodge

State Historical Society of
North Dakota Foundation

Theodore Roosevelt
Museum Foundation

Williston CVB

Chairman Nathe and members of the committee, my name is Bill Shalhoob and I am here today representing the North Dakota Tourism Alliance Partnership (TAP) as its chairman and myself as the managing partner of the Americas Best Value Inn and Suites in Bismarck. I ask for your support of HB 1248, which would delay school opening.

Tourism is the third largest and one of the fastest growing industries in North Dakota. It employs more than 33,000 North Dakotans, including many students. The North Dakota Tourism Division's most recent in-depth travel research indicated that 17.2 million people visited North Dakota in 2011, an increase of 12.7% from 2008, and total tourism expenditures reached \$3 billion, an increase of 23.5% from 2008. North Dakota led the nation in the growth of travel expenditures in 2008, 2009, and 2010, and it was up 15.8% in 2010, compared to the national average of 8%. These dollars were spent on accommodations, retail, food, transportation, and recreation.

North Dakota Tourism's advertising effectiveness research shows that every \$1 invested in advertising the state returned \$119 in visitor spending, including \$9 in tax revenue, and generated 1.4 million trips to the state. Tourism generated \$571 million in federal, state, and local taxes in 2011, and the tax revenue generated by the tourism industry lessened the annual tax burden by \$943 for every North Dakota household.

Although the tourism industry is doing well in North Dakota, workforce is a major challenge for our industry. A later school start date would help tourism businesses, parks, attractions, and entertainment venues keep their employees, so they can stay open longer for in-state and out-of-state visitors alike. This will allow tourism to continue to raise more dollars, not only for tourism proprietors, but also for the state – to help fund critical needs like education.

When out-of-state visitors come to North Dakota in late August, the tourism industry is often struggling to stay afloat because many of their school-age employees have gone back to school. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the number of 14-18 year olds employed in North Dakota in the arts, entertainment, and recreation industry increases by 71% during the summer months.

A day in May or June is not like a day in August in the tourism industry. North Dakota weather in late May and early June is not as conducive to outdoor recreation as weather in late August and early September. The average temperature in the last two weeks of May ranges from 56-61 degrees. The average temperature the last two weeks of August ranges from 64-70 degrees, with highs as great as 84 degrees.

When you look at the visitation numbers, we generally find that a day in late August has about 2.7 times more economic value compared to a day in late May at our major attractions. For example, Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation President Randy Hatzenbuehler says that if you use the Medora Musical as our most significant visitor attraction, the last two weeks of August drop off dramatically (about 50%) compared to the first two weeks in August. And the first week in September drops another 50% from the last week in August! Personally, I see a 23% drop in my business starting the weekend before school is scheduled to open. These prime, lost days are meaningful to me and other similar small North Dakota businesses. There would be a significant impact if the state's tourism season was extended by a delayed school opening.

North Dakota has invested in several programs and tax incentives to foster business growth and development. This change wouldn't require a large state appropriation, just coordination and collaboration. We understand there are a few wrinkles to work out, but this committee has the authority to address those. We certainly support education and hope that we can create a win-win solution.

School opening is a familiar issue for many of us. The tourism industry has been a long-time proponent of a post-Labor Day school start date. After a narrow loss during the 2005 legislative session, one of our goals was to assess the feeling of North Dakotans to see if we were in step with fellow citizens on this issue. To that end, we commissioned a scientific poll, which was conducted by DH Research in September of 2006. The results of the poll, which had a plus or minus in accuracy of 4.9%, reinforced the fact that we are exactly in sync with the majority of citizens. The important number is that without those respondents that held no opinion, 76% of North Dakotans favored a post-Labor Day school start. This number cuts across all age groups and is equal in feeling in all parts of the state. Based on those results, we brought the issue forward again in 2007 and have continued to try to raise its visibility to a level that matches the measured desire of the people of North Dakota.

We recognize that this creates some challenges for education to overcome, but we encourage you to find a way to help make this work. It doesn't make sense to hinder an industry that supports education funding. Let's give education the tools and the flexibility they need to make this work and also support our tourism industry, businesses, and families in North Dakota.

If we are going to have the money that we need to be a national leader in education and continue to fund education at a proper level in the future, then we have to do things that we have never done before, and support the industries that generate revenue for education.

We encourage you to support HB 1248.

**Testimony of Randy Hatzenbuhler
Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation President
House Bill 1248
January 22, 2013**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,

I am Randy Hatzenbuhler, president of the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation. Please support this HB 1248 that would have school begin on the Monday of the fifth week in August and addresses the start date for school activities.

This bill is clearly important to the tourism industry. The numbers are dramatic, attendance at our major attractions in early August are only 50% of what they were just one week earlier.

This issue has been debated for years. The benefit of passage of this bill extends well beyond the tourism industry. North Dakota families will be the biggest winners. We live in a state where the summer is spectacular. It just doesn't last long enough. Give North Dakota families a gift – return those precious summer days to them!

Thank you for the opportunity to encourage your support of HB 1248.

Respectfully,



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Testimony of Terri Thiel, Executive Director of the Dickinson Convention & Visitors Bureau
House Bill: 1248
January 21, 2013

Chairman Nathe, and Members of the House Education Committee, my name is Terri Thiel and I am the Executive Director of the Dickinson Convention & Visitors Bureau.

We are in favor of HB 1248. Many family vacations are centered not only with parents and their children, individual parents and their children, but also additional vacation time spent with grandparents and their grandchildren. A national trend of multi-family households has resulted in families struggling to accommodate a variety of family member vacations.

Our visitor's center is quite often the first point of contact for travelers who stop off of Interstate 94 when entering Dickinson. Repeatedly we are faced visitors who express frustration because some regional attractions are scaled back in services by the end of August. We explain to them it is because many of the seasonal workers have left due to the school start dates.

For our own employment at the Convention & Visitors Bureau, when hiring students as our front line greeters, our own staff is faced with additional duties when the student leaves our employment early because of early school start dates.

While we would like to see a post school start date after Labor Day, this bill assists our industry with some of the issues that we are facing when working with vacationing families in the summer.

The Dickinson Convention & Visitors Bureau supports legislation to extend the school start dates for the elementary and secondary school year. please support HB 1248.

Sincerely,

Terri Thiel
Executive Director

Explore
the WESTERN EDGE

HB 1248

Testimony by Rudie Martinson
Executive Director, ND Hospitality Association
Before the House Education Committee
January 22, 2013

Chairman Nathe and members of the committee,

My name is Rudie Martinson, and I represent the ND Hospitality Association. We are the trade association for North Dakota's restaurant, lodging, and retail beverage industries.

I am appearing today in support of HB 1248. The hospitality industry in North Dakota relies on vacationing ND families, particularly during the busy summer months. When school begins halfway through August, it reduces the time those families have to travel around our state by several weeks. This may not sound like a lot of time, but those late August weeks are critical in the hospitality industry and serve as a great boost going into the much slower winter season.

I know there is a current perception that every hotel in North Dakota is running at 100% occupancy, but this simply isn't true. Even with the increased traffic due to the energy boom and general economic prosperity across North Dakota, family vacations are still a critical piece of what makes the ND hospitality industry successful.

Mr. Chairman and committee members, hospitality businesspeople from across the state have contacted me regarding this bill, and all report it would give a welcome boost to our industry in the mid to late August portion of the tourist season. In addition, it would allow ND families some extra time to spend together during the warm summer months.

We ask you for a "do pass" vote on HB 1248.

HC

1-22-2013

Regarding: HB 1248.

Chairman Nathe and distinguished members of committee. I apologize that I could not testify in person as I could not get off of work today. However, this is one of the most important bills in my opinion, not only for my business, but also to my family. I am encouraging you to vote YES on HB 1248.

As a manager of a hotel, right here in Bismarck, I see first-hand every single year how business pretty much shuts down after school starts. August is traditionally one of our busiest months every year, and as soon as school starts, people quit traveling. With short summers and a short tourism season in North Dakota, this hits us hard every year. As winter sets in, it gets even worse. Two weeks might not sound like a big deal, but in the hotel industry, it would be a great boost before the long slow winter season kicks in, and business slows down significantly.

As a father to four young children who think camping is the greatest thing on earth, it is disappointing every year when we have to shorten our last two weekends of the camping season, because we have to wait later each Friday to leave because the kids are not out of school yet, and we have to get back to town earlier because it is a school night. These moments with my wife and kids are precious, and because of the fact that school goes back into session so early, we miss out on much needed and enjoyed family time. The past several years, we have had temperatures well into the 80's and 90's after school starts, and when school ends in middle to late May, the temperatures are still only in the fifties or sixties and maybe some seventies. As you are well aware, it is much more enjoyable when you are out camping if you are doing so in 80-90 degrees rather than 50-60. I have yet to talk to an avid camper that does not wish the same as we do. In fact, I have yet to talk to any parent anywhere that likes the way it is currently set up. They all say the same thing. "Start after Labor Day!"

To close, when the special interest groups come up and speak to you today and tell you about how the sports will be affected, remember one thing. Are we sending our kids to school to learn? Or are we sending our kids to play sports? We can adjust the length of the sporting seasons, and we can adjust the start and end dates. But we can't adjust the weather. I urge you to vote yes on HB 1248 and finally allow school to start when it should.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Mike Motschenbacher
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