

**2013 SENATE EDUCATION**

**SB 2186**

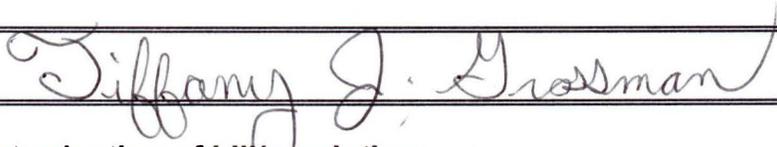
# 2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Education Committee  
Missouri River Room, State Capitol

SB 2186  
2-5-13  
18264

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to eligibility for North Dakota career and technical scholarships and North Dakota academic scholarships; and to declare an emergency

## Minutes:

You may make reference to "attached testimony."

**Chairman Flakoll** opened the hearing on SB 2186

**Senator Heckaman:** I wish to introduce SB 2186. (Written Testimony #1 attached)

**Senator Heckaman:** I have some letters of support (Superintendent Jeff Olson from Fort Totten Public School, attachment #2, and Superintendent of Prairie School District Janet Edlund, attachment #3)

**Senator Luick:** Is there a difference in the percentage of the funding from the 22 and 23?

**Senator Heckaman:** It is the same amount for either score.

**Vice Chairman Schaible:** Do you think this is the only thing that will make the kids who scored 22 and 23 want to go to college?

**Senator Heckaman:** I think an incentive of financial support would be good. Parents and administrators find that there is a big hole out there right now. We have needs based for some, the ND Academic Scholarship for those of ACT scores of 24, and then a middle ground where there isn't much of anything. The parents find there is a big hole that doesn't fit in the ACT 24 scores and the needs based.

**Chairman Flakoll:** If we move from \$6,000 to \$10,000 as proposed, then this trails that language. Why did you pick 22 and 23?

**Senator Heckaman:** Yes. The 22 and 23 came from my administrators. If we support our brightest and best we should support the rest.

**Chairman Flakoll:** You focus on ACT test score and not the work keys test. Many students that struggle with the ACT take the work keys and qualify. How will that interfere with the changes.

**Senator Heckaman:** It doesn't make a difference. However, the secondary administrators are asking for an adjustment in the work keys. Out of the three assessments the students take, the locating information section is taking them several tries.

**Senator Murphy District 20:** I am in my 35<sup>th</sup> year of teacher. I have heard this bill referred to as dumbing it down but I can see so many students that can't get to the 24. These people are such hard working people and so appreciative of any help we can get them. I encourage you to consider this.

**William Woodsworth, NDSA:** The NDSA is here to support SB 2186. (Written testimony #4 attached)

**Chairman Flakoll:** Are you saying someone who gets an 18 on their ACT doesn't work as hard as someone who gets a 25?

**William Woodsworth, NDSA:** I might have misspoken. It is not necessarily associated with the hard work. Sometimes there might be other conditions.

**Vice Chairman Schaible:** What is the cost of the ACT test?

**William Woodsworth, NDSA:** When I took the ACT it was about 45 dollars.

**Vice Chairman Schaible:** How are we achieving our goals of reaching higher standards by lowering the standard?

**William Woodsworth, NDSA:** There are longer term measures of student success. We could distinguish the scholarship and keep the standards but rename it.

**Senator Heckaman:** Is the second ACT more rigorous and when can you take it?

**William Woodsworth, NDSA:** A student can take the ACT several times. Some colleges will cap the amount of ACT scores they accept. They usually administer the exams every couple months.

**Chairman Flakoll:** Is it correct that the state pays for the first test of the ACT and the student can pay after?

**William Woodsworth, NDSA:** That is the change that occurred immediately after I was eligible but I believe that is correct.

**Chairman Flakoll:** To remain eligible you have to maintain a GPA of 2.75 based upon testing right?

**William Woodsworth, NDSA:** It would be however the professor determines the grading system.

**Chairman Flakoll:** If you had a younger sibling deciding what to do, would they be more inclined to go for the work keys which seems to have a higher acceptance rate than the ACT, do you think they would go for the work keys or the ACT for the full amount?

**William Woodsworth, NDSA:** Most students who are college bound are already planning to get into a university are more likely to take the ACT. They are already planning for that. I wasn't familiar with the work keys until I got into the college setting. It was not well advertised at my high school.

**John Martinson, ND School Boards Association:** We have some opposition to the bill. (Written Testimony #5 attached)

**Senator Heckaman** What percent of graduating seniors receive the scholarship.

**John Martinson, ND School Boards Association:** I don't have that information.

**Senator Heckaman:** Let's say it is  $\frac{1}{4}$  or  $\frac{1}{3}$ . Are you on behalf of the School Board saying the rest of those students aren't worthy of attending college? It seems like you are saying they don't deserve to be in college. Please clarify.

**John Martinson, ND School Boards Association:** I did not intend to imply that. My background is in Community Colleges where everyone has a chance to attend college. That is not this issue here. The issue is whether students are qualified to receive a scholarship.

**Chairman Flakoll:** Closed the hearing on SB 2186

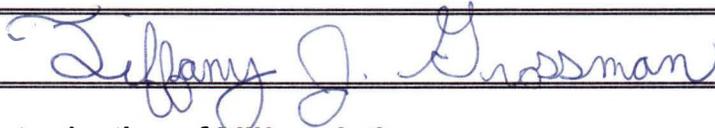
# 2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Education Committee  
Missouri River Room, State Capitol

SB 2186  
2-6-13  
18394

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to eligibility for North Dakota career and technical scholarships and North Dakota academic scholarships; and to declare an emergency

## Minutes:

You may make reference to "attached testimony."

**Chairman Flakoll:** Opened hearing on SB 2186

**Senator Heckaman:** I will make a motion for a Do Pass on SB 2186 and re-refer to appropriations .

**Senator Marcellais:** Second

**Vice Chairman Schaible:** I understand the logic but if we are trying to raise our standards we should not be making it easier for people to get the scholarship. That isn't in our best interest. I will vote against this.

**Senator Poolman:** I appreciate the idea this but the 24 is the cutoff where 25% of the kids finish college and I feel like those 25% are most likely to have a degree by the time they finish.

**A roll call vote was taken for A Do Pass on SB 2186 and Re-Refer to Appropriations:  
2 yeas, 4 neas, 0 absent**

**Senator Poolman:** Move a Do Not pass on SB 2186

**Vice Chairman Schaible:** Second

**A roll call vote was taken for A Do Pass on SB 2186: 4 yeas, 2 neas, 0 absent**

**Senator Poolman** will carry the bill

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Requested by Legislative Council**  
**01/17/2013**

Bill/Resolution No.: SB 2186

- 1 A. **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.*

	2011-2013 Biennium		2013-2015 Biennium		2015-2017 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
<b>Revenues</b>						
<b>Expenditures</b>			\$3,200,000		\$7,000,000	
<b>Appropriations</b>			\$3,200,000		\$7,000,000	

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

	2011-2013 Biennium	2013-2015 Biennium	2015-2017 Biennium
<b>Counties</b>			
<b>Cities</b>			
<b>School Districts</b>			
<b>Townships</b>			

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

Expands the academic scholarship program, to provide two-thirds of the scholarship amount or \$1,000 per year, to a maximum of \$4,000, for students scoring a 22 or 23 on the ACT and whom meet all other scholarship criteria

- 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.*

Expands the pool of eligible scholarship candidates to include those scoring between a 22-23 on the ACT, estimated to be an additional 750 new eligible students per year.

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.*

- 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.*

Assumes an additional 750 new eligible scholarship recipients per year, and continuation for four full years. Estimated increased expenditures in 2013-15 at current \$1,500 annual grant is \$3.2 million and \$7.0 million more in 2015-17 biennium.

- 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.*

Additional general fund appropriation required to address increased costs covered in section B above.

**Name:** Laura Glatt

**Agency:** ND University System Office

**Telephone:** 701-328-4116

**Date Prepared:** 01/18/2013

2186

Date: 2-06-13  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO.

Senate Education Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken Do Pass & re-refers to approps

Motion Made By Heckaman Seconded By Marcellais

Senators	Yes	No	Senator	Yes	No
Chairman Tim Flakoll		✓	Senator Joan Heckaman	✓	
Vice Chairman Donald Schaible		✓	Senator Richard Marcellais	✓	
Senator Larry Luick		✓			
Senator Nicole Poolman		✓			

Total (Yes) 2 No 4

Absent 0

Floor Assignment \_\_\_\_\_

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

2186

Date: 2-06-13  
Roll Call Vote #: 2

2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO.

Senate Education Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken Do Not Pass

Motion Made By \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded By \_\_\_\_\_

Senators	Yes	No	Senator	Yes	No
Chairman Tim Flakoll	✓		Senator Joan Heckaman		✓
Vice Chairman Donald Schaible	✓		Senator Richard Marcellais		✓
Senator Larry Luick	✓				
Senator Nicole Poolman	✓				

Total (Yes) 4 No 2

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Poolman

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

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2186: Education Committee (Sen. Flakoll, Chairman)** recommends **DO NOT PASS** (4 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2186 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

**2013 TESTIMONY**

**SB 2186**

SB 2186

#1

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Education Committee:

I am Senator Joan Heckaman and I represent District 23. I am here today to introduce SB 2186. This bill is similar to a couple of other bills that address the North Dakota Scholarship Program. I hope that at the end of the 2013 session we have a scholarship program that provides access to more North Dakota High School Students.

SB 2186 would add another tier to the program. Currently students must achieve certain criteria for the career and technical scholarship or an ACT score of 24 for the academic scholarship. This bill would keep criteria the same for the career and technical scholarship program but expand the academic scholarship by adding qualifying ACT scores of 22 and 23. As you can see, this would entitle students to receive 2/3 of the dollar amount specified if they had an ACT score of 24. Currently, this would award \$4000 scholarship to those students who have ACT scores of 22 and 23 and meet all of the remaining criteria under the current program.

With a focus on expanding access to a quality education, this bill would allow many other students access to scholarships for schools in the North Dakota University System. Our students are among the brightest and best. Let's let more of them know we care that they stay in North Dakota and get that excellent education we know they can get here.

You will note the emergency clause on this bill. Placing this on the bill may allow students the opportunity to access this scholarship for the coming post-secondary school year.

I have some letters of support from administrators that cannot be present today.

I ask for your support for SB 2186.

Dear Education Committee,

As an educator I've encountered many highly successful students that weren't the best test takers. SB 2186 appears to address this situation in regards to ND scholarships. I believe that students that have achieved similar success in the classroom for 12 years but didn't score as high as another student on their ACT test should be provided with a similar incentive to attend a ND institution of higher education as their counterparts.

The ACT test is one assessment to identify potential of an individual and should be used as such, just one measurement form. I believe if we as North Dakotan's want to invest in our future providing opportunities for highly successful individuals (students), that have excelled in our classrooms on a daily basis over a long period of time, this is a good investment.

I hope you will support SB 2186 because I believe it identifies a short coming in a great opportunity for the students of North Dakota and a great investment in the potential human resources for the businesses in North Dakota.

Jeff Olson, Superintendent, Fort Totten Public School

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518 4<sup>th</sup> Ave PO Box 37  
Petersburg, ND 58272  
Ph # 701-345-8233  
701-345-8243  
Janet Edlund, Supt.

#13

# *Dakota Prairie School District*

February 1, 2013

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in support of SB2186 which allows students who meet all requirements of the ND Academic Scholarship with exception of the current 24 ACT to receive 2/3 of the scholarship award. Each of the last two years of this scholarship program our district has had students who would have met scholarship eligibility if this change would have been in place.

The ACT requirement for enrollment at the university level is 21 and the ACT requirement for enrollment in College Algebra is a 22 in Mathematics. Allowing students who earn a 22 or 23 composite ACT score and meet all other ND Academic Scholarship requirements **are** college ready and are excellent candidates to receive this scholarship.

I encourage your committee to give a Do Pass vote for SB2186.

Sincerely,



Janet Edlund, Supt.  
Dakota Prairie School District

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#4

Chairman Flakoll and members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is William Woodworth, President of the North Dakota Student Association, representing the 48,203 students of the North Dakota University System. We are here to present testimony in support of S.B. 2186.

Currently, resident students graduating from North Dakota high schools who have a higher than a 3.0 GPA, receive an ACT score of 24 or above, and complete various other requirements for high school coursework are eligible for academic and career and technical scholarships.

However, not all students are successful at standardized testing, and S.B. 2186 would recognize those students who meet all other scholarship requirements but may only achieve an ACT score of twenty-two or twenty three. These students would then be eligible to receive two-thirds of the standard scholarship awarded to students who meet all qualifications. According to the Fiscal Note prepared on January 17, this would extend the scholarship to approximately 750 new students per year.

The North Dakota Student Association believes that it is important to reward the hard work of students who strive to meet all the requirements of a scholarship but do not manage to score high enough on the ACT.

The North Dakota Legislature has been generous in providing financial assistance to help students manage ballooning student loan debt. S.B. 2186 can be another step towards reducing student loan debt for even more hardworking North Dakota students while giving them an incentive to stay in the state for their higher education.

Chairman Flakoll, this conclude my testimony. I will stand for any questions the committee may have.

William Woodworth, North Dakota Student Association President

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**Testimony on SB2186**

Tuesday, February 5, 2013

Jon Martinson, Executive Director  
North Dakota School Boards Association

Chairman Flakoll and members of the Committee, I am Jon Martinson with the North Dakota School Boards Association.

With due respect to the bill sponsors including Senator Heckaman, we don't think the academic requirements to receive the North Dakota Scholarship should be lowered from an ACT score of 24 to 22.

This bill waters down requirements in an era of grade inflation—where there exists an attitude among some students that they should receive an “A” just because they show up for class, because they participate, or work hard.

As a college teacher for 23 years, I can state that it was not uncommon for students to comment to me and other teachers that they don't understand why they were getting “Cs” in my class yet they earned “As” and “Bs” in high school.

It's a challenge for teachers and higher ed institutions to hold the line on the erosion of academic standards and the message sent by this bill—that you are able to receive a partial scholarship even though you don't qualify for a full scholarship—doesn't help young students learn that they are entitled just because they work hard. Rather, they must perform.

Thank you. I am happy to answer questions.