

2023 HOUSE EDUCATION

HB 1241

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1241
1/24/2023

Relating to the workforce education innovation program; to provide for a legislative management report; and to provide an appropriation

9:38 AM

Chairman Heinert opened the hearing. Members present: Chairman Heinert, Vice Chairman Schreiber-Beck, Representatives Conmy, Hager, Hauck, Heilman, Hoverson, Jonas, Longmuir, Marschall, Murphy, Novak, and Timmons. Absent: Representative Dyk.

Discussion Topics:

- Innovative workforce funding
- Workforce shortage
- Workforce enhancement dollars
- Noncredit side of training
- Nontraditional apprenticeships

Rep Schreiber-Beck, District 25, presented the bill, Testimony #15982

Rod Flanigan, President of NDSCS, Testimony #15378

Lisa Johnson, Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs, NDUS, Testimony #16124

Doug Darling, President, Lake Region State College, oral testimony

Dr Katherine Terras, CEO, Certification Central, Testimony #16082

Vice Chairman Schreiber-Beck closed the hearing at 10:02 AM

Kathleen Davis, Committee Clerk

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1241
1/24/2023

Relating to the workforce education innovation program; to provide for a legislative management report; and to provide an appropriation

11:40 AM

Chairman Heinert opened the meeting. Members present: Chairman Heinert, Vice Chairman Schreiber-Beck, Representatives Conmy, Hager, Hauck, Heilman, Hoverson, Jonas, Longmuir, Marschall, Murphy, Novak, and Timmons. Absent: Rep Dyk.

Discussion Topics:

- New innovative programs
- Workforce need
- Distribution of money
- Sim centers
- New or existing board
- State approved post-secondary programs

Discussion on bill amongst committee members.

Chairman Heinert closed the meeting at 11:47 AM.

Kathleen Davis, Committee Clerk

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1241
2/6/2023

Relating to the workforce education innovation program; to provide for a legislative management report; and to provide an appropriation

9:19 AM

Chairman Heinert opened the meeting. Members present: Chairman Heinert, Vice Chairman Schreiber-Beck, Representatives Conmy, Dyk, Hager, Hauck, Heilman, Hoverson, Jonas, Longmuir, Marschall, Murphy, Novak, and Timmons.

Discussion Topics:

- Workforce education
- Legislative intent
- Sustainable program
- Workforce need
- Outside expertise
- Legislator committee membership
- New workforce instructors
- Emerging workforce needs

Rep Schreiber Beck explained the fiscal note in appropriations in the higher ed budget. This is the policy piece of HB 1241.

Institutions under the state board must be approved by the state board of higher ed upon a review of a subcommittee of the state board of high education,

9:30 AM Chairman Heinert closed the meeting.

Kathleen Davis, Committee Clerk

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1241
2/6/2023

Relating to the workforce education innovation program; to provide for a legislative management report; and to provide an appropriation

11:08 AM Chairman Heinert opened the meeting.

Members present: Chairman Heinert, Vice Chairman Schreiber-Beck, Representatives Conmy, Dyk, Hager, Hauck, Heilman, Hoverson, Jonas, Longmuir, Marschall, Murphy, Novak, and Timmons.

Discussion Topics:

- Amendment 23.0555.01001

Representative Murphy, Amendment 23.0555.01001, Testimony 21171

Rep Murphy moved to amend HB 1241 under Section 1, No. 2, established by the State Board of Higher Education end of Line 16, after education, this committee must include (a) the director of CTE and (b) one legislator from each house as appointed by Legislative Management, seconded by Rep Jonas. Voice vote. Motion carried.

11:10 AM meeting adjourned.

Kathleen Davis, Committee Clerk

February 6, 2023

2-6-23

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1241

Page 1, line 15, after "reviewed" insert "by a committee consisting of seven members established by the state board of higher education"

Page 1, line 16, after the underscored period insert "The committee must include:

- a. The director of career and technical education; and
- b. Two members of the legislative assembly, one member from each chamber, appointed by the legislative management."

Renumber accordingly

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1241
2/6/2023

Relating to the workforce education innovation program; to provide for a legislative management report; and to provide an appropriation

3:32 PM

Chairman Heinert opened the hearing. Members present: Chairman Heinert, Vice Chairman Schreiber-Beck, Representatives Conmy, Dyk, Hager, Hauck, Heilman, Hoverson, Jonas, Longmuir, Marschall, Murphy, Novak, and Timmons.

Discussion Topics:

- Committee Work

Rep Schreiber-Beck moved a Do Pass as Amended with #23.0555.01001 and Rerefer to Appropriations, seconded by Rep Hager.

Roll Call Vote:

Representatives	Vote
Representative Pat D. Heinert	Y
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	Y
Representative Liz Conmy	Y
Representative Scott Dyk	N
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	Y
Representative Dori Hauck	Y
Representative Matt Heilman	N
Representative Jeff A. Hoverson	N
Representative Jim Jonas	Y
Representative Donald W. Longmuir	Y
Representative Andrew Marschall	N
Representative Eric James Murphy	Y
Representative Anna S. Novak	Y
Representative Kelby Timmons	N

Motion carried. 9-5-0.

Representative Conmy carrier.

3:39 PM Chairman Heinert closed the meeting.

Kathleen Davis, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1241: Education Committee (Rep. Heinert, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (9 YEAS, 5 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1241 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 15, after "reviewed" insert "by a committee consisting of seven members established by the state board of higher education"

Page 1, line 16, after the underscored period insert "The committee must include:

- a. The director of career and technical education; and
- b. Two members of the legislative assembly, one member from each chamber, appointed by the legislative management."

Renumber accordingly

2023 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1241

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee
Brynhild Haugland Room, State Capitol

HB 1241
2/15/2023

Relating to the workforce education innovation program;

10:41 AM Chairman Vigesaa Called the meeting to order, roll call was taken:

Members present; Chairman Vigesaa, Representative Kempenich, Representative B. Anderson, Representative Brandenburg, Representative Hanson, Representative Kreidt, Representative Martinson, Representative Mitskog, Representative Meier, Representative Mock, Representative Monson, Representative Nathe, Representative J. Nelson, Representative O'Brien, Representative Pyle, Representative Richter, Representative Sanford, Representative Schatz, Representative Schobinger, Representative Strinden, Representative G. Stemen and Representative Swiontek.

Members no Present Representative Bellew

Discussion Topics:

- Curriculum Development
- Purchase Equipment
- Facility Improvements
- Hiring
- Training
- Educational Promotions
- Establish a Committee
- Program Administration Costs

Representative Heinert, District 32- Introduces the bill.

10:44 AM Chairman Vigesaa Closed the meeting for HB 1241

Risa Berube, Committee Clerk

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Brynhild Haugland Room, State Capitol

HB 1241
2/16/2023

Relating to the workforce education innovation program;

11:25 AM Chairman Vigesaa Called the meeting to order, roll call was taken:

ALL Members Present; Chairman Vigesaa, Representative Kempenich, Representative B. Anderson, Representative Bellew, Representative Brandenburg, Representative Hanson, Representative Kreidt, Representative Martinson, Representative Mitskog, Representative Meier, Representative Mock, Representative Monson, Representative Nathe, Representative J. Nelson, Representative O'Brien, Representative Pyle, Representative Richter, Representative Sanford, Representative Schatz, Representative Schobinger, Representative Strinden, Representative G. Stemen and Representative Swiontek.

Discussion Topics:

- Amendment

Representative Monson- Introduces amendment 23.0555.02001 (Testimony #21020)

Representative Monson- Moves to adopt amendment.

Representative Richter -Seconds the motion.

Committee Discussion- Roll Call Vote:

Representatives	Vote
Representative Don Vigesaa	Y
Representative Keith Kempenich	Y
Representative Bert Anderson	Y
Representative Larry Bellew	Y
Representative Mike Brandenburg	Y
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	Y
Representative Gary Kreidt	Y
Representative Bob Martinson	Y
Representative Lisa Meier	Y
Representative Alisa Mitskog	Y
Representative Corey Mock	Y
Representative David Monson	Y
Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y
Representative Emily O'Brien	Y
Representative Brandy Pyle	Y
Representative David Richter	Y

Representative Mark Sanford	Y
Representative Mike Schatz	Y
Representative Randy A. Schobinger	Y
Representative Greg Stemen	Y
Representative Michelle Strinden	Y
Representative Steve Swiontek	Y

Motion Carries: 23-0-0

Representative O'Brien- Moves Do Pass as Amended

Representative Richter Seconds the motion.

Committee Discussion- Roll Call Vote:

Representatives	Vote
Representative Don Vigesaa	
Representative Keith Kempenich	N
Representative Bert Anderson	Y
Representative Larry Bellew	Y
Representative Mike Brandenburg	Y
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	Y
Representative Gary Kreidt	Y
Representative Bob Martinson	Y
Representative Lisa Meier	Y
Representative Alisa Mitskog	Y
Representative Corey Mock	Y
Representative David Monson	Y
Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y
Representative Emily O'Brien	Y
Representative Brandy Pyle	Y
Representative David Richter	Y
Representative Mark Sanford	Y
Representative Mike Schatz	Y
Representative Randy A. Schobinger	N
Representative Greg Stemen	Y
Representative Michelle Strinden	Y
Representative Steve Swiontek	Y

Motion Carries 21-2-0 Representative O'Brien will carry the bill.

11:39 AM Chairman Vigesaa Closed the meeting for HB 1241

Risa Berube, Committee Clerk

DR
171
2-16-23

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1241

Page 1, line 2, after the semicolon insert "and"

Page 1, line 3, remove "; and to provide an appropriation"

Page 1, line 15, remove "Awards under this section must be reviewed by a committee consisting of seven"

Page 1, remove lines 16 through 20

Page 1, line 21, remove "3."

Page 2, remove lines 7 through 14

Renumber accordingly

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1241, as engrossed: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Vigesaa, Chairman)
recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends
DO PASS (21 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HB 1241
was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 2, after the semicolon insert "and"

Page 1, line 3, remove "; and to provide an appropriation"

Page 1, line 15, remove "Awards under this section must be reviewed by a committee
consisting of seven"

Page 1, remove lines 16 through 20

Page 1, line 21, remove "3."

Page 2, remove lines 7 through 14

Renumber accordingly

2023 SENATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

HB 1241

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Workforce Development Committee Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

HB 1241
3/16/2023

Relating to the workforce education innovation program; and to provide for a legislative management report.

9:31 AM **Chairman Wobbema** called the hearing to order. **Senators Wobbema, Axtman, Elkin, Larson, Sickler, Piepkorn** were present.

Discussion Topics:

- Additional funds
- Enhancements
- Curriculum
- Equipment and technology
- Higher learning
- Hiring and training

9:32 AM **Representative Schreiber-Beck** introduced HB 1241 in favor. #24018.

9:34 AM **Lisa Johnson, Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs, North Dakota University System**, testified in favor. #25558.

9:40 AM **Doug Darling, President Lake Region State College**, testified in favor verbally.

9:48 AM **Mark Hagerott, Chancellor, North Dakota University System**, provided information in favor verbally.

9:53 AM **Representative Schreiber-Beck**, provided additional information verbally.

9:55 AM **Lisa Johnson** provided additional information verbally.

Chairman Wobbema calls for discussion.

Additional Written Testimony:

Rod Flanigan, President, North Dakota State College of Science in favor #24503

Danielle Korsmo, Member, Executive Board for Student Government at University of North Dakota in favor #25078

9:58 AM **Chairman Wobbema** closed the hearing.

Patricia Lahr, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Workforce Development Committee Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

HB 1241
3/17/2023

Relating to the workforce education innovation program; and to provide for a legislative management report.

11:52 AM **Chairman Wobbema** called the meeting to order. **Senators Wobbema, Axtman, Larson, Sickler, Piepkorn** are present. Senator Elkin was absent.

Discussion Topics:

- Additional funds
- Equipment and technology

Chairman Wobbema calls for discussion.

Senator Sickler moved **DO PASS**.

Senator Axtman seconded the motion.

Roll call vote.

Senators	Vote
Senator Michael A. Wobbema	Y
Senator Michelle Axtman	Y
Senator Jay Elkin	AB
Senator Diane Larson	Y
Senator Merrill Piepkorn	Y
Senator Jonathan Sickler	Y

The motion passed 5-0-1.

Senator Axtman will carry HB 1241.

11:58 AM **Chairman Wobbema** closed the meeting.

Patricia Lahr, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1241, as reengrossed: Workforce Development Committee (Sen. Wobbema, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Reengrossed HB 1241 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

TESTIMONY

HB 1241



Rod Flanigan, Ph.D., President

Phone: 701.671.2221 | Fax: 701.671.2316 | Rod.Flanigan@ndscs.edu

North Dakota State College of Science • 800 Sixth Street North • Wahpeton, ND 58076-0001 • 1.800.342.4325 • www.NDSCS.edu

HB1241

House Education Committee

January 23, 2023

Rod L. Flanigan, Ph.D., President of North Dakota State College of Science
701-671-2221 | rod.flanigan@ndscs.edu

Chair Heinert, Vice Chair Schreiber-Beck, and members of the House Education Committee, my name is Rod Flanigan and I serve as the President of North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS). I write this letter today on behalf of NCSCS, our students (both current and prospective), faculty, and staff to provide written testimony in support of HB1241.

As written, HB1241 would allow the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education to distribute funds to any/all of the 11 higher education institutions throughout the state for the purpose of building, growing, and developing innovative workforce academic programs, initiatives, and partnerships. While I am in favor of this bill, I believe it would be beneficial if language is adopted defining how the funds would be distributed to the various state institutions. By adding such language to Section 2 of HB1241, it will provide both equity and clarity for how the funds are intended to be used and distributed.

If passed, this bill would provide much needed funding to NDSCS allowing us to develop some of the innovative programs that we have wanted to build but have been unable to due to lack of funding. As most of you may know, NDSCS is facing a \$4,001,780 funding shortfall for the 2023-2025 biennium, and a \$1,428,592 shortfall if the 96% 'Hold Harmless' is passed. This sort of funding shortfall really limits what we can do for our academic programs and departments. Funding provided through HB1241 would allow us to grow and build some very important programs. Programs that are in discussion at NDSCS include: Electric Vehicle (EV) Technician (both automotive and construction equipment), Radiology Technician, Virtual Reality/Mixed Reality Technician, Aviation Maintenance Technician (A & P), and several others. We believe this not only helps build enrollment at NDSCS, but also helps fill the pipeline of very talented and skilled workforce in much needed positions throughout the state.

This concludes my testimony related to HB1241. I respectfully request that you vote in favor of this bill.

Thank you so much for all you do, and for your support of higher education throughout the state of North Dakota!

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Rod Flanigan', is written over a red circular stamp or mark.

Rod Flanigan, Ph.D.
President, NDSCS

Committee on Education Introduction and Support of

HB1241 WORKFORCE INNOVATION PROGRAM

January 24, 2023, 9:30am

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Committee on Education:

For the record I am Cindy Schreiber-Beck, District 25 Representative. I am here to introduce House Bill 1241, a bill to provide funds to the institutions of higher learning for innovative workforce program development and the enhancement of postsecondary partnerships with primary and secondary schools.

Previously, a similar program existed under the department of commerce so this is not a new idea but expanded. The bill includes:

- What the award dollars can be utilized for is listed in lines 11-14 on page 1.
- That the awards must be reviewed and approved by the state board of higher education and that the board is responsible to submit a detailed annual report to legislative management.
- The appropriation of \$24 million for the workforce innovation program, and that the state board of higher education may use up to \$200,000 for program administration. At institutions of higher learning, program development is a two-year venture with a return on the investment beginning when students enroll. Thus, funds are necessary to design, develop, and staff the programs.

NDUS system personnel were helpful in assisting with the scripting of this bill and representatives of the system office will be able provided additional information.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed legislation.

Certification Central

ND's 1st Alternative Educator Preparation Program
Box 322, McVille, ND 58254
701.322.4429
www.certificationcentral.education



Written Testimony in Support of HB 1241

Chairman Heinert and House Education Committee,

For the record, my name is Dr. Katherine Terras, and I represent Certification Central, ND's 1st Alternative Educator Preparation Program approved by the NDESPB. We are in support of HB 1241 with one minor amendment:

SECTION 1. A new section to chapter 15-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Workforce education innovation program - Report to legislative management.

1. The state board of higher education may provide award funds to ~~institutions under its control~~ state approved postsecondary programs to create or enhance educational programs that address the workforce needs of North Dakota business and industry. An award made under this section may be used for curriculum development, equipment and technology purchases, facility modifications and equipment installation, hiring and training new and existing instructors, educational program promotion, and enhancement of postsecondary partnerships with primary and secondary schools.

This amendment would allow for state approved postsecondary training programs, that are not under the control of the state board of higher education, to also create or enhance education programs that address workforce needs of ND. With this amendment, more opportunities for collaborative innovations would be possible.



HB1241

House Education Committee

January 23, 2023

Lisa A. Johnson, Vice Chancellor of Academic & Student Affairs, NDUS
701.328.4143 | lisa.a.johnson@ndus.edu

Chair Heinert and members of the House Education Committee, my name is Lisa Johnson, and I serve as the Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs for the North Dakota University System. I am here today on behalf of the North Dakota University System to provide testimony in support of HB1241.

This bill, proposed by Rep. Schreiber-Beck with support from eleven additional legislators, including two members from this Committee (Rep. Jonas and Rep. Murphy) is called the Workforce Innovation Program. The additional funds enable the public colleges and universities of the state to expand their program offerings to support not only the immediate skilled workforce needs of in-demand programs of study, but also emerging programs for which demand has not yet peaked in our state or region.

As you can see, the bill permits funds to be used for the development of new curriculum, the purchase of equipment and technology, modification of facilities and equipment installation, hiring and/or training of faculty, and promotion of new programs. If HB1241 were approved, the funds provide much needed financial support to campuses who are in various stages of collaboration with their respective K-12 educational partners to support CTE centers in Bismarck, Dickinson, Fargo, Grafton, Grand Forks, Jamestown, Mandan, Minot, Valley City, Wahpeton, and Watford City.

One of the things that campuses have struggled with when developing new programs is the lag time in the funding formula that can be up to two years before they even see any state funds through recognition of completed credit hours produced while in the program's infancy. The costs to start new programs—particularly those that require specialized equipment like machining, engine repair, welding, and nursing simulators—can be prohibitively expensive. New programs that require significant modifications to facilities to accommodate things like air handling and high voltage electrical systems combined with the hiring of new faculty or the additional training of existing faculty can quickly exceed \$500,000—before any state funds begin to kick in.

I asked campuses to let me know what types of programs they had in mind if the prohibitive costs of starting up a new program were not a factor. Campuses reported a variety of programs to include diesel technology, automation and controls, fire science, aircraft maintenance, electrical vehicle technology, radiology and surgery technology, a rural hospital emergency simulation project, space studies, artificial intelligence and quantum science, and an expansion of an existing cybersecurity program among their many responses.

I encourage you to read testimony submitted by North Dakota State College of Science President, Rod Flanigan, as he shares how these funds would permit NDSCS create programs requested of them in the SE region of the state. He encourages the committee to discuss how proposed funds might be



distributed among campuses—based on the workforce needs and priorities of the state. I am grateful to Lake Region State College President, Doug Darling, who traveled here today to testify because funds like these are so critical to transforming and adapting to workforce needs in NE ND. President Darling truly “leans in” on innovative education practices, delivery methods, and nontraditional populations as one of the first colleges to offer dual credit coursework high school students, online coursework worldwide, and is home to the coordinator for the highly successful, multi-campus Dakota Nursing Program.

The NDUS fully supports a “Do Pass” recommendation on HB1241 and will avail our staff to support and coordinate a Workforce Innovation Program on behalf of the State Board of Higher Education. I remain available to Committee members for questions and comments.

23.0555.02001
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
the House Appropriations Committee
February 16, 2023

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1241

Page 1, line 2, after the semicolon insert "and"

Page 1, line 3, remove "; and to provide an appropriation"

Page 1, line 15, remove "Awards under this section must be reviewed by a committee
consisting of seven"

Page 1, remove lines 16 through 20

Page 1, line 21, remove "3."

Page 2, remove lines 7 through 14

Re-number accordingly

23.0555.01001
Title.02000

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
Representative Heinert
February 6, 2023

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1241

Page 1, line 15, after "reviewed" insert "by a committee consisting of seven members established by the state board of higher education"

Page 1, line 16, after the underscored period insert "The committee must include:

- a. The director of career and technical education; and
- b. Two members of the legislative assembly, one member from each chamber, appointed by the legislative management."

Renumber accordingly

Reengrossed HB1241 WORKFORCE INNOVATION PROGRAM

March 16, 2023, 9:30am

Chair Wobbema, Vice-Chair Axtman, and members of the Senate Committee on Workforce Development:

For the record I am Cindy Schreiber-Beck, District 25 Representative. I am here to introduce Reengrossed House Bill No. 1241, a bill to provide funds to the institutions of higher learning for innovative workforce program development and the enhancement of postsecondary partnerships with primary and secondary schools.

Previously, a similar program existed under the department of commerce so this is not a new idea but expanded. The bill denotes:

- What the award dollars can be utilized for (lines 8-14 on page 1) and include:
 - Curriculum development
 - Equipment and technology purchases
 - Facility modification and equipment installation
 - Hiring and training new and existing instructors
 - Educational program promotion
 - Enhancement of postsecondary partnerships with primary and secondary schools
- That the awards must be reviewed and approved by the state board of higher education and that the board is responsible to submit a detailed biennial program report to legislative management.

The current appropriation is \$10 million (HB1003) for the workforce innovation program that includes up to \$200,000 for program administration. At institutions of higher learning, program development is a two-year venture with a return on the investment beginning when students enroll. Thus, funds are necessary to design, develop, and staff the programs.

NDUS system personnel assisted with the writing of HB1241 and representatives from the system office will provide additional information.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of this proposed legislation.



Rod Flanigan, Ph.D., President

Phone: 701.671.2221 | Fax: 701.671.2316 | Rod.Flanigan@ndscs.edu

North Dakota State College of Science • 800 Sixth Street North • Wahpeton, ND 58076-0001 • 1.800.342.4325 • www.NDSCS.edu

HB1241

Senate Education Committee

March 16, 2023

Rod L. Flanigan, Ph.D., President of North Dakota State College of Science
701-671-2221 | rod.flanigan@ndscs.edu

Chair Wobbema, Vice-Chair Axtman and members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee, my name is Rod Flanigan and I serve as the President of North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS). I write this letter today on behalf of NCSCS, our students (both current and prospective), faculty, and staff to provide written testimony in support of HB1241.

As originally written by Representative Schreiber-Beck, HB1241 would have provided \$24,000,000 to the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education to distribute funds to any/all of the 11 higher education institutions throughout the state for the purpose of building, growing, and developing innovative workforce academic programs, initiatives, and partnerships. While I am in favor of this bill, **I believe it would be beneficial if language is adopted defining how the funds would be distributed to the various state institutions.** By adding such language to the bill, it will provide both equity and clarity for how the funds are intended to be used and distributed.

If passed, this bill would provide much needed funding to NDSCS allowing us to develop some of the innovative programs that we have wanted to build but have been unable to due to lack of funding. The sort of funding shortfall we are facing really limits what we can do for our academic programs and departments. Funding provided through HB1241 would allow us to build some very important programs. Programs that are in discussion at NDSCS include: Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS), Fire Science, Electric Vehicle (EV) Technician (both automotive and construction equipment), Radiology Technician, Virtual Reality/Mixed Reality Technician, Aviation Maintenance Technician (A & P), and several others. We believe these programs can not only help build enrollment at NDSCS, but also fill the pipeline of very talented and skilled workforce in much needed positions throughout the state.

This concludes my testimony related to HB1241. I respectfully request that you vote in favor of this bill.

Thank you so much for all you do, and for your support of higher education throughout the state of North Dakota!

Respectfully submitted,

Rod Flanigan, Ph.D.
President, NDSCS

Danielle Korsmo | UND Student Government
Danielle.korsmo@und.edu

Chairman Wobbema and members of the Workforce Development Committee,

My name is Danielle Korsmo, and I serve as a member of the executive board for Student Government at the University of North Dakota (UND). I am providing testimony supporting HB 1241, relating to the workforce education innovation program; and to provide for a legislative management report.

Funding from HB 1241 for the workforce education innovation program would provide invaluable opportunities for North Dakota students to build their skillsets in an effort that directly aligns with the workforce needs of the state. Increased program offerings are an advantage for attending students of an institution to explore a variety of interests and have more options when considering a career path. As many students begin their educational journey without clear knowledge of what their future work may be, having options can be a deciding factor in choosing where to attend higher education. Expanding programs increases enrollment, but more importantly, it prepares students for the workforce needs in North Dakota.

This bill supports the development and expansion of programs specific to North Dakota needs by providing necessary funding for the state board of higher education to award institutions. High quality programs will prepare students not only for the current industry but to be successful in future growth. As written, the bill also promotes enhancement of partnerships with primary and secondary schools; connecting students in their early education is extremely beneficial to the trajectory of their learning. Building esteem and pride in our programs enhances the community, which is evident to prospective students and to graduates deciding where to employ their learned knowledge.

Chairman Wobbema and members of the Workforce Development committee, I respectfully request a **DO PASS on HB 1241**. Thank you for your consideration and time.

Danielle Korsmo
VP Chief of Staff, UND Student Government



HB1241

Senate Workforce Development Committee

March 16, 2023

Lisa A. Johnson, Vice Chancellor of Academic & Student Affairs, NDUS
701.328.4143 | lisa.a.johnson@ndus.edu

Chair Wobbema and members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee, my name is Lisa Johnson, and I serve as the Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs for the North Dakota University System. I am here today on behalf of the North Dakota University System to provide testimony in support of HB1241.

This bill, proposed by Rep. Schreiber-Beck with support from eleven additional legislators has been referred to as the Workforce Innovation Program. The additional funds enable the public colleges and universities of the state to expand their program offerings to support not only the immediate skilled workforce needs of in-demand programs of study, but also emerging programs for which demand has not yet peaked in our state or region.

As you can see, the bill permits funds to be used for the development of new curriculum, the purchase of equipment and technology, modification of facilities and equipment installation, hiring and/or training of faculty, and promotion of new programs. If HB1241 were approved, the funds provide much needed financial support to campuses who are in various stages of collaboration with their respective K-12 educational partners to support CTE centers in Bismarck, Dickinson, Fargo, Grafton, Grand Forks, Jamestown, Mandan, Minot, Valley City, Wahpeton, and Watford City.

One of the things that campuses have struggled with when developing new programs is the lag time in the funding formula that can be up to two years before they even see any state funds through recognition of completed credit hours produced while in the program's infancy. The costs to start new programs—particularly those that require specialized equipment like machining, engine repair, welding, and nursing simulators—can be prohibitively expensive. New programs that require significant modifications to facilities to accommodate things like air handling and high voltage electrical systems combined with the hiring of new faculty or the additional training of existing faculty can quickly exceed \$500,000—before any state funds begin to kick in.

I asked campuses to let me know what types of programs they had in mind if the prohibitive costs of starting up a new program were not a factor. Campuses reported a variety of programs to include diesel technology, automation and controls, fire science, aircraft maintenance, electrical vehicle technology, radiology and surgery technology, a rural hospital emergency simulation project, space studies, artificial intelligence and quantum science, and an expansion of an existing cybersecurity program among their many responses.

I encourage you to read testimony submitted by North Dakota State College of Science President, Rod Flanigan, as he shares how these funds would permit NDSCS create programs requested of them in the



SE region of the state. He encourages the committee to discuss how proposed funds might be distributed among campuses—based on the workforce needs and priorities of the state.

The NDUS fully supports a “Do Pass” recommendation on HB1241 and will avail our staff to support and coordinate a Workforce Innovation Program on behalf of the State Board of Higher Education. I remain available to Committee members for questions and comments.