

House Bill 1430 survived the House Chamber – I would be happy to address “why” the negative recommendation from the House Education Committee and the journey afterwards, but there were enough legislators who believe in Career and Technical Education to arrive at this point even with the increase in funding.

The bill was amended to address two issues – issues that were brought forward by recipients of either scholarship or those who worked to receive the CTE scholarship.

Issue #1: 15 credits No longer will a student have to have the 15-credit minimum to be eligible for either the academic or CTE scholarship. I understand the reason for the 15 credits – to “prod” recipients to achieve a degree within what might be considered the “traditional” time frame. With this legislation, a student will be required to be at least a half-time student. Half-time was chosen since various programs have different credit requirements – the term half-time was suggested by the North Dakota University System (NDUS). Many students work while attending school but were penalized if unable to maintain the minimum of 15 credits. And at times, due to situations beyond their control 15 credits was not, or is not, possible. As a note, the 6-year rule to use the scholarship remains in effect.

Issue #2: Many CTE students were not able to receive the full award of \$6000 because of the 2-year programs which has been discussed.

The administration of the scholarships will remain with the NDUS. Essentially, those students who attend 2-year institutions will receive \$1500 per semester award and those students attending 4-year institutions will receive \$750 per semester.

This was a collaborative effort - the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and the North Dakota University System (NDUS) were involved in crafting the amended bill. With maintaining the current scholarship requirements until 2027 and starting the “improved” scholarship requirements with the graduating class of 2022, the bill appears complicated – but that is in appearance only.

Included with my online testimony is a letter of support for HB 1430 from Dan Rood, Director of the Southeast Regional Career and Technology Center. Please take the time to review Mr. Rood’s comments.

Yes, this change comes with a price tag, but I believe a return on investment will be realized.

Thank you for your time and I would appreciate your favorable consideration of HB1430.