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Dennis G. Ballou
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10/30/03
Date

2003 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1017

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10/30/03
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2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1017

House Appropriations Committee
Education and Environment Division

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date 01-10-03

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1		X	16.7-21.0
2	X		
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Chris Wald</i>			

Minutes:

Chairman Martinson opened the hearing on HB 1017. All members of the committee were present.

Maren Daley Executive Directory of Job Service North Dakota, provided written testimony in support of HB 1017.

Rep. Wald How did you calculate the 19.1 million that employers have contributed to Workforce 2000?

Daley It is part of the application process when a company takes part in Workforce 2000. It includes wages, equipment costs, facilities.

Rep. Wald Does it include the payroll for existing employees involved in a Workforce 2000 project?

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Daley Yes, the reason we include it is because it is a benefit to workers so they can receive added skills to get a wage increase.

Rep. Aarsvold When employers contribute equipment to a project, does the title to that equipment stay with the employer?

Daley Yes, if they buy it.

Rep. Aarsvold Some may remain with JSND for training for another time?

Daley It is retained by the company.

Rep. Wald Are these primary sector jobs only?

Daley Not specifically for Workforce 2000, although we do limit it to those that are implementing higher technology and where the training is deemed critical for occupations with inadequately trained personnel.

Rep. Wald In my affiliation with a financial institution, we are upgrading training all the time. This is due to either a new federal law, and I don't think we have ever applied for Workforce 2000 training dollars.

Daley In that type of an industry, that falls into a company's overall training plan. This is for implementation of a new technology.

Rep. Wald Would nonprofit include a hospital or nursing home?

Daley Yes, any legitimately registered nonprofit.

Rep. Wald And those people pay roughly 40.4 million in taxes for the biennium?

Daley No, those would be the contributing employers.

Rep. Wald Well, there are 18,500 employers that paid the traditional unemployment tax, what did the other 1,100 pay?

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Daley They essentially reimburse for claims made against their account.

Rep. Wald So they pay after the fact, after they know the amount of claims and dollars involved? Why do you treat a nonprofit different than a for-profit business?

Daley For federal compliance. (Referred to John Graham, director of centralized services in UI program).

John Graham The reason we do is because the legislation that governs both the ND program and federal program allows tribal entities, nonprofit corporations recognized as 501 C-3's and governmental and political subdivisions the option for becoming a reimbursing employer rather than a tax rating one. Most of those entities have chosen to do that.

Rep. Wald So it is an option to them?

Graham Yes, but they are locked into that decision for 2 years. But they do not pay the payroll tax year in and year out.

Chairman Martinson Please get to the budget quickly.

Daley Request noted.

Daley We have two grants received due to outstanding performance. 1st is WIA Incentive Grant \$775,000 given to the state. 2nd is the Community and Faith Based grant.

Chairman Martinson There is no dollar figure on there.

Daley \$496,000.

Daley Appropriation request includes \$56,067,000 in federal funds, \$2,000,000 in state general funds, and \$530,000 in special funds.

Chairman Martinson How many and what age are the participants of the OASIS, Old Age Survivor's Retirement Program.

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Daley 5 ranging from (inaudible).

Chairman Martinson Are they Job Service employees?

John Graham No, they are spouses of state government employees who retired before the state government was covered under Social Security.

Rep. Gulleson Did you find the Welfare to Work program successful to ND population and how will you work with that group now?

Daley We are trying to make the end of that program transparent to our customers. We have had good success with those programs. There are parts of the state that have a lower success rate.

Rep. Gulleson I met with a number of welfare recipients and they had very positive things to say about working with that program and career counseling. These people are very directed now.

Daley We are pleased with the pilot in Cass county. We will extend these services with TANF to the extent funding permits.

Rep. Wald Why have many business' TANF rates gone up considerably?

Daley Because the rate limits went off this year. In the 80's the trust fund almost went broke. Our average rate today is lower than it was in the 80's. At the end of the 7 years when we reach the trust fund solvency goal, we are hoping to lower the tax rates.

Rep. Wald Yesterday we heard the budget for Vocational Education. Is there any way to combine workforce dollars into one agency to avoid duplication?

Daley We feel we have worked this out amongst ourselves.

Rep. Wald That seems to go against common logic, to centralize is to simplify.

Daley We work very closely with Vocational Education so they can give good counseling and advice to their students. It lets them approach us on a more comfortable level.

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Dick Larson Training and Development Specialist for the Bobcat Company in Gwinner.

Spoke in support of Workforce 2000.

Don Hedger Killdeer Mountain Manufacturing.

Spoke in favor of Workforce 2000.

Chairman Martinson closed the hearing on HB 1017.

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2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1017

House Appropriations Committee
Education and Environment Division

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date February 5, 2003

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1		X	
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Celeste Keller</i>			

Minutes:

Chairman Martinson opened discussion on HB 1017, Job Service North Dakota. See Standing Committee Roll Call Votes.

Rep. Wald We have had some meetings with people from Job Service and everything in the bill except line 16 is unemployment compensation federal money. I would move, if you are open to an amendment, to strike the appropriation on line 16, and remove that from the bill.

Chairman Martinson Is there a second?

Rep. Monson Second.

Rep. Brusegaard That's the Workforce 2000?

Rep. Wald Yes.

Rep. Monson Do we have to strike line 13 too? You're taking out the whole \$2,002,861, so it is two lines?

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