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Dennis Ballantyne
Operator's Signature

10/30/03
Date

2003 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS
HB 1020

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2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1020

House Appropriations Committee
Education and Environment Division

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date January 9, 2003

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1-9-03 Tape #1	X	X	
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Celste Keller</i>			

Minutes: Chairman Martinson called the meeting to order on HB 1020, the state board for vocational and technical education budget. All members of the committee were present.

Wayne Kutzer Please see written testimony provided, including a budget comparison as well as several pamphlets and charts. Mr. Kutzer is the Director of the State Board for Vocational and Technical Education. He discussed the need to prepare students for careers in our workforce and that the vast majority of careers in this state and across the nation are in the technical skill areas of which the base for that knowledge and those skills are taught in vocational technical programs across the state at the high school and post secondary certificate and associate degree level, the need to provide knowledge and skills students need to enter into their chosen career field and to make students, educators, parents, and businesses aware of the education and career opportunities that exist within our state.

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Representative Monson: I was interested in hearing about the ways that we can retrain teachers from the elementary where we might have a surplus because of the declining enrollment to vocational technical education field. I have a hard time believing it's as simple as what you said though, and I have a hard time understanding how it's going to fly with no child left behind things, from what I've heard so far it seems like they're going to frown upon things like that without going through all of the hoops and (inaudible) in those fields. Can you explain how that's going to work?

Wayne Kutzer: The program was originally designed for vocational technical teachers, in the no child left behind there is a major requirement for keeping a particular area fully accounted for the core academic areas, about 10 areas, vocational or technical teachers were specifically exempt from that and if you worked one of those 10 areas you did not have to complete a major in those areas. But, for example I know that (inaudible) is working on composite majors also. So, if we took the example of the dentist (inaudible) to have a major in a particular area as long as the vocational and technical education worked with his transcripts and was able to come up with a composite major in that particular area that apply his condition of teaching biology, that would classify him as a highly qualified teacher. What our program does is really allows that person to stay in the classroom and not have to leave because of the student teaching requirements. In the same respect vocational technical teachers don't need that 4 year degree for the major, this program will prepare them through mentor ship is the key into becoming qualified teachers which will totally satisfy the no child left behind law.

Mr. Kutzer concluded in asking that the committee approve the Governor's executive budget recommendation.

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Chairman Martinson calls on Lt. Governor, Jack Dalrymple to the podium.

Jack Dalrymple Mr. Dalrymple made some comments on the initiative put in the budget for career counseling. He discussed the problem of our young people leaving the state. The young people say there are no opportunities here when in fact there is a tremendous shortage of skilled workers in different job fields. Mr. Dalrymple believes there are opportunities in North Dakota. There are 58 career development counselors serving 99 schools, which is less than half. Kids need to understand what they can be doing. The information is available in the Career Outlook. Every young person needs to be aware of what is out there and what they need to do to get ready for it. He believes the money is making a big difference. Once the network is beefed up he also suggests additional resources into enhancing the web site which can be used to integrate with other web sites available through the federal government and other agencies. This would make it possible for kids to find out everything they need to know. He thinks an awareness campaign is needed to challenge parents and kids to find out what it is they need to know to get ahead. They are the consumer and need to be educated that it is their responsibility to inquire about these things. Mr. Dalrymple concluded in stating that he thought this committee should look at this as their own initiative and he would be happy to work with the committee as he thought beefing up the network, working on the web site, and working on public awareness was the way to go.

Guy Moos Chairman of the Task Force for Improving Workforce Development and Training and President of Baker Boy. Please see written testimony. His comments were primarily targeted to the workforce training provision. He urged a do pass recommendation from the committee on HB 1020.

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Steve Metzger is the Farm Business Management Instructor and Coordinator for the Carrington Farm Business Management Education program. A correction in his written testimony in the fourth paragraph on the first page and on the second to the last paragraph on page 2 should be \$500,000 per year instead of \$1,000,000 per year. He discussed seeking additional funding in North Dakota for Farm Business Management programs and why they are important in North Dakota. Please see attached written testimony.

Representative Gulleason: Can any farmer access the program?

Steve Metzger: The farm business management program is available in 14 areas in North Dakota. 15 with Langdon now. There are several areas in the state particularly up and down the Red River Valley north of Casselton all the way to Langdon, there is not a program located there.

Representative Gulleason: Inaudible.

Steve Metzger: Yes, if they have open enrollment. Many programs are dealing with more farms than they should be.

Representative Wald: Do you have a marketing club?

Steve Metzger: Yes. A marketing club was established in Carrington in 1988 and have reestablished marketing clubs since then.

Representative Wald: How many farmers belong to your club?

Steve Metzger: I think we enrolled 22 and about 15 are fairly regular. Some members of a club made substantial amount of money last year, \$125,000, and he was proud to say that was out of the Carrington club.

Representative Aarsvold: Will you comment on the negative relationship for the first seven years of the program.

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Steve Metzger: The program came over first from a program called Veteran's Ag. back in the 1970's. There were a lot of small and part time farms. A lot of producers paid \$300 to \$400 per month, or whatever the fee was to take part in farm business management. In the early 1980's the transition went from Veteran's Ag. programs to farm business management programs. In Carrington, they do not advertise for enrollment as they would have no place to put them. There is a demand. It produces economic revenue 64 to 1. He suggests it is smart growth for rural North Dakota.

Sharon Etemad President of Lake Region State College in Devils Lake. She testified in support of HB 1020 and addressed her remarks to the enhancement funding for post secondary institutions included in the Vocational/Technical Education Budget. Please see written testimony.

Ron Ness Provided written testimony regarding what can be done to attract the younger work force into the North Dakota energy industry. He stated career counseling is critical and there is a need for counselors.

Eddie Dunn Vice Chancellor for Strategic Planning and the Executive Director of the College Technical Education Council of the North Dakota University System. Please see written testimony. He referred the committee to the essence of the report on page 9, the overall results of the workforce training.

Chairman Martinson closed the hearing on HB 1020 as there were no more questions or testimony.

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