

# MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

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10/3/03  
Date

2003 HOUSE EDUCATION

HB 1296

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2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES  
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1296  
 House Education Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date January 21, 03

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1		x	1700-6000
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Linda Frechtner</i>			

Minutes: **Chairman Kelsch** opened the hearing on HB 1296

**Rep. Hawken: See Attached Testimony**

When we create reports sometimes the report that that is created harbors more problems then it does good. The school districts that asked me to put this bill in feel that this is one of those instances.

**Mark Lemer, West Fargo School District Business Manager,**

This bill is an attempt to collect information on professional development. Asking for additional professional development activities to improve the instructional delivery by our staff. During the last session, there was a bill in to increase the length of contracts to provide for development time. And the question came up whether school districts doing. What are they doing with the federal dollars and why federal dollars sometimes being turned back, because they are not being used for development. And so the report was created. When you look a the information that Greg Gallagher, Department of Public Instruction will provide to you will note that Fargo and West Fargo are not listed as districts that have submitted this information. That is because we

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Page 2

House Education Committee  
Bill/Resolution Number HB1296  
Hearing Date January 21, 2003

are still in the process of working on it. The person in charge of it is in the process of doing no to convert the data that we collected on professional development activities and taken that information and converting it into a form that we will submit to Department of Public Instruction. It is a time consuming process. this is a report that is troublesome. She is spending her time completing a report on last years events instead of working on developing something for this year. We are asking for a reduction in the reporting.

**Rep. Mueller** Is the Department of Public Instruction currently providing you with a form to collect this information?

**Lemer:** With the teacher compensation report we were actually able to compile all the data on a spreadsheet and then upload it to the Department of Public Instruction . With this form, it is not possible. We have to re-key the information.

**(2260) Rep. Mueller** There is a form that is provided. It doesn't look to complicated to me. If we were talking about the source of funding, the number of district teachers involved, the amount of funding.

**Lemer:** What it record every day that an activity occurred w. a teacher was gone and the name of the activity. What we have to do now is take that information and convert it over so that it matches with the collection that the Department of Public Instruction is using. This is a very manual reporting system and is complex.

**Rep. Mueller** Those who have similar jobs as you, do they have these same concerns?

**Lemer:** Business managers don't do these reports. The superintendents do this type of reporting.

I receive calls from individuals in my position that are expressing a high level of frustration.

Page 3  
House Education Committee  
Bill/Resolution Number HB1296  
Hearing Date January 21, 2003

**Rep. Hawken:** We pass these laws and Department of Public Instruction does the mechanism and then you all get it. Are we missing a step in this process where communication is better.

**Lemer:** It is always helpful to have an impact in the very beginning. However, with this bill the Department of Public Instruction and school districts would essentially be at cross purposes. we would want the reporting burden to be the absolute min. that it could be and get the job done.

The Department of Public Instruction is going to look at it on the side of over collecting because they don't want to come in front of you and not have enough.

**Rep. Jon Nelson** If we repeal this, no reporting?

**Lemer:** Yes

**Rep. Jon Nelson** then that would be the minimum correct.

**Lemer:** 200,000 appropriated by the legislature to fund the collection at the state level for teachers compensation. There were no funds at the local level to get us the man power to get the information up. Now if it takes 200,000 at the state level to collect information that we basically input up to them by web site. To me the money was spent on the wrong end of that equation. I think that the same thing is true here. If we had the man power in our budget and in the office, but we don't.

**Rep. Jon Nelson** A piece of the puzzle here that we hear often. We don't have a lot of basis to make intelligent decisions without some of this reporting. This information is good for us too.

**Rep. Hawken:** Does the state give you staff development money?

**Lemer:** Through federal funds yes, there is very minimal dollars through vocation funds.

**Mary Wahl:** ND Council of Education Leaders.

Page 4  
House Education Committee  
Bill/Resolution Number HB1296  
Hearing Date January 21, 2003

I have received a definite vibe from our executive director that are a lot of frustration. I have received information from Dr. Klundt that there is a high level of frustration out there with regard to the reports that are requested. And I think it is real important that there is a willingness to cooperate to give the information that they need. The frustration is coming from the overkill. They are asked for too much information and jump through too many hoops. There is not early enough cooperation in the development of the instrument that will be used. And maybe there ought to be a practice that when you are going to do a new study there is a request for it that the people who would be doing the reporting on that are involved in the beginning. A reality check. A middle ground that people can accept the process, and understand where the Department of Public Instruction is coming from so they can give the information to the legislature to good law making.

#### OPPOSITION

**(3480) Greg Gallagher, Education Improvement Director for Department of Public Instruction , See Attached Testimony**

(4400) Rep. Sitte: How would you use this information.

Gallagher: Within the law there is no reporting mechanism identified, the Department of Public Instruction has committed itself to making the information available to the Legislative Council. Since this is in its first phase, what we are doing is finalizing the reports. We believe it is the intent that the information be made available to the legislative Council and also to districts, because districts then use the information themselves. It is for districts to decide how they would want to use this as a means of reporting. But minimally making it available to the legislature.

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10/3/03  
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Page 5  
House Education Committee  
Bill/Resolution Number HB1296  
Hearing Date January 21, 2003

**Rep. Sitte** If a school district isn't using any dollars to increase student achievement in reading and math you wouldn't suggest that they do so.

**Gallagher:** there is no expectation on the Department of Public Instruction of how districts use the information. I believe the intent was that what professional dollars are currently available and by what source and how are they being spent. What affect, if any, would professional development have on the raising of the achievements of children.

**Rep. Mueller** Have we had any Legislative request for this information?

**Gallagher:** NO

**Rep. Mueller** Has the Department of Public Instruction done anything with the information as of today?

**Gallagher:** What we See from this is a sense about what the priorities are across the state? Where activity is most keenly focused. It should help districts help See Attached Testimony the total amount of money that is spent and what the benefits are.

**Rep. Meier** What you are saying there is no deadline?

**Gallagher:** The law is very clear, it is October 1 for every given year. We have no authority in terms of sanctioning to get this information. The best we can do is pursue the ongoing request for this information.

**Rep. Hawken:** It says in the law that we have to check on the reading and math, are people ball parking it and putting it all together, there is no way to do this.

**Gallagher:** it is critical and possible to pull out the information by linking the specific teacher to development then to the change in student productivity.

(5850) Close hearing- Sub committee on this same as 1295 to work our compromise.

2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1296  
House Education Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date January 22, 2003

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1		x	670-1360
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Linda Flechtner</i>			

Minutes: **Chairman Kelsch** opened the committee work on HB 1296.

**Rep. Hawken**; Introduced the amendment, read how it would read with the amendment.

**Rep. Hawken** moved to accept the amendment, Rep. Mueller seconded the motion

Voice approval on amendment 30514.0100

**Rep. Sitte** moved to DO PASS as amended, Rep. Jon Nelson seconded the motion.

**Discussion:**

**Rep. Sitte** Department of Public Instruction puts an enormous amount of information, we need to work more closely with them in being proactive so that this doesn't happen again.

**Rep. Hawken**: That was a discussion that we had with Greg Gallagher that was really a positive discussion. That when we ask for something we need to be clear on what exactly are the wishes.

We need to have all of those components in the discussion before they do the work for us. That is a real positive thing. The school districts that are having to do this and are not getting extra fund to do so will be part of this in the beginning.

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Page 2  
House Education Committee  
Bill/Resolution Number HB1296  
Hearing Date January 22, 2003

**Rep. Mueller** : the message to the Larsons and the Gallaghers when we ask for information, there needs to be some discussions with Department of Public Instruction and locals and legislators need to be involved earlier. There was some very strong feelings going on, Rep Hawkens, you did a very nice job in calming the waters, thank you.

DO PASS AS AMENDED 13-0-1. Vice Chair Johnson will carry this to the floor.

Closed committee work on HB 1296

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