

# MICROFILM DIVIDER

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



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

2347

2007 SENATE EDUCATION

SB 2347

## 2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 2347

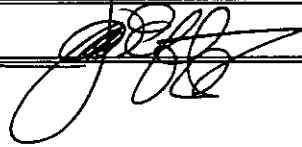
Senate Education Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: January 30, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 2263, 2329

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Chairman Freborg opened the hearing on SB 2347, a bill relating to creation of the North Dakota promise grant programs for students enrolled in institutions of higher education. All members were present.

Senator Grindberg introduced the bill. (Written testimony attached)

Senator Taylor asked if the intent is to include private institutions that are located in North Dakota. Is it not spelled out in the bill. (Meter 22:33)

Senator Grindberg said yes.

Senator Gary Lee asked if there are any assurances that eligible students will find job opportunities when they finish their education.

Senator Grindberg said that is an excellent question. The Indiana model requires the student to stay in the state after graduation. He is not sure how to address it. From his perspective, it will be an employee market for years and years. He expects the good work of our communities and economic development strategies will continue to grow thereby creating more opportunities and creating a very robust period for the state. In the 90's, our approach was the worst thing we could have done, selling minimum wage. We had many, many underemployed people, college grads working for \$7 per hour. That labor pool is gone.

Senator Gary Lee said we hear about the cost of tuition. What will the impact of this bill be on tuition cost?

Senator Grindberg said he has not heard it. Our economy has been very tight the last three bienniums. After we adjourned last session, our economy started to ignite. With additional resources, tuition costs will be held down. If we fund higher education at their request and we see big tuition increases the next two years, the round table is in trouble.

Senator Taylor asked what percentage of students are we expecting to see over a 23 ACT score?

Senator Grindberg said about 30% of our student population. He added if the committee has a concern over the fiscal note, increasing the required ACT score will bring down the cost.

Senator Robinson testified in favor of the bill. (Written testimony attached) (Meter 28:13)

Senator Flakoll said in this committee we have to balance our preferences, Senator Robinson is also a co-sponsor of 2306, can we assume he prefers this bill.

Senator Robinson said time did not allow him to testify on 2306. The concepts in this bill and 2306 have the potential of working hand in hand. Send the bill to appropriations where we can look at the big picture and fit them together. The bottom line is we have to move, there is broad based support.

Senator Taylor said in referencing 2306, what potential is there for a match with this bill?

Senator Robinson said that is a good point. He doesn't know the potential. The private sector is very sensitive to the issues we have before us. Entities are begging for employees, they know their future hinges on their ability to hire the best and our brightest. Everything has to be on the table. We can't afford to dismiss this. Other states are not sitting still.

Representative Aarsvold testified in favor of the bill. He attended higher education meetings in Denver several months ago. He was shocked to find that North Dakota students graduate with

the third highest debt load of debt incurred while they are in college. If we identify only the students in public school, the numbers are even worse. Our folks in the private institutions do a better job of providing financial aid to their students. Coupling the significant student debt with the lower than average family income in North Dakota and affordability becomes a big issue for North Dakota students and their families.

David Martin, President, Fargo Moorhead Chamber of Commerce, testified in favor of the bill. Members across the state are looking for employees that can meet contemporary job opportunities in North Dakota. They have members from Minnesota and South Dakota. Minnesota Governor Pawlenty has put forth an "Achieve" proposal which is similar to the North Dakota promise proposal and would seek to attract and retain the best and the brightest in Minnesota as well. This is a way to incent those students and their families to move here and be educated here and we hope, stay here as well.

Kate Haugen, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, NDSU, testified in favor of the bill. (Written testimony attached) 50% of state scholar program kids are leaving the state.

Senator Flakoll asked if she would envision fewer students with jobs and therefore with more time to devote to academics?

Ms. Haugen said there is the potential for that; some students currently take lighter class loads so they can work more hours. Research shows some work in college is positive, its when the number of hours exceeds about 15 per week that it causes problems.

Senator Flakoll asked if a more rigorous plane of study were incorporated into this, we would have less remediation required.

Ms. Haugen said that would be a hoped for outcome. They are seeing in admissions, an increase in GPA and a decrease in ACT score. She is glad to see the amendment reflecting the change to ACT score as the standard.

Senator Taylor asked if we are currently capturing the top 30% of students.

Ms. Haugen said we are losing them. More and more families are looking at the bottom line dollar in the final decision of where to attend college.

Eddie Dunn, Chancellor, North Dakota University System, testified in favor of the bill. (Written testimony attached) (Meter 49:21)

Senator Flakoll asked for two pieces of information: retention by campuses of North Dakota students and the return rate of students who get an education out of state.

Chancellor Dunn said the first will be easier than the second. He will rely on Dr. Hillman to see what they can provide.

Mike Hillman, North Dakota University System, testified in favor of the bill. He distributed recent reports on the status of education in North Dakota. He reviewed the 4 handouts, (meter 56:56)

Senator Flakoll asked how this aligns with SB 2309.

Dr. Hillman said it is very much in line. Yesterday he handed out the recommended course requirements and this is very consistent with the P16 recommendations. This would permit all students to have high levels of academic achievement.

Senator Gary Lee asked if NAPE scores for math, is the packet all low income statistics?

Dr. Hillman said the packet takes both views, the overall state and the most disadvantaged.

Senator Flakoll asked what percent of our students graduate from high school and go out of state for their education, directly out of high school?

Dr. Hillman said of those going to college, 20 – 25% go out of state. We need to remember with Minnesota and reciprocity, we have a relatively open border.

Crystal Sistad, Executive Commissioner of Government Relations and Intercollegiate Affairs, NDSU Student Government, testified in favor of the bill. She submitted written testimony from Dante Miller, NDSU Student Body President. (Written testimony attached)

Brian Walters, President of the Greater Fargo Moorhead Economic Development Corporation, testified in favor of the bill. (Written testimony attached)

Dennis Hill, Executive Vice President, North Dakota Association of RECs, testified in favor of the bill. (Written testimony attached)

Jim Hirsch, Director of Workforce Development with the North Dakota Department of Commerce, testified in favor of the bill. (Written testimony attached)

Chairman Freborg closed the hearing on senate bill 2347.

Senator Flakoll moved amendment 70660.0201, seconded by Senator Taylor.

Senator Flakoll said he likes the change to ACT score from GPA. He hates to see parental pressure for better grades or taking a less rigorous course of study to improve grade point.

With the use of the ACT score, a student will benefit from rigorous courses and be prepared for the ACT.

Senator Bakke said some students don't test well. Without getting into the philosophical discussion of standardized tests, an ACT score tells her nothing. Some kids will forego more challenging courses to keep up their grade points. She would rather see ACT or GPA. That is a personal feeling.

Senator Flakoll said he doesn't necessarily disagree. He has had discussions on P16 about requiring the ACT test, it would be cheaper than the state assessment and some students will do better than they would be more inclined to move on to some kind of advanced academic work. Is the ACT test score perfect? No. You can retake the ACT, its hard to retake a GPA.

Chairman Freborg asked if we are better off to give a marginal student a bit of leeway and allow them to go to college or are we better off the keep them out.

Senator Flakoll said this does not keep them out. There are minimums recently put in place in our institutions of higher education that will also restrict some folks from pursuing higher education. In the P16 discussion, there was more emphasis for K12 folks for making admission requirements for higher ed more rigorous. Part of the reason we have very high levels of remediation is historically very few people have been turned away. This is the carrot.

Senator Bakke said she is more comfortable with a 23 on the ACT or a GPA so the students have two ways to qualify for a promise for the future.

Senator Taylor said to adopt these amendments would be prudent at this time, we can always address the and vs. or on ACT and GPA at a later time.

Senator Bakke said she is fine with that.

Senator Flakoll said one could argue that we are not consistent across the state, a high GPA in one school might be easier than at another school, Students might shop for the easier teacher.

The motion passed 5 – 0.

Senator Taylor said pages 2-3, the grants to the private institutions, are they required to be in North Dakota? On page 1 it says North Dakota school so that could be ok. We did not hear from the Bank of North Dakota?

Chairman Freborg said if we pass it out the house will hear from them. Maybe they are fine with it.

Senator Flakoll said he would not want to see out of state schools set up in North Dakota as a technology based institution to harvest these dollars.



Senator Gary Lee said it is worth pushing down the hall and discussing the merits and allowing them to look at the costs. What does it mean to be taking from these funds in significant amounts. What does it do to tuition rates over time? Will it rise because of the free flow of cash? Will students who do not qualify be subsidizing that? What about essentially a free ride for 30% of our kids. Are we going to be able to find some help for the rest of the kids? He applauds the efforts here and understands other states are ramping up. We need to do something. There are concerns but they are worth a further look.

Senator Bakke said to carry that one step further, are we really helping the kids who need it or are we helping the kids who would already have the opportunities anyway. Wouldn't they go anyway? Are we creating more disparity between those who can and those who can't.

Chairman Freborg said these are all valid concerns. By the time we are through the session, if we get a blip in the economy, we may have to break the promise.

Senator Bakke said 2306 was merit and needs based, no need is involved here.

Chairman Freborg said that's right.

Senator Taylor said it has enough merit to send to appropriations. He would like to see the match in 2306 implemented, we need private sector involvement. He is not sure about the needs component. This is not just a free ride, there is a lot of work in the math and science requirements. The students would demand the courses.

Senator Flakoll said he has no amendments.

Chairman Freborg said what we do will be looked at carefully by appropriations. All three sponsors are in appropriations.

Senator Flakoll moved a Do Pass As Amended and Rerefer to Appropriations on SB 2347, seconded by Senator Taylor.

Senator Flakoll said after it is changed and amended by appropriations, he doesn't know if we will support it, There are a lot of components we like. He would like to keep it alive. We need to continue to have the discussions.

Senator Gary Lee said he will support the bill although he has some reservations.

Appropriation will take a good look.

The motion passes 5-0. Senator Flakoll will carry the bill.

# FISCAL NOTE

Requested by Legislative Council

03/16/2007

Amendment to:            Reengrossed  
   SB 2347

**1A. State fiscal effect:** *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2005-2007 Biennium		2007-2009 Biennium		2009-2011 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
<b>Revenues</b>						
<b>Expenditures</b>						
<b>Appropriations</b>			\$25,000,000			\$40,000,000

**1B. County, city, and school district fiscal effect:** *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

2005-2007 Biennium			2007-2009 Biennium			2009-2011 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts

**2A. Bill and fiscal impact summary:** *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

Provides prorata tuition reduction to students who attended 9 of 13 years, four at the high school level, in K-12 in North Dakota and attend a ND campus beginning in Fall 2012. Qualifying students must have a 23 composite ACT score and completed four years of math and science.

**B. Fiscal impact sections:** *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

Cost of providing from a 65% to 100% tuition reduction to qualifying students after all gift aid is first taken into account.

The second engrossment of SB 2347 does not change the fiscal impact as originally identified.

**3. State fiscal effect detail:** *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

**A. Revenues:** *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

**B. Expenditures:** *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

Expenditures do not begin until 2012 (2011-13 biennium), since the college freshmen class of 2012 is the first eligible class. Costs are as follows: \$5.3 million in 2011-13, \$27 million in 2013-15; \$51 million in 2015-17; \$66 million in 2017-19; \$78 million in 2019-21; \$85 million in 2021-23; \$93 million in 2023-25; \$87 million in 2025-27; and \$40 million in 2027-29, as the program expires in 2028. Costs beginning in about 2015-17 would be reduced or offset by any repayment funds from those students who do not remain in the state following graduation. Amounts of potential repayment cannot be determined until the repayment provisions have been determined.

**C. Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation is also included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

\$15,000,000 from the state general fund and \$10,000,000 from the fire and tornado fund in 2007-09 and \$40 million

each biennium thereafter from BND profits (\$15 million), oil extraction trust fund (\$10 million) and balance from student loan trust fund and lottery, along with interest earnings needed to fund the program.

<b>Name:</b>	Laura Glatt	<b>Agency:</b>	NDUS
<b>Phone Number:</b>	328-4116	<b>Date Prepared:</b>	03/19/2007

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Requested by Legislative Council**  
02/13/2007

Amendment to:           Engrossed  
                                  SB 2347

1A. **State fiscal effect:** *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2005-2007 Biennium		2007-2009 Biennium		2009-2011 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
<b>Revenues</b>						
<b>Expenditures</b>						
<b>Appropriations</b>			\$25,000,000			\$40,000,000

1B. **County, city, and school district fiscal effect:** *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

2005-2007 Biennium			2007-2009 Biennium			2009-2011 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts

2A. **Bill and fiscal impact summary:** *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

Provides prorata tuition reduction to students who attended 9 of 13 years, four at the high school level, in K-12 in North Dakota and attend a ND campus beginning in Fall 2012. Qualifying students must have a 23 composite ACT score and completed four years of math and science.

**B. Fiscal impact sections:** *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

Cost of providing from a 65% to 100% tuition reduction to qualifying students after all gift aid is first taken into account.

The second engrossment of SB 2347 does not change the fiscal impact as originally identified.

3. **State fiscal effect detail:** *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

**A. Revenues:** *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

**B. Expenditures:** *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

Expenditures do not begin until 2012 (2011-13 biennium), since the college freshmen class of 2012 is the first eligible class. Costs are as follows: \$5.3 million in 2011-13, \$27 million in 2013-15; \$51 million in 2015-17; \$66 million in 2017-19; \$78 million in 2019-21; \$85 million in 2021-23; \$93 million in 2023-25; \$87 million in 2025-27; and \$40 million in 2027-29, as the program expires in 2028.

**C. Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation is also included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

\$15,000,000 from the state general fund and \$10,000,000 from the fire and tornado fund in 2007-09 and \$40 million each biennium thereafter from BND profits (\$15 million), oil extraction trust fund (\$10 million) and balance from student loan trust fund and lottery, along with interest earnings needed to fund the program.

<b>Name:</b>	Laura J. Glatt	<b>Agency:</b>	NDUS
<b>Phone Number:</b>	328-4116	<b>Date Prepared:</b>	02/14/2007

# FISCAL NOTE

Requested by Legislative Council

02/02/2007

Amendment to: SB 2347

**1A. State fiscal effect:** *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2005-2007 Biennium		2007-2009 Biennium		2009-2011 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
<b>Revenues</b>						
<b>Expenditures</b>						
<b>Appropriations</b>			\$25,000,000			\$40,000,000

**1B. County, city, and school district fiscal effect:** *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

2005-2007 Biennium			2007-2009 Biennium			2009-2011 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts

**2A. Bill and fiscal impact summary:** *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

Provides prorata tuition reduction to students who attended K-12 in North Dakota and attend a ND campus beginning in Fall 2012. Qualifying students must have a 23 composite or mathematics ACT score and completed four years of math and science.

**B. Fiscal impact sections:** *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

Cost of providing from a 65% to 100% tuition reduction to qualifying students after all gift aid is first taken into account.

The January 29, 2007 amendments to this bill do not change the fiscal impact as originally identified.

**3. State fiscal effect detail:** *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

**A. Revenues:** *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

**B. Expenditures:** *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

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**C. Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation is also included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

\$15,000,000 from the state general fund and \$10,000,000 from the fire and tornado fund in 2007-09 and \$40 million each biennium thereafter from BND profits (\$15 million), oil extraction trust fund (\$10 million) and balance from student loan trust fund and lottery, along with interest earnings needed to fund the program.

<b>Name:</b>	Laura Glatt	<b>Agency:</b>	NDUS
<b>Phone Number:</b>	328-4116	<b>Date Prepared:</b>	02/02/2007



**FISCAL NOTE**  
 Requested by Legislative Council  
 01/22/2007

Bill/Resolution No.: SB 2347

1A. **State fiscal effect:** *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2005-2007 Biennium		2007-2009 Biennium		2009-2011 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues						
Expenditures						
Appropriations			\$25,000,000			\$40,000,000

1B. **County, city, and school district fiscal effect:** *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

2005-2007 Biennium			2007-2009 Biennium			2009-2011 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts

2A. **Bill and fiscal impact summary:** *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

Provides prorata tuition reduction to students who attended K-12 in North Dakota and attend a ND campus beginning in Fall 2012. Qualifying students must have a 23 composite or mathematics ACT score and completed four years of math and science.

B. **Fiscal impact sections:** *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

Cost of providing from a 65% to 100% tuition reduction to qualifying students after all gift aid is first taken into account.

3. **State fiscal effect detail:** *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

A. **Revenues:** *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

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C. **Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation is also included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

\$15,000,000 from the state general fund and \$10,000,000 from the fire and tornado fund in 2007-09 and \$40 million each biennium thereafter from BND profits (\$15 million), oil extraction trust fund (\$10 million) and balance from student loan trust fund and lottery, along with interest earnings needed to fund the program.

<b>Name:</b> Laura Glatt	<b>Agency:</b> NDUS
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Phone Number: 328-4116

Date Prepared: 01/26/2007

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2347

Page 1, line 13, replace "2008" with "2012"

Page 1, line 14, after "mathematics" insert "at the level of algebra I and higher"

Page 1, line 16, replace "Maintained a 2.5 cumulative grade point average in high school, provided that" with "Has a 23 cumulative composite score or a 23 mathematics scale score on the test of academic achievement administered by ACT, inc."

Page 1, remove line 17

Page 1, line 18, remove "cumulative grade point average in high school"

Page 1, line 22, remove "as a full-time student" and replace "2008" with "2012"

Page 2, line 1, after "b." insert "is continuously enrolled and carries a course of study that is defined as "full time" by the institution;

c." replace "a two-year, three-year, or four-year" with "an associate or baccalaureate", and remove "that will lead to a"

Page 2, line 2, remove "certificate, diploma, or degree"

Page 2, line 3, replace "c." with "d." and after "cumulative" insert "college"

Page 4, line 22, remove "consecutively" and replace "for a certificate," with "of the associate or baccalaureate program"

Page 4, line 23, remove "diploma, or degree"

Page 4, line 25, replace "and" with an underscored comma and replace "that reduce the amount of" with ", third-party funds, waivers, and other gift aid"

Page 4, line 26, remove "tuition owed by the student"

Page 4, line 28, replace "2024-25" with "2028-29"

Renumber accordingly





**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2347: Education Committee (Sen. Freborg, Chairman) recommends AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS and when so amended, recommends DO PASS and BE REREFERRED to the Appropriations Committee (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2347 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.**

Page 1, line 13, replace "2008" with "2012"

Page 1, line 14, after "mathematics" insert "at the level of algebra I and higher"

Page 1, line 16, replace "Maintained a 2.5 cumulative grade point average in high school, provided that" with "Has a 23 cumulative composite score or a 23 mathematics scale score on the test of academic achievement administered by ACT, inc."

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Page 2, line 2, remove "certificate, diploma, or degree"

Page 2, line 3, replace "c." with "d." and after "cumulative" insert "college"

Page 4, line 22, remove "consecutively" and replace "for a certificate," with "of the associate or baccalaureate program"

Page 4, line 23, remove "diploma, or degree"

Page 4, line 25, replace "and" with an underscored comma and replace "that reduce the amount of" with ", third-party funds, waivers, and other gift aid"

Page 4, line 26, remove "tuition owed by the student"

Page 4, line 28, replace "2024-25" with "2028-29"

Renumber accordingly

2007 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2347

## 2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 2347

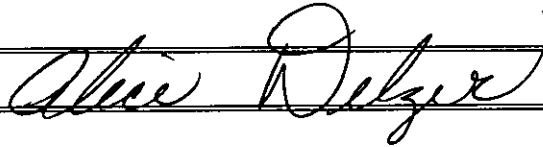
Senate Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 02-07-07

Recorder Job Number: 3034

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

**Chairman Holmberg** opened the hearing on SB 2347 on 02-07-07.

**Senator Grindberg** introduced the bill and presented written testimony (1) and gave oral testimony in support of SB 2347. He shared about the Promise Bill and how it will benefit all students from North Dakota. He shared about other states that are offering tuition or partly paid tuition. A news clip was shown to the committee entitled American Spirit, a clip filmed in Kalamazoo, MI and the benefit that this Promise Bill will provide to young people. He stated there will be some criteria that must be met by the students to be eligible for this grant, specifically academic achievement.

**Senator Krauter** asked about the state average concerning the ACT testing.

**Senator Bowman** inquired about the grants being offered to trade schools.

**Chairman Holmberg** had questions regarding pell grants.

**Senator Christmann** had questions regarding 2 year colleges, if students could qualify if they wanted to go into a truck driving school, welding or something of that nature. He also asked about whether we have already graduated enough people from 4 year schools than we have jobs for in North Dakota, and is it wise use of our tax money if we graduate 800 teachers and only can fill 100 jobs in North Dakota.



**Senator Grindberg** explained all the sections of the bill, calling this bill the "North Dakota Promise Program" and it will attract new residents to our state.

**Alice Hoffert, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management at University of ND (UND)** provided written testimony (2) and gave oral testimony in support of SB 2347.

**Eddie Dunn, Chancellor of the North Dakota University System (NDUS)** gave written testimony (3) and oral testimony in support of SB 2347.

**Senator Mathern** questioned how can we retain these graduates in our state so we can recoup our investment in them. There was discussion regarding Higher Education and the Economic Development working together for that purpose.

**Senator Krauter** had questions regarding 1<sup>st</sup> year eligibility costs, how do we get to actual costs if this is only 1% of the students and questions regarding income.

**Mike Hillman, Vice chancellor NDUS** reported about the findings concerning graduates, stating that at least half of them are working in the field they majored in.

**Senator Fischer** asked if there could be a longer period of time than one year to track the graduates and if they are working in the field they majored in.

**Shane Gottl, on behalf of James Hirsch, Director of the Division of Workforce Development within the North Dakota Department of Commerce.** Presented written testimony (4) and oral testimony in support of SB 2347.

**Dante Miller, Student Body President at NDSU** presented written testimony (6) and oral testimony in support of SB 2347. He felt this bill has great vision for our state and for the young people of North Dakota. **Senator Mathern** asked him if this bill would help him, and he stated no, but he is supporting it for the sake of his children and future college students.

**Brian Walters, President of the Greater Fargo Moorhead Economic Development Corporation** presented written testimony (6) and oral testimony in support of the bill.

