

**2015 SENATE INDUSTRY, BUSINESS AND LABOR**

**SB 2309**

# 2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Industry, Business and Labor Committee  
Roosevelt Park Room, State Capitol

SB 2309  
1/28/2015  
Job Number 22688

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to micro grant program for new Americans

## Minutes:

No Attachment

**Chairman Klein:** Called the meeting to order.

**Senator Tyler Axness:** Said he was here today to introduce and explain the bill. I will provide some feedback on what direction I think this bill needs to go for this session. The purposes a reason this bill came forward in the first place was a group which helps new Americans learn the skills of American capitalism, business, trade and all that were looking for some assistance in providing some micro grants to individuals that were looking to start their own business. They came up with an idea of how to help that population and others really start their own businesses in North Dakota. Through the discussion this bill came about when they discovered that the city of Fargo had agreed with that individual non-profit, that if they were to raise a match of sixty thousand dollars they would be able to help facilitate this program in the area. They decided it couldn't just be in Fargo and decided to make it available state wide. The bill would have originally provided through the department of commerce four hundred and eighty thousand dollars that would be distributed to the eight regional councils for the purpose of matching grants. The grant would be distributed to individual's no more than five thousand dollars for the purpose of a down payment for a small business administration approved loan. Some of the individuals whom would benefit by this bill are confused on the concept and didn't quite know that it was going to work in their favor. When the bill was first introduced it singled out new Americans and Native Americans and low income individuals. Other populations said they would like to be included and then it was going to create turf. It was just getting too big for the immediate needs of the state. (:55-3:53)

**Chairman Klein:** We know there has been a lot of effort through the last few sessions to try to do something and I am sure within the community you're making some effort.

**Senator Axness:** Just trying to help the people not only learn the skills but find avenues to get their business up and running.(4:00-4:40)

**Keith Bjornson, Board Member for Freedom Resource Center for Independent Living:** They help people in South Eastern North Dakota gain independence by learning life skills. He is testifying on behalf of himself. He would like to include people with disabilities with this legislation. People looking for small startup loans that the banks are not interested in, usually because of collateral issues but also because they were too small for the banks to get excited about. (4:51-8:35)

**Chairman Klein:** Was there a time when you were funded, working for the SBA, that you were able to provide some of these opportunities or is this a new concept?

**Keith Bjornson:** The federal money was spread out amongst sixty district offices nationwide and it dried out pretty quickly. (8:45-9:13)

**Chairman Klein:** In viewing this particular legislation there are some concept issues and to really make this work amongst all the folks that were intending it to provide opportunity for.

**Keith Bjornson:** Sure, we had inquiries from new Americans in our district office in Fargo frequently looking for small loans. They weren't really aware of the way banking and financing works in this country and again the banks weren't interested in the very small projects.

**Chairman Klein:** Closed the hearing.

**Senator Murphy:** Moved a do not pass.

**Senator Miller:** Seconded the motion.

**Chairman Klein:** It sounds in the interim there will be more discussion and the folks that come back will have a chance to look at something that has been crafted.

**Senator Murphy:** Would there be any indication for a study?

**Chairman Klein:** I was thinking briefly about that but then thinking this is a group of individuals that need to work it through and they have some good people with some background working on this in a variety of areas. They are going to work this out on their own.

Roll Call Vote: Yes-6 No-1 Absent-0

**Senator Miller will carry the bill.**

**2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2309**

Senate Industry, Business and Labor Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation:  Adopt Amendment  
 Do Pass     Do Not Pass     Without Committee Recommendation  
 As Amended     Rerefer to Appropriations  
 Place on Consent Calendar  
Other Actions:  Reconsider     \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By Senator Murphy Seconded By Senator Miller

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chairman Klein	x		Senator Murphy	x	
Vice Chairman Campbell	x		Senator Sinner		x
Senator Burckhard	x				
Senator Miller	x				
Senator Poolman	x				

Total (Yes) 6 No 1

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Senator Miller

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2309: Industry, Business and Labor Committee (Sen. Klein, Chairman) recommends DO NOT PASS (6 YEAS, 1 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2309 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.**