

Legislative Review

A Look at Higher Education in Week 14: April 11-15, 2011



**Friday,
April 22**

*The 74th day
of an 80-day
maximum
Legislative
Session*

Conference Committees Considering Key Bills

Now in the final stages of the 2011 Legislative Session, House and Senate conference committees are working to reconcile versions of key bills approved by each chamber.

The conference committees considering higher education bills are named below.

HB 1003: The NDUS budget bill

- House members – Reps. Skarphol, Martinson and Williams

- Senate members – Sens. Holmberg, Krebsbach and O’Connell

HB 1020: The NDSU Ag budget bill

- House members – Reps. Skarphol, Hawken and Williams
- Senate members – Sens. Bowman, Holmberg and O’Connell

HB 1033: The “flexibility with accountability” bill related to block grants

- House members – Sens. Dosch, Monson and Williams
- Senate members – Sens. Holmberg, Grindberg and Krebsbach

Prior to passage by the Senate, HB 1033 was amended to include a 2011–12 legislative management study of higher education. See the Week 13 issue of *Legislative Review* for a list of possible study topics.

Department of Commerce Budget Killed, Then Reinstated Centers of Excellence Funding Removed

HB 1018, the Department of Commerce budget bill, was defeated in the House April 13 on a vote of 22-69.

Later in the day, the agency’s budget was amended into **SB 2057**, originally the Centers of Excellence bill. In its current form, both the process for establishing new Centers of Excellence and all funding to do so have been removed from SB 2057. As amended, the bill was passed by the House April 14 on a vote of 73-19.

SB 2057 now includes:

- \$2 million for Workforce Enhancement Grants, which will be available to the community colleges with responsibility for workforce training

- \$500,000 in general fund appropriations and \$1.5 million in borrowing authority for a workforce training building project at WSC
- \$4,335,000 in Great Plains Applied Energy Research Center carryover funds to be provided to BSC as a grant for completion of the fourth floor of the National Energy Center of Excellence
- \$900,000 for Operation Intern

After Senate action on SB 2057, the bill is likely to go to a conference committee to be reconciled by members of the House and Senate.

Passed Bills

- HB 1161:** Exempts funds received as a fiscal agent for another party from limits for a ND Development fund entrepreneurship award
- HB 1200:** Removes ND Farm Bureau representative from the UGPTI advisory council
- HB 1222:** Modifies postgraduate training licensure requirements for international medical school graduates
- SB 2071:** Gives the adjutant general authority to recall former guard members on a volunteer basis in disaster or emergency
- SB 2148:** Defines prescriptive standards for advanced practice of registered nurses
- SB 2232:** Adds personal cell phone numbers and employee ID numbers to exempt personal information in regard to open records and meetings laws

Failed Bills

- HB 1018:** Would have provided a Dept. of Commerce appropriation, including \$2 million for workforce enhancement grants
[Note: \$2 million for workforce enhancements grants is included in SB 2057, which will be considered by a conference committee.]
- HB 1363:** Would have provided non-beneficiary student payments at tribal colleges of \$10,000 for the 1st 10 students, \$7,500 for the next 10 students and the balance prorated; would have provided a \$1 million permanent oil tax trust fund appropriation
[Note: \$1 million in permanent oil tax trust funding is included in HB 1003 for grant assistant payments to tribally-controlled community colleges; HB 1003 is being considered by a conference committee.]
- SB 2300:** Would have created a Commission on Higher Education Funding with NDUS representation and funded from NDUS budget