

# Legislative Review

A Look at Higher Education in Week 15: April 13-17, 2009



***Bills on which the Senate and House have not concurred now will be acted on in joint conference committees.***

## Key Bills Move to Conference Committees

**SB 2003**, the NDUS budget bill, was approved by the House on a vote of 70-23 Tuesday, April 14, as amended by the House Appropriations Committee. (See the Week 14 Legislative Review for a list of amendments.)

The bill now moves to a House and Senate conference committee made up of Sens. Holmberg (chair), Krebsbach, and Robinson and Reps. Martinson, Williams and Skarphol.

**SB 2038**, the flexibility with accountability legislation, was approved by the House on a vote of 84-6 Wednesday, April 15, as amended by the House Appropriations Committee.

Six major capital projects had been amended into the bill, but were later removed. (See the Week 14 Legislative Review for an overview of actions related to SB 2038.)

As of Friday morning, conference committee members were not named.

**SB2020**, the NDSU Research and Extension appropriation bill, was approved by the House on a vote of 80-10 Friday, April 10, as amended by the House Appropriations Committee. (See the Week 12 Legislative Review for a description of SB 2020 in its current form.)

As of Friday morning, conference committee members were not named.

## ***SB 2018 Centers of Excellence and Workforce Enhancement Funding Reduced***

**SB 2018**, the Department of Commerce budget bill, was approved by the House on a vote of 85-6 Wednesday, April 15, as amended by the House Appropriations Committee. Funding for Economic Development Centers of Excellence and the Workforce Enhancement Fund is included in the bill.

Amendments to the Centers of Excellence program include:

- Reducing funding provided to the department for the program to \$15 million from the \$20 million originally requested
- Requiring one dollar of every two dollars in private sector match to be cash

- Requiring SBHE rules concerning the ownership of intellectual property to include a provision that private sector partners must receive the first royalties equal to four times their initial investment in the center and
- Disallowing the use of Centers of Excellence funds for infrastructure

Other amendments reduced funding for the Workforce Enhancement Fund to \$1 million from \$2 million. Four programs added by the Senate have been removed: student-based technology grants, regional technical assistance grants, youth entrepreneurship grants and grants to university patent offices.

SB 2018 now goes to a conference committee.

## Senate Approves UND SMHS Advisory Council Bill

**SB 2081**, a bill updating the role of the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences Advisory Council, was unanimously approved by the Senate Monday, April 13.

SB 2081 is one of three UND SMHS bills introduced at the request of the SBHE. **SB 2077**, a bill updating UND SMHS revolving loan fund provisions, and **SB 2079**, a bill updating the mission of the UND SMHS, both have been signed by the governor.

## UGPTI Advisory Council Bill Approved

**SB 2128**, a bill adding a representative of the Dakota Transit Association to the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute Advisory Council, was approved unanimously by the Senate Monday, April 13. SB 2128 was introduced at the request of the SBHE.

## Senate Approves Hearing and Deaf Services Bill

**SB 2155**, a bill providing \$200,000 for services to deaf and hard-of-hearing students, was approved unanimously by the Senate Monday, April 13.

The bill will provide a general fund appropriation to the North Dakota School for the Deaf for grants to NDUS institutions. The SBHE supported passage of SB 2155 after full funding of the NDUS budget request.

## Veteran Resident Tuition Rates Bill Approved

**SB 2082**, a bill expanding the definition of “resident” to make all veterans eligible for in-state tuition rates, was approved unanimously by the Senate Monday, April 13.

SB 2082 was introduced at the request of the SBHE.

## Passed Bills

- HB 1074:** Codifies the Uniform Management of Institutional Funds Act (UPMIFA)— Uniform State Laws
- HB 1562:** Calls for a Legislative Council study of use of leave for employee members of public employee organizations to attend hearings and meetings
- HB 1573:** Studies the voucher system for human service programs, including addiction treatment
- HCR 3025:** Recognizes accomplishments of the Red River Valley Research Corridor
- SB 2131:** Authorizes the Office of Management and Budget to charge for recycling and disposal of unsalable surplus property
- SB 2372:** Authorizes the Department of Commerce to promote life science industries

## Failed Bills

- HB 1348:** Permitted weapons at NDUS campus student apartments
- HB 1419:** Removed a 10 percent budget stabilization limit transfer to the general fund
- HB 1503:** Created a state disaster relief fund with \$44 million from Permanent Oil Tax Trust Fund
- HCR3037:** Directed Legislative Council to prepare a prospective four-year budget plan