



# Legislative Update

April 17, 2009 - No. 16

## Status of Key Bills

### **SB 2003 – Support**

SB 2003 passed the House as amended 70-23 April 14. The Senate refused to concur with the House's version of the bill April 16, and the bill will go to conference committee. This bill is the North Dakota University System's appropriation bill. The amendments included moving the \$1 million in funding and policy language for the STEM loan forgiveness program from SB 2062 to SB 2003. The bill now contains a total of nearly \$1.94 million for the program (governor's budget recommended \$2.7 million). The STEM loan forgiveness program expands the existing technology loan forgiveness program to include recipients in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). It also increases the amount and duration of loan forgiveness from \$1,000 for up to three years to \$1,500 for up to four years for a total of \$6,000 per recipient.

Conference committee members are Sens. Holmberg, Krebsbach and Robinson and Reps. Skarphol, Martinson and Williams.

### **SB 2016 – Support**

The Senate refused to concur with SB 2016 April 14, and the bill will go to conference committee. This bill is the Job Service North Dakota appropriation. It includes \$1.5 million for Workforce 20/20, authorization of \$200,000 in federal fiscal stimulus funds for the spidering program and authorization for New Jobs Training.

Conference committee members are Sens. Grindberg, Holmberg and Seymour and Reps. Klein, Wald and Kroeber.

### **SB 2018 – Support**

SB 2018 passed the House as amended 85-6 April 15. This bill is the North Dakota Department of Commerce appropriation. Included in the amendments are the following:

- Removal of the additional \$100,000 for InnovateND that was added by the Senate. This brings the general fund appropriation for InnovateND back to the governor's recommendation of \$250,000. There is also \$150,000 allocated in special funds bringing the total InnovateND appropriation to \$400,000.
- A \$300,000 decrease in the general fund appropriation for Operation Intern from \$1.2 million (Governor's recommendation and Senate version) to \$900,000.
- A change in the policy language regarding Operation Intern to limit the funding awarded to an individual company to a lifetime maximum of \$30,000. It is unclear if the intention behind "lifetime" is to include past years or to begin on July 1, 2009. If it is to include past years, it is likely many of IT businesses using the program have already used up a significant portion of that amount.

The bill will now go to back to the Senate for its concurrence.

### **SB 2019 – Support**

The Senate refused to concur with SB 2019 April 14, and the bill will go to conference committee. This bill is the ND Department of Career and Technical Education (CTE) appropriation. The House version includes the following:

- Increase of \$200,000 for the virtual area centers to provide total funding of \$2.2 million (CTE's request was \$2.4 million, Senate provided \$2 million). These centers offer IT courses to students who previously did not have access to them, and each center is required to offer at least two credits of IT coursework to all students in member schools.
- Increase of \$200,000 to increase program reimbursement rates for total funding of \$2 million (CTE's request was \$3 million, Senate provided \$1.8 million). This is important due to the high cost of equipment for these courses and increased staffing needs due to smaller class requirements for lab settings. This provides an incentive for additional schools to add CTE courses, including IT, to their curriculum.
- Removed \$400,000 to increase the number of career resource coordinators. These individuals would assist in providing information to students and educators on the career clusters, including the IT cluster.
- Restored \$206,000 of the \$305,000 removed by the Senate for workforce training grants for a total of approximately \$3.2 million.

Conference committee members are Sens. Grindberg, Christmann and Seymour and Reps. Hawken, Klein and Kroeber.

### **SB 2021 – Support**

The Senate refused to concur with SB 2021 April 16, and the bill will go to conference committee. This bill is the North Dakota Information Technology Department's (ITD) appropriation bill. The House version includes the following:

- Changed the funding source of \$202,442 of the \$2.4 million appropriation for the longitudinal database system (LDS) from special to general funds. The \$202,442 is for one of the two full-time employment positions for the LDS. The remaining \$2.26 million will be from federal fiscal stimulus funds.
- Provides a contingent general fund appropriation of \$2.26 million for costs associated with the LDS should federal stimulus funds be unavailable.
- Removes \$600,000 of the \$1.2 million one-time funding from the general fund, which was included in the executive budget for the purchase of equipment for the statewide wide area network.
- Adds a section (Section 11) to provide legislative intent relating to IT services outsourcing. This is a report to the Legislative Council that includes ITD's current level of outsourcing of IT services, nonessential IT services that could be considered for outsourcing, and the number of ITD employees who resigned to provide IT consulting services in the private sector and the number rehired by ITD.

Conference committee members are Sens. Christmann, Fisher and Robinson and Reps. Thoreson, Dosch and Glasheim.

### **SB 2040 – Support**

The Senate concurred with the House's version of SB 2040, and the bill passed the Senate 38-9 April 14. This bill provides a sales and use tax exemption for new or replacement equipment used for telecommunications infrastructure development.

### **SB 2110 – Support**

The Senate refused to concur with SB 2110, and bill will go to conference committee. This bill contains the policy language to expand the Operation Intern program to include apprenticeships and participation from 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders. The \$1.2 million in funding for the expanded program is in SB 2018.

Conference committee members are Sens. Klein, Nodland and Behm and Reps. Nottestad, N. Johnson and Amerman.

## **Status Report**

Bill work is now taking place on chamber floors and in conference committees. The status report for the bills being tracked by ITCND is attached.

## **For More Information**

If at any time you need additional information or know of others who are interested in receiving this report, contact Annika Nelson, ITCND assistant executive director, at [office@itcnd.org](mailto:office@itcnd.org) or 701-355-4458.

Copies of bill drafts and information about the 61st Legislative Session can be found at the Bills and Resolutions link on the North Dakota Legislative Council website at [www.legis.nd.gov/](http://www.legis.nd.gov/).

## **How to Contact Your Legislators**

During a legislative session, a legislator can be reached at the State Capitol through e-mail or by leaving a message with the legislative telephone message center at 888-NDLEGIS (635-3447) or 701-328-3373 (local). These numbers can also be used to obtain information on bills under consideration. Otherwise, a legislator can be reached by mail or e-mail at the address listed in the legislator's bio online under the 61st Legislative Assembly link at [www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/61-2009](http://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/61-2009).

### **Addressing Mail Correspondence**

*To a Senator:*  
Honorable (full name)  
State Senator  
600 E. Boulevard Ave.  
Bismarck, ND 58505

*To a Representative:*  
Honorable (full name)  
State Representative  
600 E. Boulevard Ave.  
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Senator (last name)

Dear Representative (last name)

**2009 Legislative Deadlines**

**Date**  
May 6

**Topic**  
Session is limited to 80 legislative days