

Legislative Review

A Look at Higher Education in Week 16: April 20-24, 2009



**Friday,
May 1**

**The 77th day
of a maximum
80-day
Legislative
Session**

House Approves Tribal College Funding Bill

HB 1394, a bill to provide an appropriation for financial assistance to tribally controlled community colleges, was approved by the House Friday, April 17 on a vote of 73-15.

The bill includes \$700,000 to be administered by the NDUS Office from Permanent Oil Trust Fund oil and gas tax revenues generated on the Ft. Berthold Reservation. The SBHE supports the bill with the funding source identified by the Legislature.

In 2007, the Legislative Assembly passed landmark legislation providing state funding to tribal colleges in recognition of their service to non-tribal member students.

Federal Stimulus Funding Expenditure Bill Approved by the House

HB 1487, a bill prohibiting expenditure of federal economic stimulus funds unless appropriated by the Legislative Assembly, was approved by the House on a vote of 70-22 Thursday, April 16.

The NDUS has serious concerns this legislation will negatively impact the ability of the campuses to apply for and receive federal stimulus funding, including competitive grant funds in federal agency budgets, due to the timeliness of a state approval process.

Passed Bills

- HB 1202:** Establishes an entrepreneurship award through the Bank of North Dakota
- HB 1418:** Provides federal stimulus funds to the Department of Human Services to implement programs associated with early childhood services
- HB 1496:** Provides \$50,000 to an agricultural products utilization commission for an equine processing study; creates an equine processing fund, allocated in part to DSU and NDSU
- SB 2129:** Creates biomass feedstock incentive programs
- SB 2227:** Increases the State Health Council medical loan repayment program from \$10,000 to \$30,000 and removes other restrictions

SB 2352: Replaces the Energy Conservation Code for new construction with a state building code reference for energy conservation standards

SB 2353: Provides that the Office of Management and Budget sets the in-state lodging rate, not to exceed 90 percent of the federal rate

Failed Bills

HB 1543: Encouraged state agencies and institutions to purchase North Dakota food products; a Senate amendment required an Office of Management and Budget report on state food purchases