

Testimony
House Bill 1307 – Department of Human Services
House Human Services Committee
Representative Robin Weisz, Chairman
January 21, 2009

Chairman Weisz, members of the Human Services Committee, I am Barbara Fischer, Assistant Director, Budget and Operations of the Medical Services Division for the Department of Human Services. I am here today to provide information regarding the fiscal note and to support House Bill 1307.

The fiscal impact of changing the provisions for allowable education expense that are currently in rule cannot be determined as it is unknown how many individuals would utilize the provisions. Education expense is not separately identified on nursing facility cost reports and is reviewed for allowability only when the facility indicates education expense is being claimed.

Under the current provisions of N.D.A.C. 75-02-06-12.1(37)(d), education expense meeting the first three criteria under section 2 of the bill can be claimed at a dollar per hour of work performed by an individual up to a maximum of \$2,000 per year or an aggregate of \$8,000.

HB 1307 increases these amounts to \$3,750 per year or an aggregate of \$15,000, and removes the requirement of a corresponding number of hours that an individual must work during any year in which education expense is claimed. The bill provides that an individual must commit to at least 6,656 hours, in the aggregate, if they receive at least \$15,000, but does not include any parameters for claiming the education expense if the individual receives less than \$15,000 or does not work full time.

I would be happy to address any questions that you may have.