

Fifty-fifth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**SENATE BILL NO. 2111**

Introduced by

Appropriations Committee

(At the request of the Industrial Commission)

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 54-17-24, 54-17-25, and 54-17-26 of the North  
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to the student loan trust and to the refunding and sale of bonds  
3 issued by the industrial commission.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-17-24 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **54-17-24. State trusts created.** The industrial commission is hereby authorized and  
8 directed to acquire and to hold in ~~separate~~ one or more trusts (1) all unpaid United States  
9 government guaranteed or reinsured student loans and (2) North Dakota guaranteed student  
10 loans, belonging to the state of North Dakota or to any of its agencies, departments, or  
11 institutions which may be endorsed or assigned to it, such guaranteed student loans held in the  
12 trusts as security for bonds of the state to be issued as and in the manner the commission shall  
13 decide. All guaranteed student loans so held in the trusts and the collections therefrom and the  
14 increments thereto must be held in special funds as the source of payment of bonds of North  
15 Dakota to be issued, none of which bonds may constitute indebtedness of the state. The term  
16 "student" for the purposes of this section and section 54-17-25 includes a parent borrower  
17 under chapter 15-62.1.

18 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-17-25 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
19 amended and reenacted as follows:

20 **54-17-25. Bonds authorized - Establishment of secondary market program.**

21 Whenever the industrial commission decides that it is in the public interest to diminish the  
22 investment of state funds in United States government guaranteed or reinsured or North Dakota  
23 guaranteed student loans, that it will be difficult to divest the state of appreciable amounts of  
24 such loans by piecemeal offering to the investing and saving public, that business conditions

1 are favorable to a state-sponsored program to consolidate state-held student loans, and to  
2 enlarge private participation in such loans, the commission may by plenary resolution duly  
3 adopted in accordance with the provisions hereof authorize preparation, sale, and issuance of  
4 revenue bonds of North Dakota in such amounts and at such times and in such form, which  
5 may include the issuance of bonds the interest income on which is subject to federal income  
6 taxes, as the commission shall determine to be for the public good. The commission may  
7 refund and refinance the bonds from time to time as often as it is advantageous and in the  
8 public interest to do so. The bonds shall be a paramount charge upon a sufficient designated  
9 portion of the resources of the student loan trusts, subject only to necessary administrative  
10 expenses of the trusts duly appropriated out of the interest earning resources thereof. The  
11 bonds may bear such rate or rates of interest as the commission may provide. The bonds must  
12 have all of the qualities and incidents of negotiable paper and are not subject to taxation by the  
13 state of North Dakota or by any county, municipality, or political subdivision therein. The bonds  
14 must be payable solely out of the separate resources generated respectively from collection of  
15 payments on and earnings and proceeds of (1) United States government guaranteed or  
16 reinsured or (2) North Dakota guaranteed student loans, and must respectively so recite. They  
17 are not indebtedness of the state of North Dakota or of any agency, board, department, or  
18 officer or agent thereof. Without limiting the foregoing, the commission may request the  
19 organization of a nonprofit corporation meeting the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code  
20 of 1954, as amended and redesignated as the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 [Pub. L. 99-54],  
21 and as it may be amended from time to time, and enter into one or more agreements with such  
22 corporation providing for the establishment of a secondary market program in the state of North  
23 Dakota for the acquisition by the corporation of such loans made pursuant to title IV, part B of  
24 the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, as the commission shall, in its discretion, deem  
25 advisable.

26 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-17-26 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
27 amended and reenacted as follows:

28 **54-17-26. Bonds eligible for investment - Sale of bonds.** Bonds issued under  
29 section 54-17-25 may be acquired and held by banks and by savings and loan associations of  
30 this state as well as by all public trust funds. They may be issued and sold at public or private  
31 sale or by negotiation as the industrial commission may direct and the commission may make,

- 1 enter into, and enforce all contracts or agreements necessary, convenient, or desirable for the
- 2 purposes of the commission or pertaining to any purchase or sale of the bonds or other
- 3 investments or to the performance of its duties and execution or carrying out of any of its
- 4 powers under section 54-17-25.