

Introduced by

Representatives Ekstrom, N. Johnson, Kliniske

Senators Every, D. Mathern, Robinson

1 A BILL for an Act to provide for a technology occupations student loan program.

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

3 **SECTION 1. Technology occupations student loan program.**

- 4 1. The state board of higher education shall administer a technology occupations
5 student loan program that encourages college students to pursue
6 technology-based studies, to participate in technology internship programs, and to
7 remain in the state after graduation. The board shall adopt rules to implement the
8 program, including internship requirements, guidelines to determine which
9 technology-related courses of study are eligible under the program, and standards
10 for eligibility.
- 11 2. Students of board-approved colleges may apply for the technology occupations
12 student loan program. To be eligible to receive student loan grants under the
13 program, the applicant:
- 14 a. Must have graduated from a board-approved college;
 - 15 b. Must have successfully completed the board-approved technology-related
16 courses;
 - 17 c. Must have maintained at least a 3.0 grade point average, based on a 4.0
18 grading system, at a board-approved college;
 - 19 d. Must have actively participated in a board-approved technology internship
20 with a business in the state;
 - 21 e. Must have a student loan with the Bank of North Dakota;
 - 22 f. Following graduation must be employed in the state in a board-approved
23 technology occupation; and

- 1 g. Must have met and shall continue to meet any requirements established by
2 rule.
- 3 3. The state board of higher education shall distribute student loan grants directly to
4 the Bank of North Dakota to repay outstanding student loan principal balances for
5 eligible applicants. The maximum student loan grant amount for which an
6 applicant may qualify is one thousand dollars per twelve months of employment for
7 a maximum of five years.

8 **SECTION 2. TECHNOLOGY OCCUPATIONS STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM**

9 **FUNDING.** The funds appropriated in the student grant programs line item included in
10 subdivision 1 of section 1 of Senate Bill No. 2003 of the fifty-seventh legislative assembly,
11 include \$400,000 from the general fund for providing grants as authorized in section 1 of this
12 Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2003.