

Sixty-first  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2062

Introduced by

Legislative Council

(Workforce Committee)

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact three new sections to chapter 15-62.2 of the North  
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to opportunity grants for students attending certain institutions of  
3 higher education; to amend and reenact section 15.1-01-02 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
4 relating to joint meetings of the state's education boards; to provide a transfer; and to provide  
5 an appropriation.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15-62.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
8 created and enacted as follows:

9 **Opportunity grant - Eligibility.** A student is eligible for an opportunity grant if the  
10 student:

- 11 1. Was a resident of this state for the twelve months preceding the date the student  
12 met the graduation or high school diploma requirements set forth in subsection 2;
- 13 2. During or after the 2010-11 school year:
  - 14 a. Graduated from a public or nonpublic high school in this state;
  - 15 b. Graduated from a high school in another state under chapter 15.1-29; or
  - 16 c. Met the requirements for a high school diploma through home education, in  
17 accordance with section 15.1-23-17;
- 18 3. Completed the requirements for a merit scholarship with technical honors or a  
19 merit scholarship with academic honors, as set forth in House Bill No. 1400, as  
20 enacted by the sixty-first legislative assembly;
- 21 4. Submitted an application for an opportunity grant to the state board of higher  
22 education; and
- 23 5. a. Is enrolled in an institution of higher education under the control of the state  
24 board of higher education;

- b. Is a "full-time" student, as defined by the institution;
- c. Is enrolled in an associate or baccalaureate program; and
- d. Maintains a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average.

**SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 15-62.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

**Opportunity grant - Amount payable - Annual increase.**

1. Beginning with the 2010-11 school year, if a student who is eligible for an opportunity grant enrolls in an institution of higher education under the control of the state board of higher education, the board shall forward to the enrolling institution, on behalf of the student, an amount equal to one thousand dollars per semester.
2. A student is not entitled to receive more than eight thousand dollars under section 1 of this Act.
3. Section 1 of this Act does not require a student to be enrolled in consecutive semesters. However, an opportunity grant is valid for only six academic years after the student's graduation from high school and may not be applied to graduate programs.

**SECTION 3.** A new section to chapter 15-62.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

**Annual report.** The state board of higher education shall provide to the legislative council an annual report regarding the number of grants provided under section 2 of this Act and demographic information pertaining to the recipients.

**SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-01-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**15.1-01-02. Joint meetings - State board of public school education - State board of higher education - Education standards and practices board - State board for career and technical education.** The state board of public school education, the state board of higher education, the education standards and practices board, and the state board for career and technical education shall meet together at least once each year at the call of the superintendent of public instruction, the commissioner of higher education, the executive

1 director of the education standards and practices board, and the director of career and  
2 technical education for the purposes of:

- 3 1. Coordinating elementary and secondary education programs, career and technical  
4 education programs, and higher education programs;
- 5 2. Establishing high standards and expectations of students at all levels of the  
6 education continuum;
- 7 3. Ensuring that all students have access to challenging curricula;
- 8 4. Ensuring that the individuals instructing students at all levels of the education  
9 continuum are highly qualified and capable;
- 10 5. Cooperating in the provision of professional growth and development opportunities  
11 for ~~elementary and secondary teachers and administrators.~~ individuals instructing  
12 students at all levels of the education continuum; and
- 13 ~~3.~~ 6. Ensuring cooperation in any other jointly beneficial project or program.

14 **SECTION 5. STUDENT LOAN PROGRAMS - TRANSFER - DISTRIBUTION.** The  
15 industrial commission shall transfer \$3,800,000 from any profits that have accrued as a result of  
16 the Bank of North Dakota administering the student loan programs under section 15-62.2-01 to  
17 the general fund in the state treasury.

18 **SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the  
19 general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$3,800,000, or so  
20 much of the sum as may be necessary, to the state board of higher education for the purpose  
21 of providing opportunity grants under section 2 of this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1,  
22 2009, and ending June 30, 2011.