

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1044**

Introduced by

Legislative Management

(Higher Education Funding Committee)

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15-10 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to compiling and reporting of scholarship information; to amend and reenact sections 15-62.2-02 and 15.1-21-02.6 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the student financial assistance grant program and North Dakota scholarships; and to provide appropriations.

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

**SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

**State board of higher education - Compiling and reporting scholarship information.**

The North Dakota university system shall utilize the state longitudinal data system to compile the graduation rates of students who received either the North Dakota academic scholarship or the North Dakota career and technical education scholarship. The North Dakota university system shall provide the compiled report annually to the legislative management.

**SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-62.2-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**15-62.2-02. State board of higher education - Powers and duties.**

The state board of higher education shall:

1. Administer the North Dakota student financial assistance program and the North Dakota scholars program and adopt functional rules regarding the eligibility and selection of grant and scholarship recipients.
2. Determine the amount of individual grants, which may not exceed ~~one thousand six hundred fifty~~ two thousand dollars per recipient per academic year, under the North Dakota student financial assistance program.

3. For the North Dakota student financial assistance program, adopt criteria for substantial need, based upon the ability of the parents or guardian to contribute toward the applicant's educational expenses.
4. Establish the appropriate procedures for fiscal control, fund accounting, and necessary reports.
5. Apply for, receive, expend, and administer granted moneys from federal or private sources.

**SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-21-02.6 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**15.1-21-02.6. North Dakota scholarship - Amount - Applicability.**

1. a. (1) The state board of higher education shall provide to any student who graduates from high school before the 2014-15 school year and who is certified as being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction either a North Dakota academic scholarship or a North Dakota career and technical education scholarship, in the amount of seven hundred fifty dollars, for each semester during which the student is enrolled full time at an accredited institution of higher education in this state and maintains a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.75 on a 4.0 grading scale.
- b. (2) The state board of higher education shall provide to any student who graduates from high school before the 2014-15 school year and who is certified as being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction either a North Dakota academic scholarship or a North Dakota career and technical education scholarship, in the amount of five hundred dollars, for each quarter during which the student is enrolled full time at an accredited institution of higher education in this state and maintains a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.75 on a 4.0 grading scale.
- b. (1) The state board of higher education shall provide to any student who graduates from high school during or after the 2014-15 school year and who is certified as being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction either a North Dakota academic scholarship or a North Dakota career and technical education scholarship, in the amount of one thousand dollars, for

each semester during which the student is enrolled full time at an accredited institution of higher education in this state and maintains a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.75 on a 4.0 grading scale.

(2) The state board of higher education shall provide to any student who graduates from high school during or after the 2014-15 school year and is certified as being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction either a North Dakota academic scholarship or a North Dakota career and technical education scholarship, in the amount of six hundred sixty-six dollars, for each quarter during which the student is enrolled full time at an accredited institution of higher education in this state and maintains a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.75 on a 4.0 grading scale.

2. The state board shall monitor each scholarship recipient to ensure that the student meets the academic and other requirements of this section. Upon determining that a recipient student has failed to meet the requirements of this section, the board shall provide notification to the student within ten days.

3. a. Except as provided in this subsection, a student is not entitled to receive more than six thousand dollars under this section.

b. A student who graduates from high school during or after the 2014-15 school year is entitled to receive up to eight thousand dollars under this section.

4. The state board of higher education shall forward the scholarship directly to the institution in which the student is enrolled.

5. a. (1) This section does not require a student to be enrolled in consecutive semesters.

(2) This section does not require a student to be enrolled in consecutive quarters.

b. However, a scholarship under this section is valid only for six academic years after the student's graduation from high school and may not be applied to graduate programs.

6. A scholarship under this section is available to any eligible resident student who fulfills the requirements of section 15.1-21-02.4 or 15.1-21-02.5 and who:

a. Graduates from a high school in this state;

- 1           b. Graduates from a high school in a bordering state under chapter 15.1-29;
- 2           c. Graduates from a nonpublic high school in a bordering state while residing with a
- 3           custodial parent in this state; or
- 4           d. Completes a program of home education supervised in accordance with chapter
- 5           15.1-23.
- 6       7. a. For purposes of North Dakota scholarship eligibility under this section, "full-time"
- 7           means enrollment in at least twelve credits during a student's first two semesters
- 8           and enrollment in at least fifteen credits during each semester thereafter or
- 9           enrollment in the equivalent number of credits, as determined by the state board
- 10          of higher education, with respect to students in a quarter system.
- 11       b. (1) If a student requires fewer than fifteen credits to graduate, the student may
- 12           retain scholarship eligibility by enrolling in fewer than fifteen but at least
- 13           twelve credits during the semester, or the equivalent number of credits, as
- 14           determined by the state board of higher education, with respect to students
- 15           in a quarter system.
- 16       (2) Students who graduated from high school during the 2009-10 or the
- 17           2010-11 school year and who have completed six semesters may retain
- 18           scholarship eligibility by enrolling in only twelve credits during each of the
- 19           student's final two semesters, or the equivalent number of credits, as
- 20           determined by the state board of higher education, with respect to students
- 21           in a quarter system.
- 22       (3) The requirement that a student be enrolled in at least fifteen credits, as set
- 23           forth in subdivision a, does not apply in the case of a student participating in
- 24           a clinical, practicum, internship, cooperative program, or similar external
- 25           experience, provided the external experience is equivalent to at least twelve
- 26           units, or such similar amount as determined by the state board of higher
- 27           education, with respect to students in a quarter system, and considered to
- 28           be a "full time" placement for purposes of meeting graduation requirements.

29       **SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION - STUDENT**  
30       **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in  
31       the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$30,690,000, or

1 so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the state board of higher education for the  
2 purpose of awarding grants under the student financial assistance program, for the biennium  
3 beginning July 1, 2015, and ending June 30, 2017.

4 **SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION - NORTH**

5 **DAKOTA SCHOLARSHIPS.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the  
6 state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$17,426,748, or so much of the sum as  
7 may be necessary, to the state board of higher education for the purpose of providing academic  
8 and career and technical education scholarships, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015, and  
9 ending June 30, 2017.