

Sixty-fifth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

HOUSE BILL NO. 1353

Introduced by

Representatives P. Anderson, Beadle, Boschee, Guggisberg, M. Johnson, Maragos, Mock,
Schneider

Senators Dotzenrod, Nelson, Oban

1 A BILL ~~for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 15 of the North Dakota Century-~~
2 ~~Code, relating to the creation of a senior year tuition waiver program for North Dakota students~~
3 ~~attending North Dakota university system institutions.~~ for an Act to provide for a study of the
4 creation of a college tuition waiver or reimbursement program.

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

6 ~~— **SECTION 1.** A new chapter to title 15 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and~~
7 ~~enacted as follows:~~

8 ~~— **Senior year tuition waiver program – Administration and eligibility.**~~

9 ~~— The state board of higher education shall administer a senior year tuition waiver program for~~
10 ~~the purpose of waiving specified tuition expenses at institutions under the control of the state~~
11 ~~board of higher education for students who are North Dakota residents and either graduated~~
12 ~~from high schools in North Dakota or completed programs of home education supervised in~~
13 ~~accordance with chapter 15.1-23. The state board of higher education shall adopt procedures to~~
14 ~~provide fiscal control and accounting for the program.~~

15 ~~— **Senior year tuition waiver program – Waiver amounts – Application.**~~

16 ~~— 1. Each institution under the control of the state board of higher education shall waive~~
17 ~~tuition under the senior year tuition waiver program as follows:~~

18 ~~— a. An eligible student enrolled at a four-year institution is entitled to receive a tuition~~
19 ~~waiver for not more than two semesters during which the individual is designated~~
20 ~~a senior by the institution.~~

21 ~~— b. An eligible student enrolled in a degree program at a two-year institution is~~
22 ~~entitled to receive a tuition waiver for the individual's final semester before~~
23 ~~graduating from the institution.~~

~~c. An eligible student enrolled in a certificate program is entitled to receive a tuition waiver for twenty-five percent of the tuition costs of the program.~~

~~2. The amount of each waiver under subdivisions a and b of subsection 1 must equal the tuition the student would otherwise pay for the courses in which the student is enrolled minus the amount of any scholarships, grants, or other waivers to which the student is entitled. The amount of each waiver under subdivision c of subsection 1 must equal twenty-five percent of the tuition the student would otherwise pay for the certificate program in which the student is enrolled minus the amount of any scholarships, grants, or other waivers to which the student is entitled.~~

~~3. The board shall develop an application for the senior year tuition waiver program and make the application available to students at each institution under the control of the board. An institution may not require an eligible student to apply more than once to receive the student's full tuition waiver under subsection 1.~~

~~4. A student may not receive more than one tuition waiver under the program.~~

~~5. The tuition waiver may not be applied to any coursework from which the student withdraws or receives a failing grade.~~

~~**Senior year tuition waiver program - Funding.**~~

~~The Bank of North Dakota shall transfer from its undivided profits a sum equal to the total tuition waived for all students receiving waivers under the senior year tuition waiver program to the state board of higher education each semester upon request by the commissioner of higher education. The state board of higher education shall use the sum to reimburse each institution under its control for the cost of the waivers the institution provides under the program.~~

SECTION 1. STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION STUDY - SENIOR TUITION WAIVER OR REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM. During the 2017-18 interim, the state board of higher education shall study the feasibility and desirability of the development of a state tuition waiver or reimbursement program for college seniors at institutions of higher education under the control of the board. The study must consider designing a program to waive or reimburse tuition expenses at these institutions for students who are North Dakota residents who graduated from a high school in this state or completed a program of home education supervised in accordance with chapter 15.1-23. The study may include the objectives of a senior tuition waiver or reimbursement program, the definition of residency for purposes of the

1 program, the duration of a tuition waiver once a student is designated a senior by the institution,
2 the necessary funding mechanisms for the program, the maximum total waiver or
3 reimbursement amounts available to individual students, grade point average requirements,
4 post-graduation requirements, merit-based requirements, and the effectiveness of tuition
5 waivers versus post-graduation reimbursement. The state board of higher education shall report
6 its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the
7 recommendations, to the sixty-sixth legislative assembly.