

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SECOND ENGROSSMENT

REENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1369

Introduced by

Representatives Heinert, Richter

Senators Lemm, Schaible

In place of amendment (25.0716.04003) adopted by the Senate, Reengrossed House Bill No. 1369 is amended by amendment (25.0716.04007) as follows:

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 15.1-27-04.1, ~~15.1-27-35~~ 15.1-32-19, 15.1-36-02, 48-01.2-02.1, 48-01.2-10, and 57-15-14.2 of the North Dakota Century Code, and section 15.1-36-08 as amended by section 1 of Senate Bill No. 2149, as approved by the sixty-ninth legislative assembly, relating to the determination of state aid, ~~the calculation of average daily membership boarding care costs, the coal development trust fund, the school construction assistance revolving loan fund~~, public improvement construction, bonds from contractors for public improvements, and school district levies; ~~to provide for a transfer; and to~~ provide an effective date; and to declare an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 15.1-27-04.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15.1-27-04.1. Baseline funding - Establishment - Determination of state aid. (Effective through June 30, 2025) (Retroactive application - See note)

1. ~~To determine the amount of state aid payable to each district, the superintendent of public instruction shall establish each district's baseline funding. A district's baseline funding consists of:~~

- a. ~~All state aid received by the district in accordance with chapter 15.1-27 during the 2018-19 school year;~~
- b. ~~An amount equal to the property tax deducted by the superintendent of public instruction to determine the 2018-19 state aid payment;~~

- 1 e. ~~An amount equal to seventy-five percent of the revenue received by the school~~
2 ~~district during the 2017-18 school year for the following revenue types:~~
- 3 (1) ~~Revenue reported under code 2000 of the North Dakota school district~~
4 ~~financial accounting and reporting manual, as developed by the~~
5 ~~superintendent of public instruction in accordance with section 15.1-02-08;~~
- 6 (2) ~~Mineral revenue received by the school district through direct allocation from~~
7 ~~the state treasurer and not reported under code 2000 of the North Dakota~~
8 ~~school district financial accounting and reporting manual, as developed by~~
9 ~~the superintendent of public instruction in accordance with section~~
10 ~~15.1-02-08;~~
- 11 (3) ~~Tuition reported under code 1300 of the North Dakota school district~~
12 ~~financial accounting and reporting manual, as developed by the~~
13 ~~superintendent of public instruction in accordance with section 15.1-02-08,~~
14 ~~with the exception of revenue received specifically for the operation of an~~
15 ~~educational program provided at a residential treatment facility, tuition~~
16 ~~received for the provision of an adult farm management program, and~~
17 ~~beginning in the 2021-22 school year, seventeen percent of tuition received~~
18 ~~under an agreement to educate students from a school district on an~~
19 ~~air force base with funding received through federal impact aid, and an~~
20 ~~additional seventeen percent of tuition received under an agreement to~~
21 ~~educate students from a school district on an air force base with funding~~
22 ~~received through federal impact aid each school year thereafter, until the~~
23 ~~2024-25 school year when sixty-eight percent of tuition received under an~~
24 ~~agreement to educate students from a school district on an air force base~~
25 ~~with funding received through federal impact aid must be excluded from the~~
26 ~~tuition calculation under this paragraph;~~
- 27 (4) ~~Revenue from payments in lieu of taxes on the distribution and transmission~~
28 ~~of electric power;~~
- 29 (5) ~~Revenue from payments in lieu of taxes on electricity generated from~~
30 ~~sources other than coal; and~~

- 1 (6) Revenue from the leasing of land acquired by the United States for which
2 compensation is allocated to the state under 33 U.S.C. 701(c)(3);
- 3 d. An amount equal to the total revenue received by the school district during the
4 2017-18 school year for the following revenue types:
- 5 (1) Mobile home tax revenue;
- 6 (2) Telecommunications tax revenue; and
- 7 (3) Revenue from payments in lieu of taxes and state reimbursement of the
8 homestead credit and disabled veterans credit; and
- 9 e. Beginning with the 2020-21 school year, the superintendent shall reduce the
10 baseline funding for any school district that becomes an elementary district
11 pursuant to section 15.1-07-27 after the 2012-13 school year. The reduction must
12 be proportional to the number of weighted student units in the grades that are
13 offered through another school district relative to the total number of weighted
14 student units the school district offered in the year before the school district
15 became an elementary district. The reduced baseline funding applies to the
16 calculation of state aid for the first school year in which the school district
17 becomes an elementary district and for each year thereafter. For districts that
18 become an elementary district prior to the 2020-21 school year, the
19 superintendent shall use the reduced baseline funding to calculate state aid for
20 the 2020-21 school year and for each year thereafter.
- 21 2. a. The superintendent shall divide the district's baseline funding determined in
22 subsection 1 by the district's 2017-18 weighted student units to determine the
23 district's baseline funding per weighted student unit.
- 24 b. For any school district that becomes an elementary district pursuant to section
25 15.1-07-27 after the 2017-18 school year, the superintendent shall adjust the
26 district's baseline funding per weighted student unit used to calculate state aid.
27 The superintendent shall divide the district's baseline funding determined in
28 subsection 1 by the district's weighted student units after the school district
29 becomes an elementary district to determine the district's adjusted baseline
30 funding per weighted student unit. The superintendent shall use the district's
31 adjusted baseline funding per weighted student unit in the calculation of state aid

1 for the first school year in which the school district becomes an elementary
2 district and for each year thereafter.

3 e. ~~Beginning with the 2021-22 school year and for each school year thereafter, the~~
4 ~~superintendent shall reduce the district's baseline funding per weighted student~~
5 ~~unit. Each year the superintendent shall calculate the amount by which the~~
6 ~~district's baseline funding per weighted student unit exceeds the payment per~~
7 ~~weighted student unit provided in subsection 3. For the 2023-24 school year the~~
8 ~~superintendent shall reduce the district's baseline funding per weighted student~~
9 ~~unit by forty percent of the amount by which the district's baseline funding per~~
10 ~~weighted student unit exceeds the payment per weighted student unit for the~~
11 ~~2023-24 school year. For each year thereafter, the reduction percentage is~~
12 ~~increased by an additional fifteen percent. However, the district's baseline funding~~
13 ~~per weighted student unit, after the reduction, may not be less than the payment~~
14 ~~per weighted student unit provided in subsection 3.~~

15 3. a. ~~For the 2023-24 school year, the superintendent shall calculate state aid as the~~
16 ~~greater of:~~

17 (1) ~~The district's weighted student units multiplied by ten thousand six hundred~~
18 ~~forty-six dollars;~~

19 (2) ~~One hundred two percent of the district's baseline funding per weighted~~
20 ~~student unit, as established in subsection 2, multiplied by the district's~~
21 ~~weighted student units, not to exceed the district's 2017-18 baseline~~
22 ~~weighted student units, plus any weighted student units in excess of the~~
23 ~~2017-18 baseline weighted student units multiplied by ten thousand~~
24 ~~six hundred forty-six dollars; or~~

25 (3) ~~The district's baseline funding as established in subsection 1 less the~~
26 ~~amount in paragraph 1, with the difference reduced by forty percent and~~
27 ~~then the difference added to the amount determined in paragraph 1.~~

28 b. ~~For the 2024-25 school year and each school year thereafter, the superintendent~~
29 ~~shall calculate state aid as the greater of:~~

30 (1) ~~The district's weighted student units multiplied by eleven thousand~~
31 ~~seventy-two dollars;~~

- 1 (2) ~~One hundred two percent of the district's baseline funding per weighted~~
2 ~~student unit, as established in subsection 2, multiplied by the district's~~
3 ~~weighted student units, not to exceed the district's 2017-18 baseline~~
4 ~~weighted student units, plus any weighted student units in excess of the~~
5 ~~2017-18 baseline weighted student units multiplied by eleven thousand~~
6 ~~seventy-two dollars; or~~
- 7 (3) ~~The district's baseline funding as established in subsection 1 less the~~
8 ~~amount in paragraph 1, with the difference reduced by fifty-five percent for~~
9 ~~the 2024-25 school year and the reduction percentage increasing by fifteen~~
10 ~~percent each school year thereafter until the difference is reduced to zero,~~
11 ~~and then the difference added to the amount determined in paragraph 1.~~
- 12 4. ~~After determining the product in accordance with subsection 3, the superintendent of~~
13 ~~public instruction shall:~~
- 14 a. ~~Subtract an amount equal to sixty mills multiplied by the taxable valuation of the~~
15 ~~school district, except the amount in dollars subtracted for purposes of this~~
16 ~~subdivision may not exceed the previous year's amount in dollars subtracted for~~
17 ~~purposes of this subdivision by more than twelve percent, adjusted pursuant to~~
18 ~~section 15.1-27-04.3; and~~
- 19 b. ~~Subtract an amount equal to seventy-five percent of all revenue types listed in~~
20 ~~subdivisions c and d of subsection 1. Before determining the deduction for~~
21 ~~seventy-five percent of all revenue types, the superintendent of public instruction~~
22 ~~shall adjust revenues as follows:~~
- 23 (1) ~~Tuition revenue shall be adjusted as follows:~~
- 24 (a) ~~In addition to deducting tuition revenue received specifically for the~~
25 ~~operation of an educational program provided at a residential~~
26 ~~treatment facility, tuition revenue received for the provision of an adult~~
27 ~~farm management program, tuition received for the education of~~
28 ~~high-cost and special education students, and tuition received under~~
29 ~~an agreement to educate students from a school district on an~~
30 ~~air force base with funding received through federal impact aid as~~
31 ~~directed each school year in paragraph 3 of subdivision c of~~

1 subsection 1, the superintendent of public instruction also shall reduce
2 the total tuition reported by the school district by the amount of tuition
3 revenue received for the education of students not residing in the
4 state and for which the state has not entered a cross-border education
5 contract; and

6 (b) The superintendent of public instruction also shall reduce the total
7 tuition reported by admitting school districts meeting the requirements
8 of subdivision c of subsection 2 of section 15.1-29-12 by the amount
9 of tuition revenue received for the education of students residing in an
10 adjacent school district.

11 (2) After adjusting tuition revenue as provided in paragraph 1, the
12 superintendent shall reduce all remaining revenues from all revenue types
13 by the percentage of mills levied in 2022 by the school district for sinking
14 and interest relative to the total mills levied in 2022 by the school district for
15 all purposes.

16 5. The amount remaining after the computation required under subsection 4 is the
17 amount of state aid to which a school district is entitled, subject to any other statutory
18 requirements or limitations.

19 6. On or before June thirtieth of each year, the school board shall certify to the
20 superintendent of public instruction the final average daily membership for the current
21 school year.

22 7. For purposes of the calculation in subsection 4, each county auditor, in collaboration
23 with the school districts, shall report the following to the superintendent of public
24 instruction on an annual basis:

25 a. The amount of revenue received by each school district in the county during the
26 previous school year for each type of revenue identified in subdivisions c and d of
27 subsection 1;

28 b. The total number of mills levied in the previous calendar year by each school
29 district for all purposes; and

30 c. The number of mills levied in the previous calendar year by each school district
31 for sinking and interest fund purposes.

**~~Baseline funding -- Establishment -- Determination of state aid. (Effective after
June 30, 2025)~~**

1. To determine the amount of state aid payable to each district, the superintendent of public instruction shall establish each district's baseline funding. A district's baseline funding consists of:
 - a. All state aid received by the district in accordance with chapter 15.1-27 during the 2018-19 school year;
 - b. An amount equal to the property tax deducted by the superintendent of public instruction to determine the 2018-19 state aid payment;
 - c. An amount equal to seventy-five percent of the revenue received by the school district during the 2017-18 school year for the following revenue types:
 - (1) Revenue reported under code 2000 of the North Dakota school district financial accounting and reporting manual, as developed by the superintendent of public instruction in accordance with section 15.1-02-08;
 - (2) Mineral revenue received by the school district through direct allocation from the state treasurer and not reported under code 2000 of the North Dakota school district financial accounting and reporting manual, as developed by the superintendent of public instruction in accordance with section 15.1-02-08;
 - (3) Tuition reported under code 1300 of the North Dakota school district financial accounting and reporting manual, as developed by the superintendent of public instruction in accordance with section 15.1-02-08, with the exception of revenue received specifically for the operation of an educational program provided at a residential treatment facility, tuition received for the provision of an adult farm management program, and beginning in the 2025-26 school year, eighty-five percent of tuition received under an agreement to educate students from a school district on an air force base with funding received through federal impact aid, until the 2026-27 school year, and each school year thereafter, when all tuition received under an agreement to educate students from a school district on

1 an air force base with funding received through federal impact aid must be
2 excluded from the tuition calculation under this paragraph;

3 (4) Revenue from payments in lieu of taxes on the distribution and transmission
4 of electric power;

5 (5) Revenue from payments in lieu of taxes on electricity generated from
6 sources other than coal; and

7 (6) Revenue from the leasing of land acquired by the United States for which
8 compensation is allocated to the state under 33 U.S.C. 701(c)(3); ~~and~~

9 d. An amount equal to the total revenue received by the school district during the
10 2017-18 school year for the following revenue types:

11 (1) Mobile home tax revenue;

12 (2) Telecommunications tax revenue; and

13 (3) Revenue from payments in lieu of taxes and state reimbursement of the
14 homestead credit and disabled veterans credit; and

15 e. Beginning with the 2020-21 school year, the superintendent shall reduce the
16 baseline funding for any school district that becomes an elementary district
17 pursuant to section 15.1-07-27 after the 2012-13 school year. The reduction must
18 be proportional to the number of weighted student units in the grades that are
19 offered through another school district relative to the total number of weighted
20 student units the school district offered in the year before the school district
21 became an elementary district. The reduced baseline funding applies to the
22 calculation of state aid for the first school year in which the school district
23 becomes an elementary district and for each year thereafter. For districts that
24 become an elementary district prior to the 2020-21 school year, the
25 superintendent shall use the reduced baseline funding to calculate state aid for
26 the 2020-21 school year and for each year thereafter.

27 2. a. The superintendent shall divide the district's baseline funding determined in
28 subsection 1 by the district's 2017-18 weighted student units to determine the
29 district's baseline funding per weighted student unit.

30 b. For any school district that becomes an elementary district pursuant to section
31 15.1-07-27 after the 2017-18 school year, the superintendent shall adjust the

- 1 district's baseline funding per weighted student unit used to calculate state aid.
2 The superintendent shall divide the district's baseline funding determined in
3 subsection 1 by the district's weighted student units after the school district
4 becomes an elementary district to determine the district's adjusted baseline
5 funding per weighted student unit. The superintendent shall use the district's
6 adjusted baseline funding per weighted student unit in the calculation of state aid
7 for the first school year in which the school district becomes an elementary
8 district and for each year thereafter.
- 9 c. Beginning with the 2021-22 school year and for each school year thereafter, the
10 superintendent shall reduce the district's baseline funding per weighted student
11 unit. Each year the superintendent shall calculate the amount by which the
12 district's baseline funding per weighted student unit exceeds the payment per
13 weighted student unit provided in subsection 3. For the 2023-24 school year the
14 superintendent shall reduce the district's baseline funding per weighted student
15 unit by forty percent of the amount by which the district's baseline funding per
16 weighted student unit exceeds the payment per weighted student unit for the
17 2023-24 school year. For each year thereafter, the reduction percentage is
18 increased by an additional fifteen percent. However, the district's baseline funding
19 per weighted student unit, after the reduction, may not be less than the payment
20 per weighted student unit provided in subsection 3.
- 21 3. a. For the ~~2023-24~~2025-26 school year, the superintendent shall calculate state aid
22 as the greater of:
- 23 (1) The district's weighted student units multiplied by ~~ten thousand six hundred~~
24 ~~forty-six~~eleven thousand three hundred forty-nine dollars;
25 (2) One hundred two percent of the district's baseline funding per weighted
26 student unit, as established in subsection 2, multiplied by the district's
27 weighted student units, not to exceed the district's 2017-18 baseline
28 weighted student units, plus any weighted student units in excess of the
29 2017-18 baseline weighted student units multiplied by ~~ten thousand~~
30 ~~six hundred forty-six~~eleven thousand three hundred forty-nine dollars; or

- 1 (3) The district's baseline funding as established in subsection 1 less the
2 amount in paragraph 1, with the difference reduced by ~~forty~~seventy percent
3 and then the difference added to the amount determined in paragraph 1.
- 4 b. For the ~~2024-25~~2026-27 school year and each school year thereafter, the
5 superintendent shall calculate state aid as the greater of:
- 6 (1) The district's weighted student units multiplied by eleven thousand
7 ~~seventy-two~~six hundred thirty-three dollars;
- 8 (2) One hundred two percent of the district's baseline funding per weighted
9 student unit, as established in subsection 2, multiplied by the district's
10 weighted student units, not to exceed the district's 2017-18 baseline
11 weighted student units, plus any weighted student units in excess of the
12 2017-18 baseline weighted student units multiplied by eleven thousand
13 ~~seventy-two~~six hundred thirty-three dollars; or
- 14 (3) The district's baseline funding as established in subsection 1 less the
15 amount in paragraph 1, with the difference reduced by ~~fifty-five~~eighty-five
16 percent for the ~~2024-25~~2026-27 school year and the reduction percentage
17 increasing by fifteen percent each school year thereafter until the difference
18 is reduced to zero, and then the difference added to the amount determined
19 in paragraph 1.
- 20 4. After determining the product in accordance with subsection 3, the superintendent of
21 public instruction shall:
- 22 a. Subtract an amount equal to sixty mills multiplied by the taxable valuation of the
23 school district; and
- 24 b. Subtract an amount equal to seventy-five percent of all revenue types listed in
25 ~~subdivisions c and d~~subdivision c and paragraphs 1 and 2 of subdivision d of
26 subsection 1 and revenue from payments in lieu of taxes. Before determining the
27 deduction for seventy-five percent of all revenue types, the superintendent of
28 public instruction shall adjust revenues as follows:
- 29 (1) Tuition revenue shall be adjusted as follows:
- 30 (a) In addition to deducting tuition revenue received specifically for the
31 operation of an educational program provided at a residential

- 1 treatment facility, tuition revenue received for the provision of an adult
2 farm management program, tuition received for the education of
3 high-cost and special education students, and tuition received under
4 an agreement to educate students from a school district on an
5 air force base with funding received through federal impact aid as
6 directed each school year in paragraph 3 of subdivision c of
7 subsection 1, the superintendent of public instruction also shall reduce
8 the total tuition reported by the school district by the amount of tuition
9 revenue received for the education of students not residing in the
10 state and for which the state has not entered a cross-border education
11 contract; and
- 12 (b) The superintendent of public instruction also shall reduce the total
13 tuition reported by admitting school districts meeting the requirements
14 of subdivision e of subsection 2 of section 15.1-29-12 by the amount
15 of tuition revenue received for the education of students residing in an
16 adjacent school district.
- 17 (2) After adjusting tuition revenue as provided in paragraph 1, the
18 superintendent shall reduce all remaining revenues from all revenue types
19 by the percentage of mills levied in ~~2022~~2024 by the school district for
20 sinking and interest relative to the total mills levied in ~~2022~~2024 by the
21 school district for all purposes.
- 22 5. The amount remaining after the computation required under subsection 4 is the
23 amount of state aid to which a school district is entitled, subject to any other statutory
24 requirements or limitations.
- 25 6. On or before June thirtieth of each year, the school board shall certify to the
26 superintendent of public instruction the final average daily membership for the current
27 school year.
- 28 7. For purposes of the calculation in subsection 4, each county auditor, in collaboration
29 with the school districts, shall report the following to the superintendent of public
30 instruction on an annual basis:

- a. The amount of revenue received by each school district in the county during the previous school year for each type of revenue identified in subdivisions c and d of subsection 1;
- b. The total number of mills levied in the previous calendar year by each school district for all purposes; and
- c. The number of mills levied in the previous calendar year by each school district for sinking and interest fund purposes.

~~SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 15.1-27-35 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:~~

~~15.1-27-35. Average daily membership - Calculation.~~

~~1. Average daily membership is calculated at the conclusion of the school year by adding the total number of hours that each student in a given grade, school, or school district is in attendance at the school's physical plant during a school calendar and the total number of hours that each student in a given grade, school, or school district is absent during a school calendar, and then dividing the sum by:~~

~~a. Nine hundred sixty two and one half hours for elementary school students; or~~

~~b. One thousand fifty hours for middle and high school students.~~

~~2. For purposes of calculating average daily membership:~~

~~a. A student enrolled full time in any grade from one through twelve may not exceed an average daily membership of 1.00. The membership may be prorated for a student who is enrolled less than full time.~~

~~b. A student enrolled full time in an approved regular education kindergarten program may not exceed an average daily membership of 1.00. The membership may be prorated for a student who is enrolled less than full time.~~

~~c. A student enrolled full time, as defined by the superintendent of public instruction, in an approved early childhood special education program may not exceed an average daily membership of 1.00. The membership may be prorated for a student who is enrolled less than full time.~~

~~d. A student enrolled full time in virtual instruction is calculated at an average daily membership of 1.00. The membership may be prorated for a student who is enrolled less than full time.~~

~~3. For purposes of determining state aid pursuant to section 15.1-27-04.1, average daily membership is the greater of:~~

~~a. The amount calculated in subsections 1 and 2 of this section; or~~

~~b. The average of the amounts calculated in subsections 1 and 2 of this section for the prior three years.~~

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 15.1-32-19 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15.1-32-19. Boarding care costs - Reimbursement of school district.

The superintendent of public instruction shall reimburse a student's school district of residence an amount equal to eighty percent of the room and board costs paid by the district for a student with disabilities who is placed in a facility that is located either within or outside of the student's school district of residence in order to receive special education services. The student's school district of residence is liable for any room and board costs in excess of those reimbursed as provided in this section. The placement of a student with disabilities in a public or private facility will be made by a school district and approved by the superintendent of public instruction. The ~~placement~~superintendent of a ~~student with disabilities in congregate care will be made in a facility designated by~~public instruction may consult with the commissioner of the department of health and human services on congregate care facilities.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Section 15.1-36-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15.1-36-02. Coal development trust fund - Board of university and school lands - School construction projects - Unanticipated construction projects and emergency repairs - Loans.

1. Up to sixty million dollars from the coal development trust fund is available to the board of university and school lands for loans under this section.
2. To be eligible for a loan under this section, the school district must demonstrate a need based on an unanticipated construction project, an unanticipated replacement project, an emergency repair, or a legislatively defined condition, and the board of a school district shall:
 - a. Obtain the approval of the superintendent of public instruction for the construction project under section 15.1-36-01; and

1 b. Submit to the superintendent of public instruction an application containing all
2 information deemed necessary by the superintendent, including potential
3 alternative sources or methods of financing the construction project.

4 3. The superintendent of public instruction shall consider each loan application in the
5 order the application received approval under section 15.1-36-01.

6 4. If the superintendent of public instruction approves the loan, the board of university
7 and school lands shall issue a loan from the coal development trust fund.

8 a. For a loan made under this ~~section~~ subsection:

9 a.(1) ~~The~~ Except for loans provided for a school construction project on an air
10 force base, the minimum loan amount is two hundred fifty thousand dollars
11 and the maximum loan amount for which a school district may qualify is five
12 million dollars;

13 b.(2) The term of the loan is twenty years, unless the board of the school district
14 requests a shorter term in the written loan application; and

15 c.(3) The interest rate of the loan may not exceed two percent per year.

16 b. During the 2025-27 biennium, a loan for a school construction project on an air
17 force base is an allowable condition under subsection 2. For a loan made for a
18 school construction project on an air force base under this subsection:

19 (1) The maximum loan amount for which the school district may qualify is the
20 lesser of twenty percent of the project cost or twenty million dollars;

21 (2) The term of the loan is twenty years, unless the board of the school district
22 requests a shorter term in the written loan application;

23 (3) The interest rate of the loan may not exceed two percent per year; and

24 (4) The school district must obtain all necessary federal authorizations and
25 funding commitments for the project.

26 5. a. If a school district seeking a loan under this section received an allocation of the
27 oil and gas gross production tax during the previous fiscal year in accordance
28 with chapter 57-51, the board of the district shall provide to the board of
29 university and school lands, and to the state treasurer, its evidence of
30 indebtedness indicating the loan originated under this section.

- b. If the evidence of indebtedness is payable solely from the school district's allocation of the oil and gas gross production tax in accordance with section 57-51-15, the loan does not constitute a general obligation of the school district and may not be considered a debt of the district.
 - c. If a loan made to a school district is payable solely from the district's allocation of the oil and gas gross production tax in accordance with section 57-51-15, the terms of the loan must require the state treasurer withhold the dollar amount or percentage specified in the loan agreement, from each of the district's oil and gas gross production tax allocations, in order to repay the principal and interest of the evidence of indebtedness. The state treasurer shall deposit the amount withheld into the fund from which the loan originated.
 - d. Any evidence of indebtedness executed by the board of a school district under this subsection is a negotiable instrument and not subject to taxation by the state or any political subdivision of the state.
6. For purposes of this section, a "construction project" means the purchase, lease, erection, or improvement of any structure or facility by a school board, provided the acquisition or activity is within a school board's authority.

SECTION 4. AMENDMENT. Section 15.1-36-08 of the North Dakota Century Code as amended by section 1 of Senate Bill No. 2149, as approved by the sixty-ninth legislative assembly, is amended and reenacted as follows:

15.1-36-08. School construction assistance revolving loan fund - Bank of North Dakota - School construction projects - Continuing appropriation.

1. The school construction assistance revolving loan fund is a special revolving loan fund administered by the Bank. The fund consists of all moneys appropriated or transferred to the fund by the legislative assembly, all interest or other earnings of the fund, and all repayments of loans made from the fund.
2. Moneys in the fund, interest upon the moneys in the fund, and payments to the fund of principal and interest are appropriated to the Bank on a continuing basis for the purpose of providing low-interest school construction loans and for paying administrative costs, in accordance with this section.

- 1 3. For a school construction project not located on an air force base, to be eligible for a
2 loan under this section, the board of a school district shall:
 - 3 a. Propose a new construction or remodeling project with a cost of at least
4 one million dollars and an expected utilization of at least thirty years;
 - 5 b. Obtain the approval of the superintendent of public instruction for the project
6 under section 15.1-36-01;
 - 7 c. (1) Publish in the official newspaper of the district the information regarding the
8 proposed estimated additional millage and the dollar increase per
9 one thousand dollars of taxable valuation in accordance with section
10 21-03-13 along with the notice of the election in accordance with section
11 21-03-12 or along with the initial resolution in accordance with subsection 7
12 of section 21-03-07; and
13 (2) Post the information on the school district's website before the date of the
14 election or during the protest period in accordance with chapter 21-03;
 - 15 d. Receive authorization for a bond issue in accordance with chapter 21-03; and
16 e. Submit a completed application to the Bank.
- 17 4. For a school construction project located on an air force base, to be eligible for a loan
18 under this section, the board of the school district shall:
 - 19 a. Propose a new construction or remodeling project on an air force base which has
20 a cost of at least one million dollars and an expected utilization of at least thirty
21 years;
 - 22 b. Obtain the approval of the superintendent of public instruction for the project
23 under section 15.1-36-01;
 - 24 c. Obtain all necessary federal authorizations and funding commitments for the
25 project; and
26 d. Submit a completed application to the Bank.
- 27 5. ~~The superintendent of public instruction shall designate, until June 30, 2027, or until a~~
28 ~~loan is made as identified in this section, twenty million dollars of funds available for~~
29 ~~loans in the school construction assistance revolving loan fund for a loan to provide~~
30 ~~matching funds for the construction of facilities on an air force base.~~

- 1 ~~6.~~ The superintendent of public instruction shall review loan applications based on a
2 prioritization system that includes a review of all applications filed during the
3 twelve-month period preceding April first and gives consideration to:
- 4 a. Student occupancy and academic needs in the district;
 - 5 b. The age of existing structures to be replaced or remodeled;
 - 6 c. Building design proposals that are based on safety and vulnerability
7 assessments;
 - 8 d. Community support;
 - 9 e. Cost; and
 - 10 f. Any other criteria established by the superintendent of public instruction, after
11 consultation with an interim committee appointed by the legislative management.
- 12 7.6. If the superintendent of public instruction approves the loan, the Bank shall issue a
13 loan from the school construction assistance revolving loan fund. For a loan made
14 under this section:
- 15 a. If the school construction project totals less than seventy-five million dollars, the
16 maximum loan amount for which a school district may qualify is ~~fifteen million~~ten
17 million dollars. However, if a school district's unobligated general fund balance on
18 the preceding June thirtieth exceeds the limitation under section 15.1-27-35.3,
19 the loan amount under this section may not exceed eighty percent of the project's
20 cost up to a maximum loan amount of ~~twelve million~~eight million dollars;
 - 21 b. If the school construction project totals seventy-five million dollars or more, the
22 maximum loan amount for which a school district may qualify is ~~thirty~~
23 ~~million~~twenty million dollars. However, if a school district's unobligated general
24 fund balance on the preceding June thirtieth exceeds the limitation under section
25 15.1-27-35.3, the loan amount under this section may not exceed eighty percent
26 of the project's cost up to a maximum loan amount of ~~twenty-four million~~sixteen
27 million dollars;
 - 28 c. If the school construction project is on an air force base, the maximum loan
29 amount for which the school district may qualify is the lesser of twenty percent of
30 the project cost or twenty million dollars;

- d. The term of the loan is twenty years, unless the board of the school district requests a shorter term in the written loan application; and
- e. The interest rate of the loan may not exceed two percent per year.
- f. A district with a school construction loan secured on the open bond market may apply to refinance the loan when callable with the school construction assistance revolving loan fund under this subsection.

~~8.7.~~ The Bank may adopt policies and establish guidelines to administer this loan program in accordance with this section. The Bank may use a portion of the interest paid on the outstanding loans as a servicing fee to pay for administration costs which may not exceed one-half of one percent of the amount of the interest payment. The Bank shall deposit principal and interest payments made by school districts for loans under this section in the school construction assistance revolving loan fund. The fund must be audited annually pursuant to section 6-09-29, and the cost of the audit must be paid from the fund.

SECTION 5. AMENDMENT. Section 48-01.2-02.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

48-01.2-02.1. Public improvement construction threshold.

1. The threshold for bidding construction of a public improvement is two hundred fifty thousand dollars. The threshold for procuring plans, drawings, ~~and specifications, and~~ bonding from an architect or engineer for construction of a public improvement is two hundred fifty thousand dollars.
2. Notwithstanding the thresholds in subsection 1, if the state or a political subdivision undertakes the construction of a public improvement and there is reason to believe that engineering or architectural services are necessary to protect the health, safety, or welfare of the public, the state or political subdivision shall consider consulting with an engineer or architect.

SECTION 6. AMENDMENT. Section 48-01.2-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

48-01.2-10. Bonds from contractors for public improvements.

1. Unless otherwise provided under this chapter, a governing body authorized to enter a contract for the construction of a public improvement in excess of two hundred fifty

thousand dollars shall take from the contractor a bond before permitting any work to be done on the contract. The bond must be for an amount equal at least to the price stated in the contract. The bond must be conditioned to be void if the contractor and all subcontractors fully perform all terms, conditions, and provisions of the contract and pay all bills or claims on account of labor performed and any supplies, and materials furnished and used in the performance of the contract, including all demands of subcontractors. The requirement that bills and claims be paid must include the requirement that interest of the amount authorized under section 13-01-14 be paid on bills and claims not paid within ninety days. The bond is security for all bills, claims, and demands until fully paid, with preference to labor and material suppliers as to payment. The bond must run to the governing body, but any person having a lawful claim against the contractor or any subcontractor may sue on the bond.

2. A governing body may not require any person required to provide a surety bond to obtain the surety bond from a specified insurance or surety company or insurance producer or to submit financial data to the company or producer.

SECTION 7. AMENDMENT. Section 57-15-14.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

57-15-14.2. School district levies.

1. The board of a school district may levy a tax ~~not exceeding the amount in dollars that the school district levied for the prior year, plus twelve percent,~~ up to a levy of seventy mills on the taxable valuation of the district, for any purpose related to the provision of educational services. The proceeds of this levy must be deposited into the school district's general fund and used in accordance with this subsection. The proceeds may not be transferred into any other fund.
2. The board of a school district may levy no more than twelve mills on the taxable valuation of the district, for miscellaneous purposes and expenses. The proceeds of this levy must be deposited into a special fund known as the miscellaneous fund and used in accordance with this subsection. The proceeds may not be transferred into any other fund.

- 1 3. The board of a school district may levy no more than three mills on the taxable
- 2 valuation of the district for deposit into a special reserve fund, in accordance with
- 3 chapter 57-19.
- 4 4. The board of a school district may levy no more than the number of mills necessary,
- 5 on the taxable valuation of the district, for the payment of tuition, in accordance with
- 6 section 15.1-29-15. The proceeds of this levy must be deposited into a special fund
- 7 known as the tuition fund and used in accordance with this subsection. The proceeds
- 8 may not be transferred into any other fund.
- 9 5. The board of a school district may levy no more than five mills on the taxable valuation
- 10 of the district, pursuant to section 57-15-15.1, for purposes of developing a school
- 11 safety plan in accordance with section 15.1-09-60. The proceeds of this levy must be
- 12 deposited into a special fund known as the school safety plan fund and used in
- 13 accordance with this subsection.
- 14 6. Nothing in this section limits the board of a school district from levying:
- 15 a. Mills for a building fund, as permitted in sections 15.1-09-49 and 57-15-16; and
- 16 b. Mills necessary to pay principal and interest on the bonded debt of the district,
- 17 including the mills necessary to pay principal and interest on any bonded debt
- 18 incurred under section 57-15-17.1 before July 1, 2013.

19 ~~—SECTION 7. TRANSFER - FOUNDATION AID STABILIZATION FUND TO SCHOOL~~
20 ~~CONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE REVOLVING LOAN FUND. The office of management and~~
21 ~~budget shall transfer the sum of \$75,000,000 from the foundation aid stabilization fund to the~~
22 ~~school construction assistance revolving loan fund during the biennium beginning July 1, 2025,~~
23 ~~and ending June 30, 2027.~~

24 **SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.** Section 47 of this Act is effective for taxable years
25 beginning after December 31, 2024. Sections 1, 2, 5, and 6 of this Act are effective July 1,
26 2025.

27 **SECTION 9. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.