

SENATE BILL NO. 2142

Introduced by

Representatives Amerman, Froseth, Schneider

Senators Nelson, Dever, Horne

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 37-14-04, 37-14-06, and 37-14-07 of the North
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to loans made from the veterans' aid fund.

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

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 37-14-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **37-14-04. Veterans' aid fund - Purpose.** The purpose of the veterans' aid fund is to
7 make loans ~~or advancements~~ to any veteran and to a surviving spouse of a veteran if the
8 spouse has not remarried. A qualified applicant may be permitted to receive more than one
9 loan providing the ~~applicant has satisfied payment requirements of a previous loan~~ total amount
10 of all loans does not exceed five thousand dollars.

11 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 37-14-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is
12 amended and reenacted as follows:

13 **37-14-06. Department may provide aid.** If the department of veterans' affairs is
14 satisfied that an applicant is a veteran or the surviving spouse of a veteran and has not
15 remarried, and that the applicant is a citizen and resident of this state, and that the applicant
16 meets the criteria set forth in rules adopted pursuant to section 37-14-10 regarding
17 qualifications to obtain a loan, the department may loan to the applicant, ~~or a guardian of the~~
18 ~~applicant,~~ a sum from the veterans' aid fund not to exceed five thousand dollars. Additional
19 loans may be made to an applicant if the applicant still meets the loan criteria and if the total of
20 all loans does not exceed five thousand dollars. If an applicant is provided more than one loan,
21 the amounts will be consolidated into one payment.

22 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 37-14-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is
23 amended and reenacted as follows:

1 **37-14-07. Repayment to be made to aid fund.** Upon the granting of an application
2 and at the time of disbursement, the applicant, or the applicant's ~~legally appointed guardian~~
3 legal agent, shall execute ~~an~~ a loan agreement with the department of veterans' affairs that
4 within a specified period of not to exceed four years from the date of the receipt of the last item
5 of the advancement, the applicant will repay to the state for the use of the veterans' aid fund the
6 full amount of all advancements made to the applicant with interest as provided in rules adopted
7 under section 37-14-10, but not to exceed ten percent annually. One-half of the interest must
8 be waived if timely repayment is made to the fund as set forth in rules adopted pursuant to
9 section 37-14-10. The department may take necessary legal action to collect, compromise, or
10 settle loans if in the opinion of the department the person has the financial means to repay, and
11 the person deliberately refuses to do so. The department may release from financial liability
12 any person it determines is financially unable to repay the loan through no fault of the person.
13 The department may assess and collect a late payment penalty as provided in section
14 47-14-05.