

HOUSE BILL NO. 1293

Introduced by

Representatives K. Koppelman, Heilman, Karls, Nathe, Rohr, Ruby, Sanford, Thoreson,
Hunskor

Senators Luick, Schaible, Nelson

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 15.1-04.1-01, 15.1-04.1-02, 15.1-04.1-03,
2 15.1-04.1-04, 15.1-06-01, 15.1-21-02.1, 15.1-29-13, and 37-03-16 of the North Dakota Century
3 Code, relating to the compact on educational opportunity for military children.

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

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-04.1-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **15.1-04.1-01. (~~Effective through July 31, 2013~~) Compact on educational opportunity**
8 **for military children.**

9 The compact on educational opportunity for military children is entered with all jurisdictions
10 legally joining therein, in the form substantially as follows:

11 **ARTICLE I - PURPOSE**

12 It is the purpose of this compact to remove barriers to educational success imposed on
13 children of military families because of frequent moves and deployment of their parents by:

- 14 1. Facilitating the timely enrollment of children of military families and ensuring that they
15 are not placed at a disadvantage due to difficulty in the transfer of educational records
16 from a sending to a receiving school district or variations in entrance or age
17 requirements;
- 18 2. Facilitating the student placement process to ensure that children of military families
19 are not disadvantaged by variations in attendance requirements, scheduling,
20 sequencing, grading, course content, or assessment;
- 21 3. Facilitating the qualification and eligibility of children of military families for enrollment,
22 educational programs, and participation in extracurricular academic, athletic, and
23 social activities;

1 preparation for involvement in public performances, contests, athletic competitions,
2 demonstrations, displays, and club activities.

3 8. "Member state" means a state that has enacted this compact.

4 9. "Military installation" means a base, camp, post, station, yard, center, homeport facility
5 for any ship, or other facility under the jurisdiction of the department of defense,
6 including any leased facility that is located within a state. The term does not include
7 any facility used primarily for civil works, rivers and harbors projects, or flood control
8 projects.

9 10. "Nonmember state" means a state that has not enacted this compact.

10 11. "Receiving state" means the state to which a child of a military family is sent, brought,
11 or caused to be sent or brought.

12 12. "Rule" means a written statement by the commission promulgated pursuant to
13 article XII of this compact which:

- 14 a. Is of general applicability;
15 b. Implements, interprets, or prescribes a policy or provision of the compact;
16 c. Is an organizational, procedural, or practice requirement of the commission;
17 d. Has the force and effect of law in a member state; and
18 e. Includes the amendment, repeal, or suspension of an existing rule.

19 13. "Sending state" means the state from which a child of a military family is sent, brought,
20 or caused to be sent or brought.

21 14. "State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the
22 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American
23 Samoa, the Northern Marianas Islands, and any other United States territory.

24 15. "Student" means the child of a military family who is formally enrolled in kindergarten
25 through grade twelve and for whom a school district receives public funding.

26 16. "Transition" means:

- 27 a. The formal and physical process of transferring from one school to another; or
28 b. The period of time during which a student moves from one school in the sending
29 state to another school in the receiving state.

- 1 2. a. The receiving school initially shall honor placement of the student in educational
2 programs based on current educational assessments conducted at the sending
3 school or based on placement in like programs in the sending school. Such
4 programs include gifted and talented programs and English language learner
5 programs. This does not preclude the receiving school from performing
6 subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement of the student.
- 7 b. This subsection does not require a school district to create programs or offer
8 services that were not in place before the enrollment of the student unless the
9 programs or services are required by federal law.
- 10 3. a. In compliance with the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act [20 U.S.C. 1400
11 et seq.], the receiving school initially shall provide comparable services to a
12 student with disabilities based on the student's current individualized education
13 program; and
- 14 b. In compliance with the requirements of section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
15 [29 U.S.C. 794] and with the Americans with Disabilities Act [42 U.S.C. 12131
16 et seq.], the receiving school shall make reasonable accommodations and
17 modifications to address the needs of incoming students with disabilities, subject
18 to an existing 504 or title II plan, to provide the student with equal access to
19 education. This does not preclude the receiving school from performing
20 subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement of the student.
- 21 4. School district administrators have flexibility in waiving course or program
22 prerequisites and other preconditions for placement in courses or programs offered by
23 the district.
- 24 5. A student whose parent or legal guardian is an active duty member of the uniformed
25 services and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned
26 from deployment to a combat zone or a combat support posting must be granted
27 additional excused absences by the school district superintendent to visit with the
28 student's parent or legal guardian relative to the leave or deployment of the parent or
29 guardian.

ARTICLE VI - ELIGIBILITY

- 30
31 1. Eligibility for enrollment:

- 1 a. A special power of attorney, relative to the guardianship of a child of a military
2 family and executed under applicable law is sufficient for the purposes of
3 enrollment and all other actions requiring parental participation and consent.
- 4 b. A school district may not charge tuition to a transitioning military child placed in
5 the care of a noncustodial parent or other individual standing in loco parentis who
6 lives in a school district other than that of the custodial parent.
- 7 c. A transitioning military child, placed in the care of a noncustodial parent or other
8 person standing in loco parentis who lives in a school district other than that of
9 the custodial parent, may continue to attend the school in which the child was
10 enrolled while residing with the custodial parent.
- 11 2. The superintendent of public instruction, school districts, and the North Dakota high
12 school activities association shall facilitate the opportunity for transitioning military
13 children's inclusion in extracurricular activities, regardless of application deadlines, to
14 the extent they are otherwise qualified.

ARTICLE VII - GRADUATION

15
16 To facilitate the on-time graduation of children of military families, the superintendent of
17 public instruction and school district administrators shall incorporate the following procedures:

- 18 1. School district administrators shall waive specific courses required for graduation if
19 similar coursework has been satisfactorily completed in another school district or shall
20 provide reasonable justification for denial. Should a waiver not be granted to a student
21 who would qualify to graduate from the sending school, the receiving school district
22 shall provide an alternative means of acquiring required coursework so that graduation
23 may occur on time.
- 24 2. States must accept exit or end-of-course examinations required for graduation from
25 the sending state, national norm-referenced achievement tests, or alternative testing in
26 lieu of testing requirements for graduation in the receiving state. If these alternatives
27 cannot be accommodated by the receiving state for a student transferring in the
28 student's senior year, then subsection 3 applies.
- 29 3. Should a military student transferring at the beginning or during the student's senior
30 year be ineligible to graduate from the receiving school district after all alternatives
31 have been considered, the sending and receiving school districts shall ensure the

1 receipt of a diploma from the sending school district if the student meets the
2 graduation requirements of the sending school district. If one of the states in question
3 is not a member of this compact, the member state shall use best efforts to facilitate
4 the on-time graduation of the student in accordance with subsections 1 and 2.

5 **ARTICLE VIII - STATE COORDINATION**

- 6 1. Each member state, through the creation of a state council or use of an existing entity,
7 shall provide for the coordination among its state agencies, school districts, and
8 military installations concerning the state's participation in, and compliance with, this
9 compact and commission activities. While each member state may determine the
10 membership of its own state council, its membership must include at least the
11 superintendent of public instruction, a gubernatorial appointee who is the
12 superintendent of a school district with a high concentration of military children, a
13 representative from a military installation, one member of the legislative assembly
14 appointed by the chairman of the legislative management, a gubernatorial appointee
15 who represents the executive branch of government, and any other individuals or
16 group representatives that the state council determines appropriate. A member state
17 that does not have a school district determined to contain a high concentration of
18 military children may appoint a superintendent from another school district to represent
19 school districts on the state council.
- 20 2. The state council of each member state shall appoint or designate a military family
21 education liaison to assist military families and the state in facilitating the
22 implementation of this compact; provided, however, in North Dakota, the appointment
23 shall be made by the adjutant general of the national guard.
- 24 3. The compact commissioner responsible for the administration and management of the
25 state's participation in the compact must be appointed by the governor or as otherwise
26 determined by each member state.
- 27 4. The compact commissioner and the military family education liaison are ex officio
28 members of the state council, unless either is already a full voting member of the state
29 council.

30 **ARTICLE IX - INTERSTATE COMMISSION ON**
31 **EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN**

Sixty-third
Legislative Assembly

- 1 1. The interstate commission on educational opportunity for military children is created.
- 2 2. The activities of the commission are the formation of public policy and are a
- 3 discretionary state function.
- 4 3. The commission is a body corporate and joint agency of the member states and has
- 5 all the responsibilities, powers, and duties set forth herein, and any additional powers
- 6 as may be conferred upon it by a subsequent concurrent action of the respective
- 7 legislatures of member states in accordance with the terms of this compact.
- 8 4. The commission consists of one commission voting representative from each member
- 9 state who must be that state's compact commissioner.
- 10 a. Each member state represented at a meeting of the commission is entitled to one
- 11 vote.
- 12 b. A majority of the total member states constitutes a quorum for the transaction of
- 13 business unless a larger quorum is required by the bylaws of the commission.
- 14 c. A representative may not delegate a vote to another member state. If the
- 15 compact commissioner is unable to attend a meeting of the commission, the
- 16 governor or state council may delegate voting authority to another person from
- 17 the state for a specified meeting.
- 18 d. The bylaws may provide for meetings of the commission to be conducted by
- 19 telecommunications or electronic communication.
- 20 5. The commission consists of ex officio, nonvoting representatives who are members of
- 21 interested organizations. Ex officio members, as defined in the bylaws, may include
- 22 members of the representative organizations of military family advocates, school
- 23 district officials, parent and teacher groups, the department of defense, the education
- 24 commission of the states, the interstate agreement on the qualification of educational
- 25 personnel, and other interstate compacts affecting the education of children of military
- 26 members.
- 27 6. The commission shall meet at least once each calendar year. The chairman may call
- 28 additional meetings and, upon the request of a majority of the member states, shall
- 29 call additional meetings.
- 30 7. The commission shall establish an executive committee, whose members must
- 31 include the officers of the commission and any other members of the commission as

1 determined by the bylaws. Members of the executive committee shall serve a
2 one-year term. Members of the executive committee are entitled to one vote each. The
3 executive committee may act on behalf of the commission, with the exception of
4 rulemaking, during periods when the commission is not in session. The executive
5 committee shall oversee the day-to-day activities of the administration of the compact,
6 including enforcement and compliance with the compact, its bylaws and rules, and
7 other such duties as determined necessary. The department of defense is an ex officio
8 nonvoting member of the executive committee.

9 8. The commission shall establish bylaws and rules that provide for conditions and
10 procedures under which the commission shall make its information and official records
11 available to the public for inspection or copying. The commission may exempt from
12 disclosure information or official records to the extent they would adversely affect
13 personal privacy rights or proprietary interests.

14 9. The commission shall give public notice of all meetings and all meetings shall be open
15 to the public, except as set forth in the rules or as otherwise provided in the compact.
16 The commission and its committees may close a meeting, or portion thereof, when it
17 determines by two-thirds vote that an open meeting would be likely to:

- 18 a. Relate solely to the commission's internal personnel practices and procedures;
- 19 b. Disclose matters specifically exempted from disclosure by federal and state
20 statute;
- 21 c. Disclose trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or
22 confidential;
- 23 d. Involve accusing a person of a crime or formally censuring a person;
- 24 e. Disclose information of a personal nature when disclosure would constitute a
25 clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- 26 f. Disclose investigative records compiled for law enforcement purposes; or
- 27 g. Specifically relate to the commission's participation in a civil action or other legal
28 proceeding.

29 10. The commission shall cause its legal counsel or designee to certify that a meeting may
30 be closed and shall reference each relevant exemptible provision for any meeting, or
31 portion of a meeting, which is closed pursuant to this provision. The commission shall

1 keep minutes that fully and clearly describe all matters discussed in a meeting and
2 shall provide a full and accurate summary of actions taken, and the reasons therefore,
3 including a description of the views expressed and the record of a roll call vote. All
4 documents considered in connection with an action must be identified in the minutes.
5 All minutes and documents of a closed meeting must remain under seal, subject to
6 release by a majority vote of the commission.

7 11. The commission shall collect standardized data concerning the educational transition
8 of the children of military families under this compact as directed through its rules,
9 which shall specify the data to be collected, the means of collection, and data
10 exchange and reporting requirements. The methods of data collection, exchange, and
11 reporting, insofar as is reasonably possible, must conform to current technology and
12 coordinate its information functions with the appropriate custodian of records as
13 identified in the bylaws and rules.

14 12. The commission shall create a process that permits military officials, education
15 officials, and parents to inform the commission if and when there are alleged violations
16 of the compact or its rules or when issues subject to the jurisdiction of the compact or
17 its rules are not addressed by the state or local education agency. This subsection
18 does not create a private right of action against the commission, any member state, or
19 any school district.

20 **ARTICLE X - POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION**

21 The commission may:

- 22 1. Provide for dispute resolution among member states;
- 23 2. Adopt rules that have the force and effect of law and are binding in the compact states
24 to the extent and in the manner provided in this compact and take all necessary
25 actions to effect the goals, purposes, and obligations as enumerated in this compact;
- 26 3. Issue, upon request of a member state, advisory opinions concerning the meaning or
27 interpretation of the interstate compact, its bylaws, rules, and actions;
- 28 4. Monitor compliance with the compact provisions, the rules adopted by the
29 commission, and the bylaws;
- 30 5. Establish and maintain offices within one or more of the member states;
- 31 6. Purchase and maintain insurance and bonds;

- 1 7. Borrow, accept, hire, or contract for services of personnel;
- 2 8. Establish and appoint committees, including an executive committee as required by
- 3 article IX, which may act on behalf of the commission in carrying out its powers and
- 4 duties;
- 5 9. Elect or appoint officers, attorneys, employees, agents, and consultants and fix their
- 6 compensation; define their duties; determine their qualifications; and establish the
- 7 commission's personnel policies and programs relating to conflicts of interest, rates of
- 8 compensation, and qualifications of personnel;
- 9 10. Accept, receive, use, and dispose of donations and grants of money, equipment,
- 10 supplies, materials, and services;
- 11 11. Lease, purchase, accept contributions or donations of, or otherwise to own, hold,
- 12 improve, or use any property, real, personal, or mixed;
- 13 12. Sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon, or otherwise dispose of
- 14 any property;
- 15 13. Establish a budget and make expenditures;
- 16 14. Adopt a seal and bylaws governing the management and operation of the commission;
- 17 15. Report annually to the legislatures, governors, judiciary, and state councils of the
- 18 member states concerning the activities of the commission during the preceding year
- 19 and include any recommendations that were adopted by the commission;
- 20 16. Coordinate education, training, and public awareness regarding the compact, its
- 21 implementation, and operation for officials and parents involved in such activity;
- 22 17. Establish uniform standards for the reporting, collecting, and exchanging of data;
- 23 18. Maintain corporate books and records in accordance with the bylaws;
- 24 19. Perform such functions as may be necessary or appropriate to achieve the purpose of
- 25 this compact; and
- 26 20. Provide for the uniform collection and sharing of information between and among
- 27 member states, schools, and military families under this compact.

ARTICLE XI - ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF THE COMMISSION

- 28
- 29 1. The commission, by a majority of the members present and voting, within twelve
- 30 months after the first commission meeting, shall adopt bylaws to govern its conduct as
- 31 may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of the compact, including:

- 1 a. Establishing the fiscal year of the commission;
- 2 b. Establishing an executive committee and such other committees as may be
- 3 necessary;
- 4 c. Providing for the establishment of committees and for governing any general or
- 5 specific delegation of authority or function of the commission;
- 6 d. Providing reasonable procedures for calling and conducting meetings of the
- 7 commission and ensuring reasonable notice of each meeting;
- 8 e. Establishing the titles and responsibilities of the officers and staff of the
- 9 commission;
- 10 f. Providing a mechanism for concluding the operations of the commission and the
- 11 return of surplus funds that may exist upon the termination of the compact after
- 12 the payment and reserving of all its debts and obligations; and
- 13 g. Providing startup rules for initial administration of the compact.
- 14 2. The commission, by a majority of the members, shall elect annually from among its
- 15 members a chairman, a vice chairman, and a treasurer, each of whom has the
- 16 authority and duties specified in the bylaws. The chairman or, in the chairman's
- 17 absence or disability, the vice chairman shall preside at all meetings of the
- 18 commission. The officers so elected serve without compensation or remuneration from
- 19 the commission; provided that, subject to the availability of budgeted funds, the
- 20 officers are entitled to be reimbursed for ordinary and necessary costs and expenses
- 21 incurred by them in the performance of their responsibilities as officers of the
- 22 commission.
- 23 3. a. The executive committee has the authority and duties set forth in the bylaws,
- 24 including:
- 25 (1) Managing the affairs of the commission in a manner consistent with the
- 26 bylaws and purposes of the commission;
- 27 (2) Overseeing an organizational structure and appropriate procedures for the
- 28 commission to provide for the creation of rules, operating procedures, and
- 29 administrative and technical support functions; and

- 1 (3) Planning, implementing, and coordinating communications and activities
2 with other state, federal, and local government organizations in order to
3 advance the goals of the commission.
- 4 b. The executive committee, subject to the approval of the commission, may
5 appoint or retain an executive director for such period, upon such terms and
6 conditions, and for such compensation as the commission determines
7 appropriate. The executive director shall serve as secretary to the commission
8 but may not be a member of the commission. The executive director shall hire
9 and supervise such other persons as may be authorized by the commission.
- 10 4. The commission's executive director and its employees are immune from suit and
11 liability, either personally or in their official capacity, for a claim for damage to or loss of
12 property or personal injury or other civil liability caused or arising out of or relating to
13 an actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred, or that such person had a
14 reasonable basis for believing occurred, within the scope of commission employment,
15 duties, or responsibilities; provided, those individuals are not protected from suit or
16 liability for damage, loss, injury, or liability caused by their intentional or willful and
17 wanton misconduct.
- 18 a. The liability of the commission's executive director and employees or commission
19 representatives, acting within the scope of that individual's employment or duties
20 for acts, errors, or omissions occurring within that individual's state, may not
21 exceed the limits of liability set forth under the constitution and laws of that state
22 for state officials, employees, and agents. The commission is considered to be an
23 instrumentality of the states for the purposes of any such action. This subsection
24 does not protect an individual from suit or liability for damage, loss, injury, or
25 liability caused by the intentional or willful and wanton misconduct of the
26 individual.
- 27 b. The commission shall defend the executive director and its employees and,
28 subject to the approval of the attorney general or other appropriate legal counsel
29 of the member state represented by a commission representative, shall defend a
30 commission representative in any civil action seeking to impose liability arising
31 out of an actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred within the scope

1 of commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, or that the defendant had
2 a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of commission
3 employment, duties, or responsibilities, provided that the actual or alleged act,
4 error, or omission did not result from intentional or willful and wanton misconduct
5 on the part of the individual.

6 c. To the extent not covered by the state involved, member state, or the
7 commission, the representatives or employees of the commission must be held
8 harmless in the amount of a settlement or judgment, including attorney's fees and
9 costs, obtained against the individuals arising out of an actual or alleged act,
10 error, or omission that occurred within the scope of commission employment,
11 duties, or responsibilities, or that those individuals had a reasonable basis for
12 believing occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties, or
13 responsibilities, provided that the actual or alleged act, error, or omission did not
14 result from intentional or willful and wanton misconduct on the part of those
15 individuals.

16 **ARTICLE XII - RULEMAKING FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION**

- 17 1. The commission shall adopt reasonable rules in order to effectively and efficiently
18 achieve the purposes of this compact. If the commission exercises its rulemaking
19 authority in a manner that is beyond the scope of the purposes of this compact, or the
20 powers granted by this compact, then such an action by the commission is invalid and
21 has no force or effect.
- 22 2. Rules must be made pursuant to a rulemaking process that substantially conforms to
23 the Model State Administrative Procedure Act of the national conference of
24 commissioners on uniform state laws, as may be appropriate to the operations of the
25 commission.
- 26 3. Within thirty days after a rule is adopted, any person may file a petition for judicial
27 review of the rule; provided, that the filing of the petition does not stay or otherwise
28 prevent the rule from becoming effective unless the court finds that the petitioner has a
29 substantial likelihood of success. The court shall give deference to the actions of the
30 commission consistent with applicable law and shall not find the rule to be unlawful if
31 the rule represents a reasonable exercise of the commission's authority.

- 1 4. If a majority of the legislatures of the compacting states rejects a rule by enactment of
2 a statute or resolution in the same manner used to adopt the compact, then the rule
3 has no further force and effect in any compacting state.

4 **ARTICLE XIII - OVERSIGHT, ENFORCEMENT, AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

- 5 1. a. Each member state shall enforce this compact to effectuate the compact's
6 purposes and intent. The provisions of this compact and the rules promulgated
7 hereunder have standing as statutory law.
8 b. Courts shall take judicial notice of the compact and the rules in any judicial or
9 administrative proceeding in a member state pertaining to the subject matter of
10 this compact which may affect the powers, responsibilities, or actions of the
11 commission.
12 c. The commission is entitled to receive all service of process in any proceeding
13 and has standing to intervene in the proceeding for all purposes. Failure to
14 provide service of process to the commission renders a judgment or order void
15 as to the commission, this compact, or adopted rules.
- 16 2. If the commission determines that a member state has defaulted in the performance of
17 its obligations or responsibilities under this compact, or the bylaws or adopted rules,
18 the commission shall:
- 19 a. Provide written notice to the defaulting state and other member states of the
20 nature of the default, the means of curing the default, and any action taken by the
21 commission, and specify the conditions by which the defaulting state must cure
22 its default; and
23 b. Offer technical assistance to the member state.
- 24 3. If the defaulting state fails to cure the default, the defaulting state shall terminate from
25 the compact upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the member states and all rights,
26 privileges, and benefits conferred by this compact are terminated from the effective
27 date of termination. A cure of the default does not relieve the offending state of
28 obligations or liabilities incurred during the period of the default, except that in the
29 event of a default by this state, its total financial responsibility is limited to the amount
30 of its most recent annual assessment.

- 1 4. Suspension or termination of membership in the compact may be imposed only after
2 all other means of securing compliance have been exhausted. Notice of intent to
3 suspend or terminate must be given by the commission to the governor, the majority
4 and minority leaders of the defaulting state's legislature, and each member state.
- 5 5. The state that has been suspended or terminated is responsible for all assessments,
6 obligations, and liabilities incurred through the effective date of suspension or
7 termination, to a maximum of five thousand dollars multiplied by the number of years
8 that the state has been a member of the compact. In the event that this state is
9 suspended or terminated, its total financial responsibility is limited to the amount of its
10 most recent annual assessment.
- 11 6. The commission may not bear any costs relating to any state that has been found to
12 be in default or which has been suspended or terminated from the compact, unless
13 otherwise mutually agreed upon in writing between the commission and the defaulting
14 state.
- 15 7. The defaulting state may appeal the action of the commission by petitioning the United
16 States district court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where the
17 commission has its principal offices. The prevailing party must be awarded all costs of
18 such litigation, including reasonable attorney's fees.
- 19 8. The commission shall attempt, upon the request of a member state, to resolve
20 disputes that are subject to the compact and which may arise among member states
21 and between member and nonmember states. The commission shall adopt a rule
22 providing for mediation and binding dispute resolution for disputes as appropriate.

23 **ARTICLE XIV - FINANCING OF THE COMMISSION**

- 24 1. The commission shall pay, or provide for the payment of, the reasonable expenses of
25 its establishment, organization, and ongoing activities.
- 26 2. a. The commission may levy on and collect an annual assessment from each
27 member state to cover the cost of the operations and activities of the commission
28 and its staff which must be in a total amount sufficient to cover the commission's
29 annual budget as approved each year.

- 1 b. The aggregate annual assessment amount must be allocated based upon a
2 formula to be determined by the commission, which shall adopt a rule binding
3 upon all member states.
- 4 c. The annual assessment applicable to this state may not exceed an amount equal
5 to two dollars multiplied by the latest available number of children of military
6 families in this state.
- 7 d. This state may not be held liable for the payment of any special assessment or
8 any assessment other than the annual assessment in the amount established by
9 this subsection.
- 10 3. The commission may not incur obligations of any kind prior to securing the funds
11 adequate to meet the same; nor may the commission pledge the credit of any of the
12 member states, except by and with the authority of the member state.
- 13 4. The commission shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements. The
14 receipts and disbursements of the commission are subject to the audit and accounting
15 procedures established under its bylaws. However, all receipts and disbursements of
16 funds handled by the commission must be audited yearly by a certified or licensed
17 public accountant and the report of the audit must be included in and become part of
18 the annual report of the commission.

19 **ARTICLE XV - MEMBER STATES, EFFECTIVE DATE, AND AMENDMENT**

- 20 1. Any state is eligible to become a member state.
- 21 2. The compact becomes effective and binding upon legislative enactment of the
22 compact into law by no less than ten states. The effective date may not be earlier than
23 December 1, 2007. Thereafter, the compact becomes effective and binding as to any
24 other member state upon enactment of the compact into law by that state. The
25 governors of nonmember states or their designees must be invited to participate in the
26 activities of the commission on a nonvoting basis prior to adoption of the compact by
27 all states.
- 28 3. The commission may propose amendments to the compact for enactment by the
29 member states. No amendment may become effective and binding upon the
30 commission and the member states until the amendment is enacted into law by
31 unanimous consent of the member states.

ARTICLE XVI - WITHDRAWAL AND DISSOLUTION

1. a. Once effective, the compact continues in force and remains binding upon each member state, provided that a member state may withdraw from the compact by specifically repealing the statute that enacted the compact into law, except that in the case of this state, withdrawal from the compact may also be accomplished by statutorily allowing for the expiration of this Act.
- b. Withdrawal from this compact must be by the enactment of a statute repealing the compact, except that in the case of this state, withdrawal from the compact may also be accomplished by statutorily allowing for the expiration of this Act.
- c. The withdrawing state immediately shall notify the chairman of the commission in writing upon the introduction of legislation repealing this compact in the withdrawing state, except that if this state elects to withdraw from the compact by statutorily allowing for the expiration of this Act, this state shall notify the chairman of the commission when it becomes evident that the expiration will take effect. The commission shall notify the other member states of the withdrawing state's intent to withdraw within sixty days of receiving the notice.
- d. The withdrawing state is responsible for all assessments, obligations, and liabilities incurred through the effective date of withdrawal, to a maximum amount equal to two dollars multiplied by the latest available number of children of military families in this state.
- e. Reinstatement following withdrawal of a member state occurs upon the withdrawing state reenacting the compact or upon such later date as determined by the commission.
2. This compact dissolves effective upon the date of the withdrawal or default of the member state which reduces the membership in the compact to one member state. Upon the dissolution of this compact, the compact becomes null and void and is of no further force or effect, and the business and affairs of the commission must be concluded and surplus funds must be distributed in accordance with the bylaws.

ARTICLE XVII - SEVERABILITY AND CONSTRUCTION

- 1 1. The provisions of this compact are severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence, or
- 2 provision is determined unenforceable, the remaining provisions of the compact are
- 3 enforceable.
- 4 2. This compact must be liberally construed to effectuate its purposes.
- 5 3. Nothing in this compact prohibits the applicability of other interstate compacts to which
- 6 the states are members.

7 **ARTICLE XVIII - BINDING EFFECT OF COMPACT AND OTHER LAWS**

- 8 1. Nothing in this compact prevents the enforcement of any other law of a member state
- 9 that is not inconsistent with this compact. All member states' laws conflicting with this
- 10 compact are superseded to the extent of the conflict.
- 11 2. a. All lawful actions of the commission, including all rules and bylaws promulgated
- 12 by the commission, are binding upon the member states.
- 13 b. All agreements between the commission and the member states are binding in
- 14 accordance with their terms.
- 15 c. If any provision of this compact exceeds the constitutional limits imposed on the
- 16 legislature of any member state, the provision is ineffective to the extent of the
- 17 conflict with the constitutional provision in question in that member state.

18 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-04.1-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is
19 amended and reenacted as follows:

20 **15.1-04.1-02. (~~Effective through July 31, 2013~~) Compact on educational opportunity**
21 **for military children - State council - Appointment.**

22 The state council on educational opportunity for military children consists of:

- 23 1. The following voting members:
 - 24 a. The superintendent of public instruction, who shall serve as the chairman;
 - 25 b. The superintendent of a school district that includes a high concentration of
 - 26 military children, appointed by the governor;
 - 27 c. A representative of a military installation, appointed by the governor;
 - 28 d. One legislator, appointed by the chairman of the legislative management;
 - 29 e. One representative of the executive branch of government, appointed by the
 - 30 governor; and

1 f. Any other individuals recommended by the members of the state council listed in
2 subdivisions a through e; and

3 2. The following nonvoting members:

4 a. The compact commissioner appointed under section 15.1-04.1-03; and

5 b. The military family education liaison, appointed under section 15.1-04.1-04.

6 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-04.1-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is
7 amended and reenacted as follows:

8 **15.1-04.1-03. (~~Effective through July 31, 2013~~) Compact commissioner - Appointment**
9 **- Duties.**

10 The governor shall appoint a compact commissioner who shall be responsible for the
11 administration and management of the state's participation in the compact on educational
12 opportunity for military children.

13 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-04.1-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is
14 amended and reenacted as follows:

15 **15.1-04.1-04. (~~Effective through July 31, 2013~~) Military family education liaison -**
16 **Appointment - Duties.**

17 The state council on educational opportunity for military children shall appoint a military
18 family education liaison to assist military families and the state in facilitating the implementation
19 of the compact on educational opportunity for military children.

20 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-06-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is
21 amended and reenacted as follows:

22 **15.1-06-01. (~~Effective through July 31, 2013~~) Schools free and accessible - School**
23 **ages.**

24 1. Each public school must be free, open, and accessible at all times to any child
25 provided:

26 a. The child may not enroll in grade one unless the child reaches the age of six
27 before August first of the year of enrollment;

28 b. The child may not enroll in kindergarten unless the child reaches the age of five
29 before August first of the year of enrollment; and

30 c. The child has not reached the age of twenty-one before August first of the year of
31 enrollment.

- 1 2. Notwithstanding subsection 1, a school district may not enroll in grade one a child who
- 2 is not six years old before August first, unless the child will be six years old before
- 3 December first and:
- 4 a. The child, by means of developmental and readiness screening instruments
- 5 approved by the superintendent of public instruction and administered by the
- 6 school district, can demonstrate academic, social, and emotional readiness; or
- 7 b. The child has completed an approved kindergarten program.
- 8 3. Notwithstanding subsection 1, a school district may not enroll in kindergarten a child
- 9 who is not five years old before August first unless the child will be five years old
- 10 before December first and the child, by means of developmental and readiness
- 11 screening instruments approved by the superintendent of public instruction and
- 12 administered by the school district, can demonstrate superior academic talents or
- 13 abilities and social and emotional readiness.
- 14 4. The requirements of this section are not applicable to the children of military families,
- 15 to the extent that the requirements conflict with enrollment provisions otherwise
- 16 agreed to by the state in the compact on educational opportunity for military children.

17 ~~(Effective after July 31, 2013) Schools free and accessible – School ages.~~

- 18 ~~1. Each public school must be free, open, and accessible at all times to any child~~
- 19 ~~provided:~~
- 20 ~~a. The child may not enroll in grade one unless the child reaches the age of six~~
- 21 ~~before August first of the year of enrollment;~~
- 22 ~~b. The child may not enroll in kindergarten unless the child reaches the age of five~~
- 23 ~~before August first of the year of enrollment; and~~
- 24 ~~c. The child has not reached the age of twenty-one before August first of the year of~~
- 25 ~~enrollment.~~
- 26 ~~2. Notwithstanding subsection 1, a school district may not enroll in grade one a child who~~
- 27 ~~is not six years old before August first, unless the child will be six years old before~~
- 28 ~~December first and:~~
- 29 ~~a. The child, by means of developmental and readiness screening instruments~~
- 30 ~~approved by the superintendent of public instruction and administered by the~~
- 31 ~~school district, can demonstrate academic, social, and emotional readiness; or~~

- 1 b. ~~The child has completed an approved kindergarten program.~~
- 2 3. ~~Notwithstanding subsection 1, a school district may not enroll in kindergarten a child-~~
- 3 ~~who is not five years old before August first unless the child will be five years old-~~
- 4 ~~before December first and the child, by means of developmental and readiness-~~
- 5 ~~screening instruments approved by the superintendent of public instruction and-~~
- 6 ~~administered by the school district, can demonstrate superior academic talents or-~~
- 7 ~~abilities and social and emotional readiness.~~

8 **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-21-02.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is

9 amended and reenacted as follows:

10 **15.1-21-02.1. (Effective through July 31, 2013) High school diploma - Minimum units.**

11 Except as provided in section 15.1-21-02.3 or as otherwise agreed to in the compact on

12 educational opportunity for military children, before a school district, a nonpublic high school, or

13 the center for distance education issues a high school diploma to a student, the student must

14 have successfully completed:

- 15 1. The twenty-two units of high school coursework set forth in section 15.1-21-25; and
- 16 2. Any additional units of high school coursework required by the issuing entity, two of
- 17 which may be theological studies if taught in a nonpublic school by an approved
- 18 theological studies instructor.

19 **(Effective after July 31, 2013) High school diploma -- Minimum units.**

20 ~~Except as provided in section 15.1-21-02.3, before a school district, a nonpublic high-~~

21 ~~school, or the center for distance education issues a high school diploma to a student, the-~~

22 ~~student must have successfully completed:~~

- 23 1. ~~The twenty-two units of high school coursework set forth in section 15.1-21-25; and~~
- 24 2. ~~Any additional units of high school coursework required by the issuing entity, two of~~
- 25 ~~which may be theological studies if taught in a nonpublic school by an approved-~~
- 26 ~~theological studies instructor.~~

27 **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-29-13 of the North Dakota Century Code is

28 amended and reenacted as follows:

1 **15.1-29-13. (Effective through July 31, 2013) Tuition payments - Nonresident**
2 **students.**

- 3 1. a. Except as provided in this subsection or as otherwise agreed to in the compact
4 on educational opportunity for military children, the board of a school district that
5 admits a nonresident student shall charge and collect tuition for the student.
6 Either the student's district of residence shall pay the tuition to the admitting
7 district in accordance with section 15.1-29-12 or the student's parent shall pay
8 the tuition to the admitting district in accordance with section 15.1-29-07.
- 9 b. A board may charge tuition for nonresident students enrolled in an approved
10 alternative education program.
- 11 c. Except as otherwise provided, if a school district fails to charge and collect tuition
12 for a nonresident student, the districts shall forfeit any state aid otherwise
13 payable for the nonresident student.
- 14 2. a. The board of a school district may admit a nonresident student from another
15 district in this state offering the same grade level as that in which the student is
16 enrolled without a charge and collection of tuition if the sending and admitting
17 districts have entered into a written contract regarding the student's admission.
- 18 b. For purposes of determining whether the same grade level is offered, two or
19 more school districts cooperating with each other for the joint provision of
20 educational services under a plan approved by the superintendent of public
21 instruction must be considered to be a single district.
- 22 c. The contract must specify whether transportation is to be provided and, if so, by
23 which district. If a school district of residence does not provide transportation to
24 the student, it may be provided by the admitting district and the admitting district
25 is then entitled to state payments for the transportation of the student.
- 26 d. A contract is not necessary if the nonresident student is enrolled in an approved
27 alternative education program for which no tuition is charged.
- 28 e. A school district may admit a nonresident student described in section 15.1-31-07
29 from another school district in this state without a charge and collection of tuition
30 and without a written agreement.

1 3. A school district may not charge or collect from a nonresident student, the student's
2 parent, or the student's district of residence any fees or charges not otherwise
3 assessed to all resident students.

4 **~~(Effective after July 31, 2013) Tuition payments -- Nonresident students.~~**

- 5 ~~1. a. Except as provided in this subsection, the board of a school district that admits a~~
6 ~~nonresident student shall charge and collect tuition for the student. Either the~~
7 ~~student's district of residence shall pay the tuition to the admitting district in~~
8 ~~accordance with section 15.1-29-12 or the student's parent shall pay the tuition to~~
9 ~~the admitting district in accordance with section 15.1-29-07.~~
- 10 ~~b. A board may charge tuition for nonresident students enrolled in an approved~~
11 ~~alternative education program.~~
- 12 ~~e. Except as otherwise provided, if a school district fails to charge and collect tuition~~
13 ~~for a nonresident student, the districts shall forfeit any state aid otherwise~~
14 ~~payable for the nonresident student.~~
- 15 2. a. The board of a school district may admit a nonresident student from another
16 district in this state offering the same grade level as that in which the student is
17 enrolled without a charge and collection of tuition if the sending and admitting
18 districts have entered into a written contract regarding the student's admission.
- 19 b. For purposes of determining whether the same grade level is offered, two or
20 more school districts cooperating with each other for the joint provision of
21 educational services under a plan approved by the superintendent of public
22 instruction must be considered to be a single district.
- 23 e. The contract must specify whether transportation is to be provided and, if so, by
24 which district. If a school district of residence does not provide transportation to
25 the student, it may be provided by the admitting district and the admitting district
26 is then entitled to state payments for the transportation of the student.
- 27 d. A contract is not necessary if the nonresident student is enrolled in an approved
28 alternative education program for which no tuition is charged.
- 29 e. A school district may admit a nonresident student described in section 15.1-31-07
30 from another school district in this state without a charge and collection of tuition
31 and without a written agreement.

1 3. ~~A school district may not charge or collect from a nonresident student, the student's~~
2 ~~parent, or the student's district of residence any fees or charges not otherwise~~
3 ~~assessed to all resident students.~~

4 **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Section 37-03-16 of the North Dakota Century Code is
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **37-03-16. ~~(Effective through July 31, 2013)~~ Adjutant general - Provision of funding -**
7 **Source.**

8 The adjutant general shall pay all expenses incurred by the state to participate in the
9 compact on educational opportunity for military children, including the reimbursement of actual
10 and necessary expenses incurred by members of the state council, from the operating
11 expenses line item in the appropriation bill for the adjutant general, as approved by the
12 legislative assembly.