

Sixty-sixth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

HOUSE BILL NO. 1171

Introduced by

Representatives Grueneich, Blum, Dockter, Headland, Howe, Mitskog, Pollert, Satrom

Senators Cook, Wanzek

- 1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact two new sections to chapter 6-09 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to the development and implementation of a skilled workforce student
3 ~~grant~~ loan repayment program; to provide a continuing appropriation; to provide for a transfer; to
4 provide an expiration date; and to declare an emergency.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 6-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
7 and enacted as follows:

8 **Skilled workforce student ~~grant~~ loan repayment program - Development and**
9 **implementation.**

- 10 1. The Bank of North Dakota shall adopt rules to develop, implement, promote, and
11 administer a skilled workforce student ~~grant~~ loan repayment program in conjunction
12 with the North Dakota university system and the North Dakota workforce development
13 council with the intent of attracting and retaining individuals for professional or
14 technical skills in high demand in this state. ~~The grant amount must convert to a~~
15 ~~student loan if the individual fails to comply with program requirements.~~
16 2. The North Dakota workforce development council in cooperation with job service North
17 Dakota shall use available labor market information to determine annually the eligible
18 high demand and emerging occupations in this state.
19 3. The North Dakota university system and the North Dakota workforce development
20 council shall compile a list of qualifying educational programs by April first of each
21 year. Qualifying educational programs may include degree or certificate programs.
22 4. ~~An eligible individual may receive a grant in an amount up to eight thousand five~~
23 ~~hundred dollars for each year during which the individual is enrolled full time in a~~
24 ~~qualifying educational program in this state, up to a maximum of seventeen thousand~~

~~dollars. The grant, which is intended to assist the individual in meeting attendance costs, must be designed to supplement any other financial aid received by the individual.~~

~~5. Each quarter or semester, the Bank of North Dakota shall forward the amount of the grants payable under this section from the skilled workforce student grant program fund directly to the institution or entity in which the individual is enrolled.~~

~~6. To maintain program eligibility, an individual must:~~

~~a. Maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.0;~~

~~b. Maintain adequate progress toward degree or certificate completion as determined by the Bank of North Dakota; and~~

~~c. Remain and work in this state in a high demand or emerging occupation for a minimum of three years.~~

~~7. To ensure compliance with residency and occupation requirements after completion of the qualifying educational program, the individual shall provide the Bank of North Dakota a copy of the individual's income tax forms as proof of residency and employment in a high demand or emerging occupation.~~

~~8. An individual is subject to the repayment provisions provided in the individual's grant agreement if the individual fails to maintain program eligibility.~~ Graduates of qualifying educational programs from institutions or entities in this state may apply for the skilled workforce student loan repayment program. To be eligible to receive student loan repayment grants under the program, the applicant:

a. Must have successfully completed a qualifying educational program from a Bank of North Dakota-approved institution or entity after January 1, 2019;

b. Must have maintained at least a 2.75 grade point average, based on a 4.0 grading system;

c. Must have a student loan with the Bank of North Dakota or other participating lender;

d. Following completion of a qualifying educational program must remain and work in this state in an eligible high-demand or emerging occupation; and

e. Must have met and shall continue to meet any requirements established by rule.

1 5. The Bank of North Dakota shall adopt rules to ensure compliance with residency and
2 occupation requirements after completion of the qualifying educational program.

3 6. The Bank of North Dakota shall distribute student loan repayment grants from the
4 skilled workforce student loan repayment program fund directly to the Bank of North
5 Dakota or other participating lender to repay outstanding student loan principal
6 balances for eligible applicants. The maximum annual student loan repayment grant
7 amount for which an applicant may qualify is five thousand six hundred sixty-seven
8 dollars, or one-third of the applicant's outstanding student loan principal balance,
9 whichever is less. The maximum total student loan repayment grant amount for which
10 any applicant may qualify is seventeen thousand dollars.

11 7. If an individual is receiving loan forgiveness under any other provision, the individual
12 may not receive a student loan repayment grant under this section during the same
13 application year.

14 8. The skilled workforce student loan repayment program must be a joint public and
15 private effort. The Bank of North Dakota shall provide one dollar of funding for each
16 one dollar of funding raised from the private sector.

17 9. The North Dakota university system in cooperation with the North Dakota workforce
18 development council shall seek private matching funds for the skilled workforce
19 student ~~grant~~loan repayment program. Any matching funds received must be
20 deposited in the skilled workforce student ~~grant~~loan repayment program fund.

21 **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 6-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
22 and enacted as follows:

23 **Skilled workforce student ~~grant~~loan repayment program fund established -**
24 **Continuing appropriation.**

25 The skilled workforce student ~~grant~~loan repayment program fund is established as a
26 revolving fund. All moneys deposited or transferred into the fund; and interest earned on
27 moneys in the fund, ~~and loan repayments to the fund~~ are appropriated for the purposes of
28 section 1 of this Act.

29 **SECTION 3. TRANSFER - BANK OF NORTH DAKOTA - SKILLED WORKFORCE**
30 **STUDENT ~~GRANT~~LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM FUND.** The Bank of North Dakota shall
31 transfer the sum of ~~\$10,000,000~~\$5,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, from

1 the Bank's current earnings and undivided profits to the skilled workforce student ~~grant~~loan
2 repayment program fund during the period beginning with the effective date of this Act, and
3 ending June 30, 2021.

4 **SECTION 4. EXPIRATION DATE.** Section 2 of this Act is effective through June 30, 2021,
5 and after that date is ineffective.

6 **SECTION 5. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.