

**Sixty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota  
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 5, 2021**

SENATE BILL NO. 2289  
(Senators Oban, Poolman, Schaible)  
(Representatives Mock, Pyle, Sanford)

AN ACT to create and enact a new section to chapter 15.1-21 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the creation of a North Dakota scholarship; to amend and reenact sections 15-10-59, 15.1-21-02.6, 15.1-21-02.8, and 15.1-21-02.9 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to references to the North Dakota scholarship, North Dakota academic scholarship, and North Dakota career and technical education scholarship; to repeal sections 15.1-21-02.4 and 15.1-21-02.5 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the North Dakota academic and career and technical education scholarships; and to provide an effective date.

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

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-10-59 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**15-10-59. Annual report - Scholarships.**

The state board of higher education shall provide to the legislative management an annual report regarding the number of North Dakota scholarships, North Dakota academic scholarships, and North Dakota career and technical education scholarships provided and demographic information pertaining to the recipients.

**SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-10-59 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**15-10-59. Annual report - Scholarships.**

The state board of higher education shall provide to the legislative management an annual report regarding the number of North Dakota ~~scholarships, North Dakota academic scholarships, and North Dakota career and technical education scholarships~~ provided and demographic information pertaining to the recipients.

**SECTION 3.** A new section to chapter 15.1-21 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

**North Dakota scholarship.**

Any resident student who meets the requirements of section 15.1-21-02.6 is eligible to receive a North Dakota scholarship if the student:

1. Completed an individual consultative process or a nine-week course under subsection 2 of section 15.1-21-18;
2. Completed the civics test under section 15.1-21-27;
3. Completed a four-year rolling plan, as determined by the superintendent of public instruction;
4. Obtained a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 grading scale, or an equivalent course proficiency score if the student was enrolled in a school district participating in an approved innovative education program under section 15.1-06-08.2 and the school district obtained a waiver under section 15.1-06-08.1;

5. Completed the requirements in at least four of the following while enrolled in grades nine through twelve:
  - a. Twenty-five hours of community service;
  - b. A ninety-five percent attendance rate as determined under section 15.1-20-02.1, not including any school-related absences;
  - c. A career exploration experience, as determined by the superintendent of public instruction;
  - d. At least two years in organized cocurricular activities;
  - e. At least two years in organized extracurricular activities;
  - f. A capstone project, as determined by the superintendent of public instruction;
  - g. An online learning course; and
  - h. Successful demonstration of competency in twenty-first century skills, as determined by the superintendent of public instruction; and
6. Completed the requirements in two of the following subdivisions while enrolled in grades nine through twelve:
  - a. (1) Received:
    - (a) A composite score of at least twenty-four on an ACT; or
    - (b) A score of at least 1180 on an SAT; and
  - (2) Completed the requirements in at least two of the following:
    - (a) A grade of at least "C" in an advanced placement course, or an equivalent course proficiency score;
    - (b) A grade of at least "C" in a dual-credit English or mathematics course, or an equivalent course proficiency score;
    - (c) A grade of at least "C" in one unit of algebra II, or an equivalent course proficiency score;
    - (d) A score of at least three on an advanced placement examination;
    - (e) A score of at least four on an international baccalaureate examination; and
    - (f) A cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 grading scale, or an equivalent course proficiency score if the student was enrolled in a school district participating in an approved innovative education program under section 15.1-06-08.2 and the school district obtained a waiver under section 15.1-06-08.1, in core courses required for admission to institutions of higher education under the control of the state board of higher education;
  - b. (1) Earned four units of career and technical education, including two units from a coordinated plan of study recommended by the department of career and technical education and approved by the superintendent of public instruction;
    - (2) Received:
      - (a) A composite score of at least twenty-four on an ACT; or

- (b) A score of at least five on each of three WorkKeys assessments recommended by the department of career and technical education and approved by the superintendent of public instruction; and
- (3) Successfully completed the requirements in at least two of the following:
  - (a) A career-ready practices course developed and recommended by the department of career and technical education and approved by the superintendent of public instruction;
  - (b) A grade of at least "C" in a dual-credit course, or an equivalent course proficiency score;
  - (c) A technical assessment or industry credential, as determined by the department of career and technical education;
  - (d) Forty hours in a workplace learning experience, approved by the superintendent of public instruction;
  - (e) Forty hours in a work-based learning experience aligned to the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act [Pub. L. 115-224; 132 Stat. 1563; 20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.]; and
  - (f) Received:
    - [1] A score of at least three on a reading and mathematics assessment administered under subsection 1 of section 15.1-21-08 while enrolled in grades nine through twelve; or
    - [2] ACT scores of at least nineteen in English and at least twenty-two in mathematics if the school in which the student was enrolled used an ACT assessment for accountability; or
- c. (1) Received:
  - (a) A score of at least thirty-one on an ASVAB test and successfully completed basic training in one of the branches of the United States military; or
  - (b) A score of at least eighty-five on an ASVAB test;
  - (2) Obtained a grade of at least "C" in a physical education course, or an equivalent course proficiency score; and
  - (3) Completed any two of subparagraphs a through f of paragraph 2 of subdivision a, or any two of subparagraphs a through f of paragraph 3 of subdivision b.

**SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-21-02.6 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**15.1-21-02.6. North Dakota scholarship - Amount - Applicability.**

- 1. a. The state board of higher education shall provide to any student certified as being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction either a North Dakota scholarship, a North Dakota academic scholarship, or a North Dakota career and technical education scholarship in the amount of seven hundred fifty dollars for each semester during which the student is enrolled full time at an accredited institution of higher education in this state, maintains a cumulative grade point average of 2.75, and maintains progress toward degree completion.

- b. The state board of higher education shall provide to any student certified as being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction either a North Dakota scholarship, a North Dakota academic scholarship, or a North Dakota career and technical education scholarship in the amount of five hundred dollars for each quarter during which the student is enrolled full time at an accredited institution of higher education in this state, maintains a cumulative grade point average of 2.75, and maintains progress toward degree completion.
2. The state board shall monitor each scholarship recipient to ensure that the student meets the academic and other requirements of this section. Upon determining that a recipient student has failed to meet the requirements of this section, the board shall provide notification to the student within ten days.
3. A student is not entitled to receive more than six thousand dollars under this section.
4. The state board of higher education shall forward the scholarship directly to the institution in which the student is enrolled.
5.
  - a.
    - (1) This section does not require a student to be enrolled in consecutive semesters.
    - (2) This section does not require a student to be enrolled in consecutive quarters.
  - b. A scholarship under this section is valid only for six academic years after the student's graduation from high school and may be applied to a graduate program.
6. A scholarship under this section is available to any eligible resident student who fulfills the requirements of section 15.1-21-02.4, or section 15.1-21-02.5, or section 2 of this Act and who:
  - a. Graduates from a high school in this state;
  - b. Graduates from a high school in a bordering state under chapter 15.1-29;
  - c. Graduates from a nonpublic high school in a bordering state while residing with a custodial parent in this state; or
  - d. Completes a program of home education supervised in accordance with chapter 15.1-23.
7.
  - a. For purposes of North Dakota scholarship eligibility under this section, "full-time" has the same meaning as the term is defined by the institution the student is attending.
  - b. A student who is enrolled less than full-time may retain scholarship eligibility if the student is in the final semester or quarter before graduation. The waiver of the full-time enrollment status requirement for scholarship eligibility may not apply to a student more than once.
  - c. For the purpose of North Dakota scholarship eligibility under this section, "progress toward degree completion" means earning the following minimum number of credits after each semester or quarter term disbursement to qualify for the subsequent disbursement:
    - (1) Twenty-four credits after disbursement two;
    - (2) Thirty-nine credits after disbursement three;
    - (3) Fifty-four credits after disbursement four;
    - (4) Sixty-nine credits after disbursement five;
    - (5) Eighty-four credits after disbursement six; and
    - (6) Ninety-nine credits after disbursement seven.

**SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-21-02.6 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**15.1-21-02.6. North Dakota scholarship - Amount - Applicability.**

1. a. The state board of higher education shall provide to any student certified as being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction a North Dakota scholarship, ~~a North Dakota academic scholarship, or a North Dakota career and technical education scholarship~~ in the amount of seven hundred fifty dollars for each semester during which the student is enrolled full time at an accredited institution of higher education in this state, maintains a cumulative grade point average of 2.75, and maintains progress toward degree completion.
- b. The state board of higher education shall provide to any student certified as being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction a North Dakota scholarship, ~~a North Dakota academic scholarship, or a North Dakota career and technical education scholarship~~ in the amount of five hundred dollars for each quarter during which the student is enrolled full time at an accredited institution of higher education in this state, maintains a cumulative grade point average of 2.75, and maintains progress toward degree completion.
2. The state board shall monitor each scholarship recipient to ensure the student meets the academic and other requirements of this section. Upon determining that a recipient student has failed to meet the requirements of this section, the board shall provide notification to the student within ten days.
3. A student is not entitled to receive more than six thousand dollars under this section.
4. The state board of higher education shall forward the scholarship directly to the institution in which the student is enrolled.
5. a. (1) This section does not require a student to be enrolled in consecutive semesters.  
(2) This section does not require a student to be enrolled in consecutive quarters.
- b. A scholarship under this section is valid only for six academic years after the student's graduation from high school and may be applied to a graduate program.
6. A scholarship under this section is available to any eligible resident student who fulfills the requirements of ~~section 15.1-21-02.4, section 15.1-21-02.5, or section 2~~ of this Act and who:
  - a. Graduates from a high school in this state;
  - b. Graduates from a high school in a bordering state under chapter 15.1-29;
  - c. Graduates from a nonpublic high school in a bordering state while residing with a custodial parent in this state; or
  - d. Completes a program of home education supervised in accordance with chapter 15.1-23.
7. a. For purposes of North Dakota scholarship eligibility under this section, "full-time" has the same meaning as the term is defined by the institution the student is attending.
- b. A student who is enrolled less than full-time may retain scholarship eligibility if the student is in the final semester or quarter before graduation. The waiver of the full-time enrollment status requirement for scholarship eligibility may not apply to a student more than once.

- c. For the purpose of North Dakota scholarship eligibility under this section, "progress toward degree completion" means earning the following minimum number of credits after each semester or quarter term disbursement to qualify for the subsequent disbursement:
- (1) Twenty-four credits after disbursement two;
  - (2) Thirty-nine credits after disbursement three;
  - (3) Fifty-four credits after disbursement four;
  - (4) Sixty-nine credits after disbursement five;
  - (5) Eighty-four credits after disbursement six; and
  - (6) Ninety-nine credits after disbursement seven.

**SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-21-02.8 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**15.1-21-02.8. North Dakota scholarship - Eligibility - One-time exception.**

1. a. Notwithstanding section 15.1-21-02.6, if a student's cumulative grade point average as determined by the state board of higher education at the conclusion of a semester is below 2.75, the board shall grant an exception and provide the North Dakota scholarship to which the student would otherwise be entitled for the next semester in which the student is enrolled full time. The exception provided by this section is applicable to a student only one time.
- b. If a student's cumulative grade point average as determined by the state board of higher education at the conclusion of a semester is below 2.75 for a second time, the student is no longer eligible to receive ~~any additional~~ North Dakota, North Dakota academic, or North Dakota career and technical education scholarship.
2. a. Notwithstanding section 15.1-21-02.6, if a student's cumulative grade point average as determined by the state board of higher education at the conclusion of a quarter is below 2.75, the board shall grant an exception and provide the North Dakota scholarship to which the student would otherwise be entitled for the next quarter in which the student is enrolled full time. The exception provided by this section is applicable to a student only one time.
- b. If a student's cumulative grade point average as determined by the state board of higher education at the conclusion of a quarter is below 2.75 for a second time, the student is no longer eligible to receive ~~any additional~~ North Dakota, North Dakota academic, or North Dakota career and technical education scholarship.

**SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-21-02.8 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**15.1-21-02.8. North Dakota scholarship - Eligibility - One-time exception.**

1. a. Notwithstanding section 15.1-21-02.6, if a student's cumulative grade point average as determined by the state board of higher education at the conclusion of a semester is below 2.75, the board shall grant an exception and provide the North Dakota scholarship to which the student would otherwise be entitled for the next semester in which the student is enrolled full time. The exception provided by this section is applicable to a student only one time.
- b. If a student's cumulative grade point average as determined by the state board of higher education at the conclusion of a semester is below 2.75 for a second time, the student is

no longer eligible to receive a North Dakota, ~~North Dakota academic, or North Dakota career and technical education~~ scholarship.

2. a. Notwithstanding section 15.1-21-02.6, if a student's cumulative grade point average as determined by the state board of higher education at the conclusion of a quarter is below 2.75, the board shall grant an exception and provide the North Dakota scholarship to which the student would otherwise be entitled for the next quarter in which the student is enrolled full time. The exception provided by this section is applicable to a student only one time.
- b. If a student's cumulative grade point average as determined by the state board of higher education at the conclusion of a quarter is below 2.75 for a second time, the student is no longer eligible to receive a North Dakota, ~~North Dakota academic, or North Dakota career and technical education~~ scholarship.

**SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-21-02.9 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**15.1-21-02.9. North Dakota scholarship - Information system.**

Each school district shall use North Dakota eTranscripts, or an alternative information system designated by the information technology department in collaboration with the department of public instruction, to submit official transcripts for the North Dakota, ~~North Dakota academic, or North Dakota career and technical education~~ scholarship to the superintendent of public instruction.

**SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-21-02.9 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**15.1-21-02.9. North Dakota scholarship - Information system.**

Each school district shall use North Dakota eTranscripts, or an alternative information system designated by the information technology department in collaboration with the department of public instruction, to submit official transcripts for the North Dakota, ~~North Dakota academic, or North Dakota career and technical education~~ scholarship to the superintendent of public instruction.

**SECTION 10. REPEAL.** Sections 15.1-21-02.4 and 15.1-21-02.5 of the North Dakota Century Code are repealed.

**SECTION 11. EFFECTIVE DATE.** Sections 2, 5, 7, 9, and 10 of this Act become effective on July 31, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Sixty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2289.

Senate Vote:    Yeas 44            Nays 3            Absent 0

House Vote:    Yeas 71            Nays 22           Absent 1

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Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

Approved at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

Filed in this office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021,

at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State