

Introduced by

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15-10 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to back to school scholarships; and to provide an appropriation.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
5 and enacted as follows:

6 **Back to school scholarship.**

- 7 1. The state board of higher education shall adopt policies and procedures to develop,
8 implement, promote, and administer a back to school scholarship program to
9 encourage residents of the state age twenty-six years or older to enroll in an institution
10 under the control of the state board of higher education.
- 11 2. Individuals aged twenty-six years or older enrolled in an institution under the control of
12 the state board of higher education may apply for a scholarship under this section.
13 Eligible applicants may not have completed a course at an institution of higher
14 education in the twelve months preceding the application nor previously received a
15 postsecondary degree.
- 16 3. Subject to legislative appropriations, eligible applicants may be awarded up to one
17 thousand dollars to assist the individual with the costs of completing the qualifying
18 educational program. Scholarships are limited to the amount charged each quarter,
19 semester, or term by the educational institution for the tuition, fees, books, and
20 supplies required for the educational program.
- 21 4. Each quarter, semester, or term, the state board of higher education shall distribute
22 grants to institutions under the control of the state board of higher education to provide
23 the amounts necessary for the scholarships awarded to the students enrolled in each
24 institution.

1 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION - BACK TO**
2 **SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the
3 state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$1,000,000, or so much of the sum as
4 may be necessary, to the state board of higher education for the purpose of providing financial
5 assistance to students eligible for the back to school scholarship program, for the biennium
6 beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.