

Introduced by

Representative Hager

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-college grants; 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-college grant.**

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

1 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION -**
2 **BACK-TO-COLLEGE GRANT.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in
3 the 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-college grant program, for the biennium beginning
6 July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.