25.0716.02000

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

HOUSE BILL NO. 1369

Introduced by

Representatives Heinert, Richter

Senators Lemm, Schaible

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 15.1-27-03.1, 15.1-27-04.1, 48-01.2-02.1, and 57-15-14.2 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to weighted average daily membership, the determination of state aid, public improvement construction, and school district levies; to provide for a transfer; and to provide an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 15.1-27-03.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15.1-27-03.1. Weighted average daily membership - Determination.

1. For each school district, the superintendent of public instruction shall multiply by:
   a. 1.00 the number of full-time equivalent students enrolled in an extended educational program in accordance with section 15.1-32-17;
   b. 0.60 the number of full-time equivalent students enrolled in a summer education program, including a migrant summer education program;
   c. 0.40 the number of full-time equivalent students who:
      (1) On a test of English language proficiency approved by the superintendent of public instruction are determined to be least proficient and placed in the first of six categories of proficiency; and
      (2) Are enrolled in a program of instruction for English language learners;
   d. 0.28 the number of full-time equivalent students who:
      (1) On a test of English language proficiency approved by the superintendent of public instruction are determined to be more proficient than students placed in the first of six categories of proficiency and therefore placed in the second of six categories of proficiency; and
      (2) Are enrolled in a program of instruction for English language learners;

e. 0.25 the number of full-time equivalent students under the age of twenty-one enrolled in grades nine through twelve in an alternative high school;

f. 0.20 the number of full-time equivalent students enrolled in a home-based education program and monitored by the school district under chapter 15.1-23;

g. 0.17 the number of full-time equivalent students enrolled in an early childhood special education program;

h. 0.15 the number of full-time equivalent students in grades six through eight enrolled in an alternative education program for at least an average of fifteen hours per week;

i. 0.10 the number of students enrolled in average daily membership, if the district has fewer than one hundred students enrolled in average daily membership and the district consists of an area greater than two hundred seventy-five square miles [19424.9 hectares], provided that any school district consisting of an area greater than six hundred square miles [155399 hectares] and enrolling fewer than fifty students in average daily membership must be deemed to have an enrollment equal to fifty students in average daily membership;

j. ~~0.088~~0.095 the number of students enrolled in average daily membership, in order to support the provision of special education services;

k. 0.07 the number of full-time equivalent students who:

(1) On a test of English language proficiency approved by the superintendent of public instruction are determined to be more proficient than students placed in the second of six categories of proficiency and therefore placed in the third of six categories of proficiency;

(2) Are enrolled in a program of instruction for English language learners; and

(3) Have not been in the third of six categories of proficiency for more than three years;

l. 0.025 the number of students representing that percentage of the total number of students in average daily membership which is equivalent to the three-year average percentage of students in grades three through eight who are eligible for free or reduced lunches under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act [42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.];

m. 0.002 the number of students enrolled in average daily membership in a school district that is a participating member of a regional education association meeting the requirements of chapter 15.1-09.1;

n. 1.0 the number of students by which the district's September tenth enrollment report exceeds the number of students in the prior year's average daily membership; and

o. For districts paid based on September tenth enrollment in the prior year, 1.00 the number of students determined by deducting the number of students in the prior year's September tenth enrollment from the prior year's average daily membership. If the prior year's September tenth enrollment exceeds the prior year's average daily membership, then a deduction of 1.00 the number of excess students.

2. The superintendent of public instruction shall determine each school district's weighted average daily membership by adding the products derived under subsection 1 to the district's average daily membership.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 15.1-27-04.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15.1-27-04.1. Baseline funding - Establishment - Determination of state aid. ~~(Effective through June 30, 2025) (Retroactive application - See note)~~

~~1. To determine the amount of state aid payable to each district, the superintendent of public instruction shall establish each district's baseline funding. A district's baseline funding consists of:~~

~~a. All state aid received by the district in accordance with chapter 15.1-27 during the 2018-19 school year;~~

~~b. An amount equal to the property tax deducted by the superintendent of public instruction to determine the 2018-19 state aid payment;~~

~~c. An amount equal to seventy-five percent of the revenue received by the school district during the 2017-18 school year for the following revenue types:~~

~~(1) Revenue reported under code 2000 of the North Dakota school district financial accounting and reporting manual, as developed by the superintendent of public instruction in accordance with section 15.1-02-08;~~

~~(2) Mineral revenue received by the school district through direct allocation from the state treasurer and not reported under code 2000 of the North Dakota school district financial accounting and reporting manual, as developed by the superintendent of public instruction in accordance with section 15.1-02-08;~~

~~(3) Tuition reported under code 1300 of the North Dakota school district financial accounting and reporting manual, as developed by the superintendent of public instruction in accordance with section 15.1-02-08, with the exception of revenue received specifically for the operation of an educational program provided at a residential treatment facility, tuition received for the provision of an adult farm management program, and beginning in the 2021-22 school year, seventeen percent of tuition received under an agreement to educate students from a school district on an air force base with funding received through federal impact aid, and an additional seventeen percent of tuition received under an agreement to educate students from a school district on an air force base with funding received through federal impact aid each school year thereafter, until the 2024-25 school year when sixty-eight percent of tuition received under an agreement to educate students from a school district on an air force base with funding received through federal impact aid must be excluded from the tuition calculation under this paragraph;~~

~~(4) Revenue from payments in lieu of taxes on the distribution and transmission of electric power;~~

~~(5) Revenue from payments in lieu of taxes on electricity generated from sources other than coal; and~~

~~(6) Revenue from the leasing of land acquired by the United States for which compensation is allocated to the state under 33 U.S.C. 701(c)(3);~~

~~d. An amount equal to the total revenue received by the school district during the 2017-18 school year for the following revenue types:~~

~~(1) Mobile home tax revenue;~~

~~(2) Telecommunications tax revenue; and~~

~~(3) Revenue from payments in lieu of taxes and state reimbursement of the homestead credit and disabled veterans credit; and~~

~~e. Beginning with the 2020-21 school year, the superintendent shall reduce the baseline funding for any school district that becomes an elementary district pursuant to section 15.1-07-27 after the 2012-13 school year. The reduction must be proportional to the number of weighted student units in the grades that are offered through another school district relative to the total number of weighted student units the school district offered in the year before the school district became an elementary district. The reduced baseline funding applies to the calculation of state aid for the first school year in which the school district becomes an elementary district and for each year thereafter. For districts that become an elementary district prior to the 2020-21 school year, the superintendent shall use the reduced baseline funding to calculate state aid for the 2020-21 school year and for each year thereafter.~~

~~2. a. The superintendent shall divide the district's baseline funding determined in subsection 1 by the district's 2017-18 weighted student units to determine the district's baseline funding per weighted student unit.~~

~~b. For any school district that becomes an elementary district pursuant to section 15.1-07-27 after the 2017-18 school year, the superintendent shall adjust the district's baseline funding per weighted student unit used to calculate state aid. The superintendent shall divide the district's baseline funding determined in subsection 1 by the district's weighted student units after the school district becomes an elementary district to determine the district's adjusted baseline funding per weighted student unit. The superintendent shall use the district's adjusted baseline funding per weighted student unit in the calculation of state aid for the first school year in which the school district becomes an elementary district and for each year thereafter.~~

~~c. Beginning with the 2021-22 school year and for each school year thereafter, the superintendent shall reduce the district's baseline funding per weighted student unit. Each year the superintendent shall calculate the amount by which the district's baseline funding per weighted student unit exceeds the payment per~~

~~weighted student unit provided in subsection 3. For the 2023-24 school year the superintendent shall reduce the district's baseline funding per weighted student unit by forty percent of the amount by which the district's baseline funding per weighted student unit exceeds the payment per weighted student unit for the 2023-24 school year. For each year thereafter, the reduction percentage is increased by an additional fifteen percent. However, the district's baseline funding per weighted student unit, after the reduction, may not be less than the payment per weighted student unit provided in subsection 3.~~

~~3. a. For the 2023-24 school year, the superintendent shall calculate state aid as the greater of:~~

~~(1) The district's weighted student units multiplied by ten thousand six hundred forty-six dollars;~~

~~(2) One hundred two percent of the district's baseline funding per weighted student unit, as established in subsection 2, multiplied by the district's weighted student units, not to exceed the district's 2017-18 baseline weighted student units, plus any weighted student units in excess of the 2017-18 baseline weighted student units multiplied by ten thousand six hundred forty-six dollars; or~~

~~(3) The district's baseline funding as established in subsection 1 less the amount in paragraph 1, with the difference reduced by forty percent and then the difference added to the amount determined in paragraph 1.~~

~~b. For the 2024-25 school year and each school year thereafter, the superintendent shall calculate state aid as the greater of:~~

~~(1) The district's weighted student units multiplied by eleven thousand seventy-two dollars;~~

~~(2) One hundred two percent of the district's baseline funding per weighted student unit, as established in subsection 2, multiplied by the district's weighted student units, not to exceed the district's 2017-18 baseline weighted student units, plus any weighted student units in excess of the 2017-18 baseline weighted student units multiplied by eleven thousand seventy-two dollars; or~~

~~(3) The district's baseline funding as established in subsection 1 less the amount in paragraph 1, with the difference reduced by fifty-five percent for the 2024-25 school year and the reduction percentage increasing by fifteen percent each school year thereafter until the difference is reduced to zero, and then the difference added to the amount determined in paragraph 1.~~

~~4. After determining the product in accordance with subsection 3, the superintendent of public instruction shall:~~

~~a. Subtract an amount equal to sixty mills multiplied by the taxable valuation of the school district, except the amount in dollars subtracted for purposes of this subdivision may not exceed the previous year's amount in dollars subtracted for purposes of this subdivision by more than twelve percent, adjusted pursuant to section 15.1-27-04.3; and~~

~~b. Subtract an amount equal to seventy-five percent of all revenue types listed in subdivisions c and d of subsection 1. Before determining the deduction for seventy-five percent of all revenue types, the superintendent of public instruction shall adjust revenues as follows:~~

~~(1) Tuition revenue shall be adjusted as follows:~~

~~(a) In addition to deducting tuition revenue received specifically for the operation of an educational program provided at a residential treatment facility, tuition revenue received for the provision of an adult farm management program, tuition received for the education of high-cost and special education students, and tuition received under an agreement to educate students from a school district on an air force base with funding received through federal impact aid as directed each school year in paragraph 3 of subdivision c of subsection 1, the superintendent of public instruction also shall reduce the total tuition reported by the school district by the amount of tuition revenue received for the education of students not residing in the state and for which the state has not entered a cross-border education contract; and~~

~~(b) The superintendent of public instruction also shall reduce the total tuition reported by admitting school districts meeting the requirements of subdivision e of subsection 2 of section 15.1-29-12 by the amount of tuition revenue received for the education of students residing in an adjacent school district.~~

~~(2) After adjusting tuition revenue as provided in paragraph 1, the superintendent shall reduce all remaining revenues from all revenue types by the percentage of mills levied in 2022 by the school district for sinking and interest relative to the total mills levied in 2022 by the school district for all purposes.~~

~~5. The amount remaining after the computation required under subsection 4 is the amount of state aid to which a school district is entitled, subject to any other statutory requirements or limitations.~~

~~6. On or before June thirtieth of each year, the school board shall certify to the superintendent of public instruction the final average daily membership for the current school year.~~

~~7. For purposes of the calculation in subsection 4, each county auditor, in collaboration with the school districts, shall report the following to the superintendent of public instruction on an annual basis:~~

~~a. The amount of revenue received by each school district in the county during the previous school year for each type of revenue identified in subdivisions c and d of subsection 1;~~

~~b. The total number of mills levied in the previous calendar year by each school district for all purposes; and~~

~~c. The number of mills levied in the previous calendar year by each school district for sinking and interest fund purposes.~~

~~Baseline funding - Establishment - Determination of state aid. (Effective after June 30, 2025)~~

1. To determine the amount of state aid payable to each district, the superintendent of public instruction shall establish each district's baseline funding. A district's baseline funding consists of:

a. All state aid received by the district in accordance with chapter 15.1-27 during the 2018-19 school year;

b. An amount equal to the property tax deducted by the superintendent of public instruction to determine the 2018-19 state aid payment;

c. An amount equal to seventy-five percent of the revenue received by the school district during the 2017-18 school year for the following revenue types:

(1) Revenue reported under code 2000 of the North Dakota school district financial accounting and reporting manual, as developed by the superintendent of public instruction in accordance with section 15.1-02-08;

(2) Mineral revenue received by the school district through direct allocation from the state treasurer and not reported under code 2000 of the North Dakota school district financial accounting and reporting manual, as developed by the superintendent of public instruction in accordance with section 15.1-02-08;

(3) Tuition reported under code 1300 of the North Dakota school district financial accounting and reporting manual, as developed by the superintendent of public instruction in accordance with section 15.1-02-08, with the exception of revenue received specifically for the operation of an educational program provided at a residential treatment facility, tuition received for the provision of an adult farm management program, and beginning in the 2025-26 school year, eighty-five percent of tuition received under an agreement to educate students from a school district on an air force base with funding received through federal impact aid, until the 2026-27 school year, and each school year thereafter, when all tuition received under an agreement to educate students from a school district on an air force base with funding received through federal impact aid must be excluded from the tuition calculation under this paragraph;

(4) Revenue from payments in lieu of taxes on the distribution and transmission of electric power;

(5) Revenue from payments in lieu of taxes on electricity generated from sources other than coal; and

(6) Revenue from the leasing of land acquired by the United States for which compensation is allocated to the state under 33 U.S.C. 701(c)(3); and

d. An amount equal to the total revenue received by the school district during the 2017-18 school year for the following revenue types:

(1) Mobile home tax revenue;

(2) Telecommunications tax revenue; and

(3) Revenue from payments in lieu of taxes and state reimbursement of the homestead credit and disabled veterans credit.

e. Beginning with the 2020-21 school year, the superintendent shall reduce the baseline funding for any school district that becomes an elementary district pursuant to section 15.1-07-27 after the 2012-13 school year. The reduction must be proportional to the number of weighted student units in the grades that are offered through another school district relative to the total number of weighted student units the school district offered in the year before the school district became an elementary district. The reduced baseline funding applies to the calculation of state aid for the first school year in which the school district becomes an elementary district and for each year thereafter. For districts that become an elementary district prior to the 2020-21 school year, the superintendent shall use the reduced baseline funding to calculate state aid for the 2020-21 school year and for each year thereafter.

2. a. The superintendent shall divide the district's baseline funding determined in subsection 1 by the district's 2017-18 weighted student units to determine the district's baseline funding per weighted student unit.

b. For any school district that becomes an elementary district pursuant to section 15.1-07-27 after the 2017-18 school year, the superintendent shall adjust the district's baseline funding per weighted student unit used to calculate state aid. The superintendent shall divide the district's baseline funding determined in subsection 1 by the district's weighted student units after the school district becomes an elementary district to determine the district's adjusted baseline funding per weighted student unit. The superintendent shall use the district's adjusted baseline funding per weighted student unit in the calculation of state aid

for the first school year in which the school district becomes an elementary district and for each year thereafter.

c. Beginning with the 2021-22 school year and for each school year thereafter, the superintendent shall reduce the district's baseline funding per weighted student unit. Each year the superintendent shall calculate the amount by which the district's baseline funding per weighted student unit exceeds the payment per weighted student unit provided in subsection 3. For the 2023-24 school year the superintendent shall reduce the district's baseline funding per weighted student unit by forty percent of the amount by which the district's baseline funding per weighted student unit exceeds the payment per weighted student unit for the 2023-24 school year. For each year thereafter, the reduction percentage is increased by an additional fifteen percent. However, the district's baseline funding per weighted student unit, after the reduction, may not be less than the payment per weighted student unit provided in subsection 3.

3. a. For the ~~2023-24~~2025-26 school year, the superintendent shall calculate state aid as the greater of:

(1) The district's weighted student units multiplied by ~~ten thousand six hundred forty-six~~eleven thousand four hundred four dollars;

(2) One hundred two percent of the district's baseline funding per weighted student unit, as established in subsection 2, multiplied by the district's weighted student units, not to exceed the district's 2017-18 baseline weighted student units, plus any weighted student units in excess of the 2017-18 baseline weighted student units multiplied by ~~ten thousand six hundred forty-six~~eleven thousand four hundred four dollars; or

(3) The district's baseline funding as established in subsection 1 less the amount in paragraph 1, with the difference reduced by ~~forty~~seventy percent and then the difference added to the amount determined in paragraph 1.

b. For the ~~2024-25~~2026-27 school year and each school year thereafter, the superintendent shall calculate state aid as the greater of:

(1) The district's weighted student units multiplied by eleven thousand ~~seventy-two~~seven hundred forty-six dollars;

(2) One hundred two percent of the district's baseline funding per weighted student unit, as established in subsection 2, multiplied by the district's weighted student units, not to exceed the district's 2017-18 baseline weighted student units, plus any weighted student units in excess of the 2017-18 baseline weighted student units multiplied by eleven thousand ~~seventy-two~~seven hundred forty-six dollars; or

(3) The district's baseline funding as established in subsection 1 less the amount in paragraph 1, with the difference reduced by ~~fifty-five~~eighty-five percent for the ~~2024-25~~2026-27 school year and the reduction percentage increasing by fifteen percent each school year thereafter until the difference is reduced to zero, and then the difference added to the amount determined in paragraph 1.

4. After determining the product in accordance with subsection 3, the superintendent of public instruction shall:

a. Subtract an amount equal to sixty mills multiplied by the taxable valuation of the school district; and

b. Subtract an amount equal to seventy-five percent of all revenue types listed in ~~subdivisions c and d~~subdivision c and paragraphs 1 and 2 of subdivision d of subsection 1 and revenue from payments in lieu of taxes. Before determining the deduction for seventy-five percent of all revenue types, the superintendent of public instruction shall adjust revenues as follows:

(1) Tuition revenue shall be adjusted as follows:

(a) In addition to deducting tuition revenue received specifically for the operation of an educational program provided at a residential treatment facility, tuition revenue received for the provision of an adult farm management program, tuition received for the education of high-cost and special education students, and tuition received under an agreement to educate students from a school district on an air force base with funding received through federal impact aid as directed each school year in paragraph 3 of subdivision c of subsection 1, the superintendent of public instruction also shall reduce

the total tuition reported by the school district by the amount of tuition revenue received for the education of students not residing in the state and for which the state has not entered a cross-border education contract; and

(b) The superintendent of public instruction also shall reduce the total tuition reported by admitting school districts meeting the requirements of subdivision e of subsection 2 of section 15.1-29-12 by the amount of tuition revenue received for the education of students residing in an adjacent school district.

(2) After adjusting tuition revenue as provided in paragraph 1, the superintendent shall reduce all remaining revenues from all revenue types by the percentage of mills levied in ~~2022~~2024 by the school district for sinking and interest relative to the total mills levied in ~~2022~~2024 by the school district for all purposes.

5. The amount remaining after the computation required under subsection 4 is the amount of state aid to which a school district is entitled, subject to any other statutory requirements or limitations.

6. On or before June thirtieth of each year, the school board shall certify to the superintendent of public instruction the final average daily membership for the current school year.

7. For purposes of the calculation in subsection 4, each county auditor, in collaboration with the school districts, shall report the following to the superintendent of public instruction on an annual basis:

a. The amount of revenue received by each school district in the county during the previous school year for each type of revenue identified in subdivisions c and d of subsection 1;

b. The total number of mills levied in the previous calendar year by each school district for all purposes; and

c. The number of mills levied in the previous calendar year by each school district for sinking and interest fund purposes.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Section 48-01.2-02.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

48-01.2-02.1. Public improvement construction threshold.

1. The threshold for bidding construction of a public improvement is two hundred fifty thousand dollars. The threshold for procuring plans, drawings, and specifications from an architect or engineer for construction of a public improvement is two hundred fifty thousand dollars.
2. Notwithstanding the thresholds in subsection 1, if the state or a political subdivision undertakes the construction of a public improvement and there is reason to believe that engineering or architectural services are necessary to protect the health, safety, or welfare of the public, the state or political subdivision shall consider consulting with an engineer or architect.

SECTION 4. AMENDMENT. Section 57-15-14.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

57-15-14.2. School district levies.

1. The board of a school district may levy a tax ~~not exceeding the amount in dollars that the school district levied for the prior year, plus twelve percent,~~ up to a levy of seventy mills on the taxable valuation of the district, for any purpose related to the provision of educational services. The proceeds of this levy must be deposited into the school district's general fund and used in accordance with this subsection. The proceeds may not be transferred into any other fund.
2. The board of a school district may levy no more than twelve mills on the taxable valuation of the district, for miscellaneous purposes and expenses. The proceeds of this levy must be deposited into a special fund known as the miscellaneous fund and used in accordance with this subsection. The proceeds may not be transferred into any other fund.
3. The board of a school district may levy no more than three mills on the taxable valuation of the district for deposit into a special reserve fund, in accordance with chapter 57-19.
4. The board of a school district may levy no more than the number of mills necessary, on the taxable valuation of the district, for the payment of tuition, in accordance with

section 15.1-29-15. The proceeds of this levy must be deposited into a special fund known as the tuition fund and used in accordance with this subsection. The proceeds may not be transferred into any other fund.

5. The board of a school district may levy no more than five mills on the taxable valuation of the district, pursuant to section 57-15-15.1, for purposes of developing a school safety plan in accordance with section 15.1-09-60. The proceeds of this levy must be deposited into a special fund known as the school safety plan fund and used in accordance with this subsection.

6. Nothing in this section limits the board of a school district from levying:

   a. Mills for a building fund, as permitted in sections 15.1-09-49 and 57-15-16; and

   b. Mills necessary to pay principal and interest on the bonded debt of the district, including the mills necessary to pay principal and interest on any bonded debt incurred under section 57-15-17.1 before July 1, 2013.

SECTION 5. TRANSFER - FOUNDATION AID STABILIZATION FUND TO SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE REVOLVING LOAN FUND. The office of management and budget shall transfer the sum of $100,000,000 from the foundation aid stabilization fund to the school construction assistance revolving loan fund during the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. Section 4 of this Act is effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024.