

Introduced by

Representatives Ekstrom, N. Johnson, Kliniske

Senators Every, D. Mathern, Robinson

1 A BILL for an Act to provide for a technology occupations student loan program.

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

3 **SECTION 1. Technology occupations student loan program.**

- 4 1. The state board of higher education shall administer a technology occupations  
5 student loan program that encourages college students to pursue  
6 technology-based studies, to participate in technology internship programs, and to  
7 remain in the state after graduation. The board shall adopt rules to implement the  
8 program, including internship requirements, guidelines to determine which  
9 technology-related courses of study are eligible under the program, and standards  
10 for eligibility.
- 11 2. Students of board-approved colleges may apply for the technology occupations  
12 student loan program. To be eligible to receive student loan grants under the  
13 program, the applicant:
- 14 a. Must have graduated from a board-approved college;
  - 15 b. Must have successfully completed the board-approved technology-related  
16 courses;
  - 17 c. Must have maintained at least a 3.0 grade point average, based on a 4.0  
18 grading system, at a board-approved college;
  - 19 d. Must have actively participated in a board-approved technology internship  
20 with a business in the state;
  - 21 e. Must have a student loan with the Bank of North Dakota;
  - 22 f. Following graduation must be employed in the state in a board-approved  
23 technology occupation; and

1                   g.    Must have met and shall continue to meet any requirements established by  
2                   rule.

- 3           3.    The state board of higher education shall distribute student loan grants directly to  
4           the Bank of North Dakota to repay outstanding student loan principal balances for  
5           eligible applicants. The maximum student loan grant amount for which an  
6           applicant may qualify is one thousand dollars per twelve months of employment for  
7           a maximum of five years.

8                   **SECTION 2. TECHNOLOGY OCCUPATIONS STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM**

9   **FUNDING.** The funds appropriated in the student grant programs line item included in  
10 subdivision 1 of section 1 of Senate Bill No. 2003 of the fifty-seventh legislative assembly,  
11 include \$400,000 from the general fund for providing grants as authorized in section 1 of this  
12 Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2003.