

**Sixtieth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Wednesday, January 3, 2007**

SENATE BILL NO. 2142
(Senators Nelson, Dever, Horne)
(Representatives Amerman, Froseth, Schneider)

AN ACT to amend and reenact sections 37-14-04, 37-14-06, and 37-14-07 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to loans made from the veterans' aid fund.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 37-14-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

37-14-04. Veterans' aid fund - Purpose. The purpose of the veterans' aid fund is to make loans ~~or advancements~~ to any veteran and to a surviving spouse of a veteran if the spouse has not remarried. A qualified applicant may be permitted to receive more than one loan providing the ~~applicant has satisfied payment requirements of a previous loan~~ total amount of all loans does not exceed five thousand dollars.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 37-14-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

37-14-06. Department may provide aid. If the department of veterans' affairs is satisfied that an applicant is a veteran or the surviving spouse of a veteran and has not remarried, and that the applicant is a citizen and resident of this state, and that the applicant meets the criteria set forth in rules adopted pursuant to section 37-14-10 regarding qualifications to obtain a loan, the department may loan to the applicant, ~~or a guardian of the applicant,~~ a sum from the veterans' aid fund not to exceed five thousand dollars. Additional loans may be made to an applicant if the applicant still meets the loan criteria and if the total of all loans does not exceed five thousand dollars. If an applicant is provided more than one loan, the amounts will be consolidated into one payment.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Section 37-14-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

37-14-07. Repayment to be made to aid fund. Upon the granting of an application and at the time of disbursement, the applicant, or the applicant's ~~legally appointed guardian~~ legal agent, shall execute ~~an a loan~~ agreement with the department of veterans' affairs that within a specified period of not to exceed four years from the date of the receipt of the last item of the advancement, the applicant will repay to the state for the use of the veterans' aid fund the full amount of all advancements made to the applicant with interest as provided in rules adopted under section 37-14-10, but not to exceed ten percent annually. One-half of the interest must be waived if timely repayment is made to the fund as set forth in rules adopted pursuant to section 37-14-10. The department may take necessary legal action to collect, compromise, or settle loans if in the opinion of the department the person has the financial means to repay, and the person deliberately refuses to do so. The department may release from financial liability any person it determines is financially unable to repay the loan through no fault of the person. The department may assess and collect a late payment penalty as provided in section 47-14-05.

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 Sixtieth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2142.

Senate Vote: Yeas 43 Nays 0 Absent 4

House Vote: Yeas 90 Nays 0 Absent 4

Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2007.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2007.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2007,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State