

June 2007

TITLE 15

Education

Summary of Bills Enacted by 2007 Legislative Assembly

This memorandum summarizes 2007 legislation primarily affecting North Dakota Century Code Title 15. Bills primarily affecting other titles may also affect this title, and relevant provisions of those bills are summarized in this memorandum.

APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE

House Bill No. 1003 appropriates \$468,449,624 from the general fund and \$633,169,325 in total funds to the North Dakota University System and authorizes the issuance of \$22,714,000 in tax-exempt bonds. The bill directs that the State Board of Higher Education's statutorily required performance and accountability report include an executive summary regarding education excellence, economic development, student affordability, and financial operations and limits tuition increases to 5 percent during each of the next two academic years.

House Bill No. 1395 appropriates \$700,000 from the oil and gas trust fund to the State Board of Higher Education for the purpose of providing grant assistance payments to tribally controlled community colleges.

House Bill No. 1487 provides that the interest rate on student loans that are not federally coinsured may be fixed or variable.

INSTITUTIONS

House Bill No. 1030 extends by two years the effective date of a 2001 amendment providing that funds in institution accounts are appropriated on a continuing basis to the State Board of Higher Education.

Senate Bill No. 2379 requires the establishment of a Nursing Education Consortium for the purpose of addressing common concerns in nursing education and obstacles to meeting the state's current and future nursing needs. The bill also appropriates \$200,000 to the University of North Dakota for a simulated laboratory program.

Senate Bill No. 2344 allows an institution of higher education to prepare and provide meals, snacks, and food services for persons or programs not affiliated with the institution and allows the institution to provide catering services for an event if the event is organized predominantly for persons affiliated with or enrolled in the institution or if the event is held under the auspices of the institution.

Senate Bill No. 2288 encourages the State Board of Higher Education to establish or name one or more biomass centers at one or more institutions of higher education to conduct research and provide education and technical assistance to entities that produce, transport, harvest, and convert biomass.

House Bill No. 1461 directs the State Board of Higher Education to manage and regulate information technology planning and services for institutions under its control through the development of policies, implementation of a process for project management and oversight, integration with the board's strategic planning process, participation in certain networking projects, and the development of an annual report.

STUDENTS

House Bill No. 1235 clarifies that North Dakota high school students who graduate from a high school in a bordering state under North Dakota's cross-border attendance provisions are eligible to participate in the North Dakota scholars program.

House Bill No. 1018 directs the Department of Commerce to design and implement a matching grant program to fund innovative science, technology, and innovation programs for students in kindergarten through grade 12. The bill also directs the Department of Commerce to assist applicants with preaward reviews and postaward monitoring as requested by the Centers of Excellence Commission.

STATE BOARD FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 1019 appropriates \$21,735,093 to the State Board for Career and Technical Education and directs that the board use \$1.2 million of that amount to develop at least two new area career and technology centers and use \$800,000 to increase cost-share incentives for cooperative delivery efforts. The bill also creates a grant program to support entrepreneurship education at the elementary level.

House Bill No. 1078 allows individuals employed by the State Board for Career and Technical Education to become members of the Public Employees Retirement System.

BOARD OF UNIVERSITY AND SCHOOL LANDS

House Bill No. 1332 reduces by two years the period of time before which property sold by the state on a deferred payment contract may be acquired by a county under foreclosure proceedings.

House Bill No. 1171 provides that fees paid by the Board of University and School Lands to counties in which the state retains original grant lands may not exceed the amount of property taxes that had been payable if the lands were subject to taxation.

TEACHERS' FUND FOR RETIREMENT

Senate Bill No. 2046 creates a new tier of Teachers' Fund for Retirement members and provides that beginning July 1, 2008, Tier 2 members will be eligible for retirement upon having five years of service credit and reaching the age of 65 or having five years of service credit and a combination of years of service credit and years of age that equals or exceeds 90. The bill also requires that employers of retired members pay employer contributions on the salary of retired members.

CENTER FOR DISTANCE EDUCATION

Senate Bill No. 2127 changes the name of the Division of Independent Study to the Center for Distance Education.