

**SECTION 27. LEGISLATIVE INTENT - NORTH DAKOTA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION ADJUSTMENTS.** It is the intent of the sixty-first legislative assembly that each North Dakota university system employee whose documented performance meets all standards is to receive a minimum monthly salary increase of \$100 on July 1, 2009, and \$100 on July 1, 2010.

**SECTION 28. SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS TEACHER EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT.** The sum of \$1,500,000 included in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics teacher education line item in subdivision 1 of section 1 of this Act must be used for the benefit of institutions under the control of the state board of higher education, as determined by the board. Funding allocations are to be used to enhance the use of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in existing teacher education program curriculums and may not be used for infrastructure projects.

**SECTION 29. LEGISLATIVE INTENT - LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM.** It is the intent of the sixty-first legislative assembly that any qualified returning technology occupation loan forgiveness program applicants for the 2009-10 academic year and forward be eligible to receive \$1,500 per year, for up to four years, combined between the technology occupation loan forgiveness program and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics loan forgiveness program. All new applicants beginning with the 2009-10 academic year are eligible to receive \$1,500 per year, up to a maximum of \$6,000. It is also the intent of the sixty-first legislative assembly that the North Dakota university system make new and continuing loan forgiveness program awards in the 2009-11 biennium to ensure adequate program funding carryover to the 2011-13 biennium to continue the program with approximately the same number of new awards in the 2011-13 biennium without increased state program funding.

**SECTION 30. TUITION RATE INCREASES - LIMIT - BUDGET SECTION APPROVAL.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the state board of higher education shall limit any annual tuition increase for students attending institutions under its control for the 2009-10 and 2010-11 academic years to not more than four percent for each year unless the board receives prior budget section approval.

**SECTION 31. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STUDY - COMPLETION-BASED FUNDING.** During the 2009-10 interim, the legislative council shall consider studying options for funding higher education institutions. The study, if conducted, must include a review of the feasibility of implementing a higher education funding mechanism based on student completion rates. The legislative council shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-second legislative assembly.

**SECTION 32. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STUDY - TUITION WAIVERS.** During the 2009-10 interim, the legislative council shall consider studying the impact of tuition waivers on institutions under the control of the state board of higher education. The study if conducted must review the types of tuition waivers available, the number of tuition waivers granted, and the value of tuition waivers. The legislative council shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-second legislative assembly.

**SECTION 33. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STUDY - EDUCATION GOVERNANCE.** During the 2009-10 interim, the legislative council shall consider studying the feasibility and desirability of creating a department to oversee early childhood, elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education. The study if conducted must include a review of education governance in other states, the efficiency of combining governing agencies, and the potential governing structure of a combined education department. The legislative council shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-second legislative assembly.

**SECTION 34. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STUDY - HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT TRUST FUND.** During the 2009-10 interim, the legislative council shall consider studying the establishment of a higher education student trust fund, including available funding sources. The study if conducted must