

HOUSE BILL NO. 1433

Introduced by

Representatives Strinden, Hanson, Mooney

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15-10 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to student loan repayment grants for high-demand occupations.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
5 and enacted as follows:

6 **High-demand occupations - Student loan repayment grants.**

- 7 1. The state board of higher education shall administer a grant program to assist with the
8 repayment of student loans incurred by individuals in high-demand occupations.
- 9 2. To be eligible for a student loan repayment grant under this section, the applicant
10 must:
- 11 a. Have graduated from an accredited institution of higher education in this state;
12 b. Have maintained at least a 3.0 grade point average, based on a 4.0 grading
13 system, while attending the institution;
- 14 c. Have with the Bank of North Dakota or other participating lender a student loan
15 that is not in default; and
- 16 d. Be employed in this state, for at least twelve months, in a high-demand
17 occupation, other than one for which a loan forgiveness or loan repayment
18 program has been established by law.
- 19 3. The state board of higher education shall distribute grants awarded under this section
20 directly to the Bank of North Dakota or to another participating lender to assist in the
21 repayment of the applicant's outstanding student loan principal balance. The
22 maximum grant for which an applicant may qualify is one thousand five hundred
23 dollars per year and an applicant may not receive more than six thousand dollars in
24 grants under this section.

- 1 4. If in any year the grant applications exceed the amount appropriated for this program,
2 the state board of higher education shall prorate the grants among all eligible
3 applicants.
- 4 5. As a condition of receiving a student loan repayment grant, an applicant must
5 contractually agree that if the applicant ceases to reside in this state, the applicant
6 shall provide to the state a reimbursement equal to the grant amounts received under
7 this section during the three-year period immediately preceding the change in
8 residency.
- 9 6. For purposes of this section, a "high-demand occupation" is one identified by job
10 service North Dakota as having a projected growth rate that exceeds the average
11 annual employment growth rate in this state for all occupations.