

Introduced by

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 6-09 of the North Dakota Century
2 Code, relating to the development and implementation of a talent attraction and retention
3 scholarship program.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 6-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
6 and enacted as follows:

7 **North Dakota talent attraction and retention scholarship program - Development and**
8 **implementation.**

- 9 1. The Bank of North Dakota shall adopt rules to develop, implement, promote, and
10 administer a North Dakota talent attraction and retention scholarship program in
11 conjunction with the North Dakota university system with the intent of attracting and
12 retaining students for professional or technical skills in high demand in this state.
13 Eligible high-demand and emerging careers must be determined annually by the North
14 Dakota workforce development council in cooperation with job service North Dakota
15 using available labor market information.
- 16 2. Scholarships must be provided in the form of a forgivable loan administered by the
17 Bank of North Dakota for residents of this state attending an accredited institution of
18 higher education in this state. To receive full loan forgiveness, the graduate shall
19 remain and work in this state for a minimum of three years following degree
20 completion. Additional residency requirements may be required for advanced,
21 professional degrees as determined by the Bank of North Dakota and the North
22 Dakota university system.
- 23 3. Those eligible to participate in the program are high school graduates or those who
24 have completed a general equivalency degree and who have lived in this state for at

- 1 least one year. For highly specialized careers or skill sets, residents from outside this
2 state will be considered if there are no or a very limited pool of applicants.
- 3 4. Scholarships are limited to a maximum of four consecutive semesters with a student
4 enrolling in a minimum of twelve credit-hours per semester. Students shall complete at
5 least one course on campus each semester. The maximum amount a student may
6 receive in loan forgiveness is eight thousand five hundred dollars per year for two
7 years. This amount may be indexed for inflation and tuition increases by the Bank of
8 North Dakota in future years.
- 9 5. The talent attraction and retention scholarship program must be a joint public and
10 private effort. The Bank of North Dakota shall provide one dollar of funding for each
11 one dollar of funding raised from the private sector. The Bank of North Dakota shall
12 provide no more than ten million dollars for the purpose of funding the talent attraction
13 and retention scholarship program for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019, and
14 ending June 30, 2021.
- 15 6. The scholarship, which is intended to assist the student in meeting attendance costs,
16 must be designed to supplement any other financial aid received by a student.