

Sixty-sixth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1171

Introduced by

Representatives Grueneich, Blum, Dockter, Headland, Howe, Mitskog, Pollert, Satrom

Senators Cook, Wanzek

- 1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact two new sections to chapter 6-09 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to the development and implementation of a skilled workforce student
3 loan repayment program; to provide a continuing appropriation; to provide for a transfer; to
4 provide an expiration date; and to declare an emergency.

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

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

8 **Skilled workforce student loan repayment program - Development and**
9 **implementation.**

- 10 1. The Bank of North Dakota shall adopt rules to develop, implement, promote, and
11 administer a skilled workforce student loan repayment program in conjunction with the
12 North Dakota university system and the North Dakota workforce development council
13 with the intent of attracting and retaining individuals for professional or technical skills
14 in high demand in this state.
- 15 2. The North Dakota workforce development council in cooperation with job service North
16 Dakota shall use available labor market information to determine annually the eligible
17 high demand and emerging occupations in this state.
- 18 3. The North Dakota university system and the North Dakota workforce development
19 council shall compile a list of qualifying educational programs by April first of each
20 year. Qualifying educational programs may include degree or certificate programs.
- 21 4. Graduates of qualifying educational programs from institutions or entities in this state
22 may apply for the skilled workforce student loan repayment program. To be eligible to
23 receive student loan repayment grants under the program, the applicant:

- 1 a. Must have successfully completed a qualifying educational program from a Bank
- 2 of North Dakota-approved institution or entity after January 1, 2019;
- 3 b. Must have maintained at least a 2.75 grade point average, based on a
- 4 4.0 grading system;
- 5 c. Must have a student loan with the Bank of North Dakota or other participating
- 6 lender;
- 7 d. Following completion of a qualifying educational program must remain and work
- 8 in this state in an eligible high-demand or emerging occupation; and
- 9 e. Must have met and shall continue to meet any requirements established by rule.
- 10 5. The Bank of North Dakota shall adopt rules to ensure compliance with residency and
- 11 occupation requirements after completion of the qualifying educational program.
- 12 6. The Bank of North Dakota shall distribute student loan repayment grants from the
- 13 skilled workforce student loan repayment program fund directly to the Bank of North
- 14 Dakota or other participating lender to repay outstanding student loan principal
- 15 balances for eligible applicants. The maximum annual student loan repayment grant
- 16 amount for which an applicant may qualify is five thousand six hundred sixty-seven
- 17 dollars, or one-third of the applicant's outstanding student loan principal balance,
- 18 whichever is less. The maximum total student loan repayment grant amount for which
- 19 any applicant may qualify is seventeen thousand dollars.
- 20 7. If an individual is receiving loan forgiveness under any other provision, the individual
- 21 may not receive a student loan repayment grant under this section during the same
- 22 application year.
- 23 8. The skilled workforce student loan repayment program must be a joint public and
- 24 private effort. The Bank of North Dakota shall provide one dollar of funding for each
- 25 one dollar of funding raised from the private sector.
- 26 9. The North Dakota university system in cooperation with the North Dakota workforce
- 27 development council shall seek private matching funds for the skilled workforce
- 28 student loan repayment program. Any matching funds received must be deposited in
- 29 the skilled workforce student loan repayment program fund.

30 **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 6-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
31 and enacted as follows:

1 **Skilled workforce student loan repayment program fund established - Continuing**
2 **appropriation.**

3 The skilled workforce student loan repayment program fund is established as a revolving
4 fund. All moneys deposited or transferred into the fund and interest earned on moneys in the
5 fund are appropriated for the purposes of section 1 of this Act.

6 **SECTION 3. TRANSFER - BANK OF NORTH DAKOTA - SKILLED WORKFORCE**
7 **STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM FUND.** The Bank of North Dakota shall transfer
8 the sum of \$5,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, from the Bank's current
9 earnings and undivided profits to the skilled workforce student loan repayment program fund
10 during the period beginning with the effective date of this Act, and ending June 30, 2021.

11 **SECTION 4. EXPIRATION DATE.** Section 2 of this Act is effective through June 30, 2021,
12 and after that date is ineffective.

13 **SECTION 5. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.