

2025 SENATE EDUCATION

SB 2147

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

SB 2147
1/22/2025

Relating to student financial assistance grants, dual-credit tuition scholarships, and the scholars program and to the skilled workforce student loan repayment and scholarship programs, Native American scholarships, and the North Dakota scholarship; and to provide an appropriation.

10:00 a.m. Chairman Beard called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Beard; Vice-Chairman Lemm; Senators: Axtman, Boschee, Gerhardt, and Wobbema.

Discussion Topics:

- Student loan repayment
- Workforce scholarship program
- Financial assistance grants
- Career Builders

10:02 a.m. Senator Sickler testified in favor and submitted testimony #30648.

10:18 a.m. Representative Sanford testified in favor.

10:22 a.m. Brenda Zastoupil, Financial Aid Director ND University System, testified in favor and submitted testimony #30172.

10:39 a.m. Andrea Pfennig, Vice President Government Affairs Greater North Dakota Chamber, testified in favor and submitted testimony #30622.

10:40 a.m. Don Larson, Small Business Association, testified in favor.

10:41 a.m. Kelvin Hullet, Bank of ND, testified in favor.

10:46 a.m. Tim Blasl, ND Hospital Association, testified in favor.

10:46 a.m. Marnie Walth, Sanford Health, testified in favor.

10:47 a.m. Chairman Beard closed the hearing.

10:50 a.m. Senator Axtman moved Do Pass with referral to the Appropriations Committee.

10:50 a.m. Senator Boschee seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Todd Beard	Y

Senator Randy D. Lemm	Y
Senator Michelle Axtman	Y
Senator Josh Bosch	Y
Senator Justin Gerhardt	Y
Senator Mike Wobbema	Y

Motion passed 6-0-0

Senator Axtman will carry the bill.

Additional written testimony:

Joshua Hansen, Director of Governmental Relations ND Student Association, submitted testimony #30681 in favor.

10:52 a.m. Chairman Beard closed the meeting.

Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
SB 2147 ([25.0229.06000](#))

Education Committee (Sen. Beard, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2147 was rereferred to the **Appropriations Committee**. This bill does not affect workforce development.

**SB2147**

Senate Education

January 22, 2025

Brenda Zastoupil, Financial Aid Director, NDUS

701.328.2906 | brenda.zastoupil@ndus.edu

Chair Beard and members of the Senate Education Committee. My name is Brenda Zastoupil. I serve as the Director of Financial Aid for the North Dakota University System. I am here today to provide supporting testimony and information on SB2147.

This bill provides administrative amendments for several of the state scholarship and grant programs, and creates a new program called the Supplemental State Grant. State-funded financial aid programs are a critical component of affordability for students. In 2023-24, 13,093 awards totaling \$25.6 million were issued to ND resident students attending institutions within ND. These awards also included students from other states who have committed to live and work in ND through the ND Career Builders Scholarship. Additionally, 233 awards totaling \$3.4 million were issued in student loan repayments to support workforce development through the ND Career Builders Loan Repayment program, to tribal institutions to support the education of non-beneficiary students through the Tribally Controlled Colleges Assistance Grant program, to ND resident qualifying for the Professional Student Exchange Program, and for the promotion of doctoral program in the state.

The bill provides for the following amendments:

- **ND Career Builders Scholarship & Loan Repayment**

- Page 2, Subsection 4(c) & Page 5, Subsection 7 – Border state employers often have employees filling in-demand jobs in ND but who live across the border. This amendment would provide more flexibility to meet the goal of drawing critical workforce to ND.
- Page 3, Subsection 10 & Page 7, Subsection 13 – Provides clarity as to what “private-sector” donor means.
- Page 5, Subsection 8 – Currently, the ND Career Builders Scholarship program is forgoing matching funds as donors are unable to commit to the clause that the matching funds be repaid if the student fails to meet their obligation to the state. The proposed change would open matches to support in-demand occupations, including education. Additionally, this change would provide more options for employers to actively engage with the student through a third-party agreement of their own while supporting the student in their pursuit of a certificate or degree in an in-demand area. The state-funded portion of the scholarship remains as the student’s obligation.
- Page 5, Subsection 8, Lines 24-25 – This is clean-up language as all students who are enrolled are also maintaining academic progress, which is stated in the latter part of the sentence. The criteria for holding a 2.5 cumulative GPA to receive payment is unchanged (see Page 5, Section 6).

- Page 5, Section 9 – On occasion, students enter qualifying programs of study and receive the ND Career Builders Scholarship but then transfer to another qualifying program of study. Current language states that a student must complete the program of study that they received funding for, or face repayment of the award. Students who transfer from one eligible program to another should not be penalized if they meet the intent of the program. As an example, a student who transfers from diesel technology to emergency medical services, and who fulfills their obligation to live and work within ND in an in-demand occupation, has truly met the spirit of the program. Currently this student would have to repay their award.
- **Supplemental State Grant** (Section 5, Page 7-8) – The ND State Grant is a need-based grant awarded to ND resident students demonstrating financial need based on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and estimated cost of attendance. The 5-year average number of awardees receiving this need-based grant is 6,329. The maximum grant for full-time enrollment is \$1,375 per semester or \$917 per quarter. Ninety percent of the awards are based on full-time enrollment, but the amount can be prorated for part-time enrollment. In 2023-24, 6,381 students were issued this need-based grant at a total of \$15.1 million.

This supplemental scholarship is designed to assist qualifying State Grant recipients in meeting their costs when the Federal Pell Grant and the base State Grant do not cover tuition. This supplemental award may only be issued if the student is first awarded a State Grant, and if total family income does not exceed \$80,000. It limits the award to fall and spring terms. It provides for eligibility at qualifying public, private and tribal institutions, as does the base State Grant, but limits the award to no more than the highest tuition rate in the NDUS (mirrors language for the ND Scholars Program).

An evaluation of the 2022-23 State Grant recipients and their total family income, as determined through the FAFSA, showed that 2,426 State Grant recipients would have qualified for this supplemental award. The estimated cost, after the base State Grant and Pell Grant were deducted from tuition was \$6.1 million. The biennial cost, therefore, would be \$12.1 million, which is reflected in Section 9 of the bill.

- Finally, this bill adds legislative intent to statute that limits total state-funded scholarship and grants to no more than cost of attendance (COA). COA includes tuition, fees, books, supplies/course materials/equipment, housing and food, transportation, daycare, miscellaneous, and other expenses. This language would be implemented into the ND State Grant, ND Scholars Program, ND Academic/CTE/ND Scholarships, Native American Scholarship, Dual Credit Tuition Scholarship, and ND Career Builders Scholarship.

Thank you for your consideration of SB2147. This concludes my testimony, and I will stand for questions from committee members.



GREATER NORTH DAKOTA CHAMBER
SB 2147
Senate Education Committee
Chair Todd Beard
January 22, 2025

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Andrea Pfennig, and I am the Vice President of Government Affairs for the Greater North Dakota Chamber. GNDC is North Dakota's largest statewide business advocacy organization, with membership represented by small and large businesses, local chambers, and trade and industry associations across the state. We stand in **support** of Senate Bill 2147.

Since the program's inception, GNDC has been supportive of Career Builders. SB 2147 proposes the following changes to the program.

- Enable individuals that live within 50 miles of the state to access the program while retaining the requirement to work in the state for 3 years.
- Removes the GPA requirement from state law, instead focusing on academic progress.
- Modifies the scholarship payback requirement so that students are only required to pay the state portion back to the state.

GNDC is supportive of the changes to the program. In our 2024 ND Economics and Employer Survey of our membership, 70% of respondents indicated they were having trouble hiring employees. Labor availability has been identified as the top business concern facing companies in North Dakota. We feel these changes will help expand access to the program while maintaining its purpose.



North Dakota Senate

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360

**Senator Jonathan Sickler**

District 17
152 Christian Drive
Grand Forks, ND 58201-9304
jlsickler@ndlegis.gov

COMMITTEES:

Appropriations
Appropriations - Government Operations Division

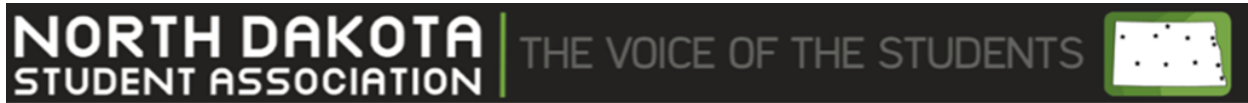
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2147**Senate Education Committee**

January 22, 2025

SB 2147 makes changes to two existing higher education financial aid and scholarship programs. Details are described in other testimony. In short, the bill makes certain technical corrections to the Career Builders scholarship and loan repayment programs. Substantively, the bill expands eligible participants to those who work in North Dakota and live within 50 miles of North Dakota. Also, employers who provide match funds for either the scholarship or loan repayment programs are given greater flexibility to set the conditions that would trigger repayment based on factors that are most relevant to a particular employer.

Second, the bill would provide needs-based funds to lower-income North Dakota students whose federal aid and other sources of financial aid do not cover tuition at a North Dakota higher education institution. This modest additional financial aid would allow more of our lowest-income citizens the opportunity to better their lives and improve the economic condition of the state by continuing their education at a North Dakota college or university.

SB 2147 builds on existing financial aid and scholarship programs that are specifically targeted to address workforce shortages of our most in-demand jobs as well as provide aid to low-income North Dakota students who otherwise may not be able to take advantage of the education and training programs offered in our state.

**SB 2147**

January 22, 2025

Joshua L Hansen, North Dakota Student Association

(701)318-6227 | joshua.hansen@ndsu.edu

Chair Elkin and Members of the Committee: My name is Joshua L Hansen, and I am the Director of Governmental Affairs for the North Dakota student association. I am here today in support of Senate Bill: 2147.

The North Dakota Student Association (Hereby referred to as the 'NDSA') is dedicated to ensuring that students have a voice at the table in policy that affects higher education. We consist of delegates from each of the 11 public North Dakota University System (NDUS) institutions, meeting monthly to engage students in discussions about North Dakota higher education policy. Since 1969, our mission has been to empower students, create collaboration between the student bodies of the North Dakota public universities, and to provide a student perspective on higher education policy.

In the course of our previous few years, the NDSA passed [NDSA-01-2425](#): A Resolution in Support of the NDSA's Legislative Priorities for the 25-27 Biennium, and [NDSA-01-2324](#): A Resolution In Support of Affordable Higher Education. Both resolutions detail the NDSA's hopes that our students will continue to be supported through the financial means of the state. Wherein we take a stance of "Incentivizing students to attend NDUS institutions by increasing the affordability of the NDUS through supporting scholarships and grants comparable to others in the region and to workforce needs." There are many barriers to our students that are not limited to just the affordability of school but, alleviating the core problem would go a long way to helping students who have other financial issues and must choose between their studies and something as simple as eating or paying rent. This \$12.2M appropriation for grants would go a long way, not only for giving students a leg up in their higher education but also serves as an

investment by the state in its potential future professional workforce.

During the last five years, our students and our workforce have faced many challenges navigating the new landscape of education brought in by inflation and the recent pandemic. This could be stabilized by continuing to incentivize students in high-demand fields with the proposed loan repayment program that is being slated to continue. Not only does this alleviate the stress of deciding on investment in higher education but the proposed amendments to the ongoing program will also attract students from our neighboring borders to join our university system and possibly our workforce.

We at the NDSA would like to stress our support for the state of North Dakota to continue to increase the affordability of higher education and the appropriations in this bill would accomplish just that. We have long held the stance that “decreased enrollment rates in higher education will harm the economy of North Dakota in the long-term” Any spending on scholarships, loan repayment programs, and grants goes a long way to creating a more diverse and professional workforce by expanding the accessibility of higher education. This will stem any decreases in statewide enrollment rates and secure a better future for not only the higher educational system but the state as a whole.

With all of this considered, on behalf of the NDSA, I ask this committee to give SB 2147 a **DO PASS** recommendation.



**House Education Committee
Chairman Todd Beard
Jan. 22, 2025
SB 2147**

Chairman Beard and members of the Senate Education Committee:

My name is Marnie Walth and I am Head of Government Affairs at Sanford Health. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 2147.

As you know, the biggest challenge North Dakota businesses and organizations face is workforce. Healthcare is no exception. Sanford Health in North Dakota currently has hundreds of unfilled high-need positions, including openings for nurses, respiratory therapists, lab technicians and patient care technicians.

In 2020, Sanford spent more than \$25 million to hire 464 independent contract labor staff on varying assignments to offset staffing gaps in our clinics and hospitals. Flash forward to 2025 and we have dramatically reduced our need for contract labor thanks in large part to workforce development programs created and supported by our state legislature. Sanford has leveraged the Career Builders program to fill more than 20 positions.

Healthcare is the highest user of the Career Builders program accounting for approximately 30 percent of the new hires secured through this innovative financial incentive program. The opportunity to add the State's Career Builders program to the tools we have to recruit and retain workforce is both appreciated and proving to be highly effective. By providing an incentive for recent graduates to stay and work in North Dakota, the State has created a successful approach to attracting new graduates.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 2147. I would stand for any questions you may have.

Marnie Walth, Government Affairs
Sanford Health
Marnie.Walth@SanfordHealth.org
701-471-7211 (mobile)

2025 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2147

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Education and Environment Division Sakakawea Room, State Capitol

SB 2147
2/3/2025

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new subsection to section of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the skilled workforce student loan repayment and scholarship programs, Native American scholarships, and the North Dakota scholarship; and to provide an appropriation.

3:26 p.m. Chairman Sorvaag called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Ronald Sorvaag, Senator Cole Conley, Senator Scott Meyer, Senator Donald Schaible, Senator Paul J. Thomas.

Discussion Topics:

- Needs Based State Grants.
- New Funding Rates
- Limit Total State-Funded Scholarships & Grants.

3:27 p.m. Senator Sickler, District 17, introduced the bill and testified in favor.

3:35 p.m. Brenda Zastoupil, Financial Aid Director, ND University System, testified in favor and submitted testimony #33262.

Additional written testimony:

Tim Blasl, NDHA President, ND Hospital Association, submitted testimony in favor #33470.

Cale Dunwoody, VP Public Policy, FMWF Chamber of Commerce, submitted testimony in favor #33688.

3:44 p.m. Chairman Sorvaag adjourned the meeting.

Steven Hall, Committee Clerk

**SB2147**

Senate Appropriations

Education & Environment Division

February 3, 2025

Brenda Zastoupil, Financial Aid Director, NDUS

701.328.2906 | brenda.zastoupil@ndus.edu

Chair Sorvaag and members of the Senate Appropriations Education & Environment Committee. My name is Brenda Zastoupil. I serve as the Director of Financial Aid for the North Dakota University System. I am here today to provide supporting testimony and information on SB2147.

This bill provides administrative amendments for several of the state scholarship and grant programs, and creates a new program called the Supplemental State Grant. State-funded financial aid programs are a critical component of affordability for students. In 2023-24, 13,093 awards totaling \$25.6 million were issued to ND resident students attending institutions within ND. These awards also included students from other states who have committed to live and work in ND through the ND Career Builders Scholarship. Additionally, 233 awards totaling \$3.4 million were issued in student loan repayments to support workforce development through the ND Career Builders Loan Repayment program, to tribal institutions to support the education of non-beneficiary students through the Tribally Controlled Colleges Assistance Grant program, to ND resident qualifying for the Professional Student Exchange Program, and for the promotion of doctoral program in the state.

The bill provides for the following amendments:

- **ND Career Builders Scholarship & Loan Repayment**
 - Page 2, Subsection 4(c) & Page 5, Subsection 7 – Border state employers often have employees filling in-demand jobs in ND but who live across the border. This amendment would provide more flexibility to meet the goal of drawing critical workforce to ND.
 - Page 3, Subsection 10 & Page 7, Subsection 13 – Provides clarity as to what “private-sector” donor means.
 - Page 5, Subsection 8 – Currently, the ND Career Builders Scholarship program is forgoing matching funds as donors are unable to commit to the clause that the matching funds be repaid if the student fails to meet their obligation to the state. The proposed change would open matches to support in-demand occupations, including education. Additionally, this change would provide more options for employers to actively engage with the student through an agreement of their own, while supporting the student in their pursuit of a certificate or degree in an in-demand area. The state-funded portion of the scholarship remains as the student’s obligation.
 - Page 5, Subsection 8, Lines 24-25 – This is clean-up language as all students who are enrolled are also maintaining academic progress, which is stated in the latter part of the sentence. The criteria for holding a 2.5 cumulative GPA to receive payment is unchanged (see Page 5, Section 6).

- Page 5, Section 9 – On occasion, students enter qualifying programs of study and receive the ND Career Builders Scholarship but then transfer to another qualifying program of study. Current language states that a student must complete the program of study that they received funding for, or face repayment of the award. Students who transfer from one eligible program to another should not be penalized if they meet the intent of the program. As an example, a student who transfers from diesel technology to emergency medical services, and who fulfills their obligation to live and work within ND in an in-demand occupation, has truly met the spirit of the program. Currently this student would have to repay their award.
- **Supplemental State Grant** (Section 5, Page 7-8) – The ND State Grant is a need-based grant awarded to ND resident students demonstrating financial need based on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and estimated cost of attendance. The 5-year average number of awardees receiving this need-based grant is 6,329. The maximum grant for full-time enrollment is \$1,375 per semester or \$917 per quarter. Ninety percent of the awards are based on full-time enrollment, but the amount can be prorated for part-time enrollment. In 2023-24, 6,381 students were issued this need-based grant at a total of \$15.1 million.

This supplemental scholarship is designed to assist qualifying State Grant recipients in meeting their costs when the Federal Pell Grant and the base State Grant do not cover tuition. This supplemental award may only be issued if the student is first awarded a State Grant, and if total family income does not exceed \$80,000. It limits the award to fall and spring terms. It provides for eligibility at qualifying public, private and tribal institutions, as does the base State Grant, but limits the award to no more than the highest tuition rate in the NDUS (mirrors language for the ND Scholars Program).

An evaluation of the 2022-23 State Grant recipients and their total family income, as determined through the FAFSA, showed that 2,426 State Grant recipients would have qualified for this supplemental award. The estimated cost, after the base State Grant and Pell Grant were deducted from tuition was \$6.1 million. The biennial cost, therefore, would be \$12.1 million, which is reflected in Section 9 of the bill.

- Finally, this bill adds legislative intent to statute that limits total state-funded scholarship and grants to no more than cost of attendance (COA). COA includes tuition, fees, books, supplies/course materials/equipment, housing and food, transportation, daycare, miscellaneous, and other expenses. This language would be implemented into the ND State Grant, ND Scholars Program, ND Academic/CTE/ND Scholarships, Native American Scholarship, Dual Credit Tuition Scholarship, and ND Career Builders Scholarship.

Thank you for your consideration of SB2147. This concludes my testimony, and I will stand for questions from committee members.

**2025 SB 2147****Senate Appropriations Education and Environment Division****Senator Ronald Sorvaag, Chairman****February 3, 2025**

Chairman Sorvaag and members of the Senate Appropriations Education and Environment Division, I am Tim Blasl, President of the North Dakota Hospital Association (NDHA). I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 2147. I ask that you give this bill a **Do Pass** recommendation.

As in many industries in our state, hospitals' number one challenge is workforce. Hospitals are in need of nurses, surgical techs, imaging techs, lab techs, physical and speech language therapists, and many other positions. Hospitals cannot continue to shoulder the burden of high-cost contract staff to fill these needs.

We support the legislature's many efforts, including this bill, to fund workforce development programs. Hospitals have benefited from using such programs, like Career Builders, to fill some of these needed positions. The health care field is the biggest user of the Career Builders program accounting for about 30 percent of the new hires gained through the program. We would greatly appreciate the continuation of the program to provide an additional effective way to recruit and retain necessary health care workforce.

In summary, we support passage of the bill and hope that you give it a **Do Pass** recommendation.

I would be happy to respond to any questions you may have. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Blasl, President
North Dakota Hospital Association



Letter of Support – SB 2147

Monday, February 2, 2025

Chairman Sorvaag and members of the Senate Appropriations Education and Environment Division,

For the record, my name is Cale Dunwoody, and I have the distinct pleasure of serving as the Vice President of Public Policy for the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce (FMWF Chamber). On behalf of our over 1,700 members, I respectfully offer testimony in support of Senate Bill 2147.

At the FMWF Chamber, our mission is to protect and promote business, inspire individuals, cultivate communities, and influence action. Our members continue to express concerns centered around the availability of high-quality, skilled workers. While the workforce gap is narrowing across the United States, North Dakota continues to face some of the most severe workforce challenges. According to the U.S. Chamber, North Dakota has only about 30 available workers for every 100 open jobs, significantly more critical than the national average of 83 available workers per 100 jobs. This highlights the urgent need for strategies to attract, retain, develop, and align workers with in-demand jobs.

To address this challenge, we support continued investment in the Skilled Workforce Student Loan Repayment Program. Attracting, developing, and retaining skilled workers is essential to building a strong workforce pipeline. This program enhances regional competitiveness by incentivizing qualified individuals to stay in the state, strengthening communities, supporting families, and driving economic growth.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to give this bill a DO PASS.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Cale Dunwoody
Vice President of Public Policy
Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Education and Environment Division Sakakawea Room, State Capitol

SB 2147
2/10/2025

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new subsection of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to student financial assistance grants, dual-credit tuition scholarships, and the scholars program; to amend and reenact sections of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the skilled workforce student loan repayment and scholarship programs, Native American scholarships, and the North Dakota scholarship; and to provide an appropriation.

10:53 a.m. Chairman Sorvaag called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Ronald Sorvaag, Senator Cole Conley, Senator Scott Meyer, Senator Donald Schaible, Senator Paul J. Thomas.

Discussion Topics:

- Industry Matches on Scholarships.
- Need for Cost of Attendance.

10:56 a.m. Senator Schaible moved a Do Pass motion.

10:56 a.m. Senator Meyer seconded the motion.

10:59 a.m. Brenda Zastoupil, ND University System, answered committee questions.

Roll Call Vote

Senators	Vote
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Cole Conley	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Paul J. Thomas	Y

Motion Passed: 5-0-0

Senator Schaible will carry the bill.

11:07 a.m. Chairman Sorvaag closed the meeting.

Steven Hall, Committee Clerk

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Harvest Room, State Capitol

SB 2147
2/13/2025

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new subsection to section 15-10-38.4, relating to student financial assistance grants, dual-credit tuition scholarships, and the scholars program; to amend and reenact sections, and relating to the skilled workforce student loan repayment and scholarship programs, Native American scholarships, and the North Dakota scholarship; and to provide an appropriation.

9:12 a.m. Chairman Bekkedahl opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Bekkedahl, Vice-Chairman Erbele, and Senators Burckhard, Cleary, Conley, Davison, Dever, Magrum, Mathern, Meyer, Schaible, Sickler, Sorvaag, Thomas, Wanzek.

Members Absent: Senator Dwyer.

Discussion Topics:

- State and Business Match
- Private Sector Donor Clarification
- State Requirements
- Need Based Grants Statistics
- MN North Star Promise Grant Comparison
- Out-of-State Scholarships

9:12 a.m. Senator Schaible introduced the bill.

9:17 a.m. Senator Schaible moved a Do Pass.

9:17 a.m. Senator Meyer seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	Y
Senator Cole Conley	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	N
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	A
Senator Jeffery J. Magrum	N
Senator Tim Mathern	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Jonathan Sickler	Y
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y

Senator Paul J. Thomas	Y
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y

Motion Passed 13-2-1.

Senator Axtman will carry the bill.

9:23 a.m. Chairman Bekkedahl closed the hearing.

Elizabeth Reiten, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
SB 2147 ([25.0229.06000](#))

Appropriations Committee (Sen. Bekkedahl, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2147 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

2025 HOUSE EDUCATION

SB 2147

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

SB 2147
3/10/2025

Relating to the skilled workforce student loan repayment and scholarship programs, Native American scholarships, and the North Dakota scholarship; and to provide an appropriation.

10:36 a.m. Chairman Heinert called the hearing to order.

Members Present: Chairman Heinert, Vice Chairman Schreiber- Beck, Representatives, Conmy, Hager, Hatlestad, Hauck, Heilman, Jonas, Longmuir, Maki, Marchall, Morton, Novak, Osowski

Discussion Topics:

- Language cleanup
- Career builders' program
- High demand jobs
- College debt
- Loan forgiveness program

10:36 a.m. Senator Sickler introduced the bill and submitted testimony. #39558

10:50 a.m. Andrea Pfennig, Vice President Government Affairs, Greater North Dakota Chamber, GNDC, testified in favor and submitted testimony. #39677

10:52 a.m. Marnie Walth, Head of government Affairs, Sanford Health, testified in favor and submitted testimony. #39833

Additional written testimony:

Brenda Zastoupil, Financial Aid Director, ND University Systems, submitted testimony in favor. #39588

Tim Blasl, President, ND Hospital Association, submitted testimony in favor. #39606

Cale Dunwoody, FMWF Chamber of Commerce, submitted testimony in favor. #39808

Carter Gill, Vice President of Governmental Affairs, ND Student Association, submitted testimony in favor. #39827

10:54 a.m. Chairman Heinert closed the hearing.

Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk



North Dakota Senate

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



Senator Jonathan Sickler

District 17
152 Christian Drive
Grand Forks, ND 58201-9304
jlsickler@ndlegis.gov

COMMITTEES:

Appropriations
Appropriations - Government Operations Division

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2147

House Education Committee

March 10, 2025

SB 2147 makes changes to two existing higher education financial aid and scholarship programs. Details are described in other testimony. In short, the bill makes certain technical corrections to the Career Builders scholarship and loan repayment programs. Substantively, the bill expands eligible participants to those who work in North Dakota and live within 50 miles of North Dakota. Also, employers who provide match funds for either the scholarship or loan repayment programs are given greater flexibility to set the conditions that would trigger repayment based on factors that are most relevant to a particular employer.

Second, the bill would provide needs-based funds to lower-income North Dakota students whose federal aid and other sources of financial aid do not cover tuition at a North Dakota higher education institution. This modest additional financial aid would allow more of our lowest-income citizens the opportunity to better their lives and improve the economic condition of the state by continuing their education at a North Dakota college or university.

SB 2147 builds on existing financial aid and scholarship programs that are specifically targeted to address workforce shortages of our most in-demand jobs as well as provide aid to low-income North Dakota students who otherwise may not be able to take advantage of the education and training programs offered in our state.

**SB2147**

House Education Committee

March 10, 2025

Brenda Zastoupil, Financial Aid Director, NDUS

701.328.2906 | brenda.zastoupil@ndus.edu

Chair Heinert, Vice Chair Schreiber-Beck, and members of the House Education Committee. My name is Brenda Zastoupil. I serve as the Director of Financial Aid for the North Dakota University System. I am submitting supporting testimony and information on SB2147.

This bill provides administrative amendments for several of the state scholarships and grant programs, and creates a new program called the Supplemental State Grant. State-funded financial aid programs are a critical component of affordability for students. In 2023-24, over 13,000 awards totaling \$25.6 million were issued to ND resident students attending institutions within ND. These awards also included students from other states who have committed to live and work in ND through the ND Career Builders Scholarship. Additionally, 233 awards totaling \$3.4 million were issued in student loan repayments to support workforce development through the ND Career Builders Loan Repayment program, to tribal institutions to support the education of non-beneficiary students through the Tribally Controlled Colleges Assistance Grant program, to ND resident qualifying for the Professional Student Exchange Program, and for the promotion of doctoral program in the state.

The bill provides for the following amendments:

- **ND Career Builders Scholarship & Loan Repayment**

- Page 2, Subsection 4(c) & Page 5, Subsection 7 – Border state employers often have employees filling in-demand jobs in ND but who live across the border. This amendment would provide more flexibility to meet the goal of drawing critical workforce to ND.
- Page 3, Subsection 10 & Page 6, Subsection 13 – Provides clarity as to what “private-sector” donor means.
- Page 5, Subsection 8 – Currently, the ND Career Builders Scholarship program is forgoing matching funds as donors are unable to commit to the clause that the matching funds be repaid if the student fails to meet their obligation to the state. The proposed change would open matches to support in-demand occupations, including education. Additionally, this change would provide more options for employers to actively engage with the student through an agreement of their own, while supporting the student in their pursuit of a certificate or degree in an in-demand area. The state-funded portion of the scholarship remains as the student’s obligation.
- Page 5, Subsection 8, Lines 24-25 – This is clean-up language as all students who are enrolled are also maintaining academic progress, which is stated in the latter part of the sentence. The criteria for holding a 2.5 cumulative GPA to receive payment is unchanged (see Page 5, Section 6).

- Page 5, Section 9 – On occasion, students enter qualifying programs of study and receive the ND Career Builders Scholarship but then transfer to another qualifying program of study. Current language states that a student must complete the program of study that they received funding for, or face repayment of the award. Students who transfer from one eligible program to another should not be penalized if they meet the intent of the program. As an example, a student who transfers from diesel technology to emergency medical services, and who fulfills their obligation to live and work within ND in an in-demand occupation, has truly met the spirit of the program. Currently this student would have to repay their award.
- **Supplemental State Grant** (Section 5, Page 7-8) – The ND State Grant is a need-based grant awarded to ND resident students demonstrating financial need based on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and estimated cost of attendance. The 5-year average number of awardees receiving this need-based grant is 6,329. The maximum grant for full-time enrollment is \$1,375 per semester or \$917 per quarter. Ninety percent of the awards are based on full-time enrollment, but the amount can be prorated for part-time enrollment. In 2023-24, 6,381 students were issued this need-based grant at a total of \$15.1 million.

This supplemental scholarship is designed to assist qualifying State Grant recipients in meeting their costs when the Federal Pell Grant and the base State Grant do not cover tuition. This supplemental award may only be issued if the student is first awarded a State Grant, and if total family income does not exceed \$80,000. It limits the award to fall and spring terms. It provides for eligibility at qualifying public, private and tribal institutions, as does the base State Grant, but limits the award to no more than the highest tuition rate in the NDUS (mirrors language for the ND Scholars Program).

An evaluation of the 2022-23 State Grant recipients and their total family income, as determined through the FAFSA, showed that 2,426 State Grant recipients would have qualified for this supplemental award. The estimated cost, after the base State Grant and Pell Grant were deducted from tuition was \$6.1 million. The biennial cost, therefore, would be \$12.1 million, which is reflected in Section 9 of the bill.

- Finally, this bill adds legislative intent to statute that limits total state-funded scholarship and grants to no more than cost of attendance (COA). COA includes tuition, fees, books, supplies/course materials/equipment, housing and food, transportation, daycare, miscellaneous, and other expenses. This language would be implemented into the ND State Grant, ND Scholars Program, ND Academic/CTE/ND Scholarships, Native American Scholarship, Dual Credit Tuition Scholarship, and ND Career Builders Scholarship.

Thank you for your consideration of SB2147.



2025 SB 2147

House Education Committee

Representative Heinert, Chairman

March 10, 2025

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee, I am Tim Blasl, President of the North Dakota Hospital Association (NDHA). I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 2147. I ask that you give this bill a **Do Pass** recommendation.

As in many industries in our state, hospitals' number one challenge is workforce. Hospitals are in need of nurses, surgical techs, imaging techs, lab techs, physical and speech language therapists, and many other positions. Hospitals cannot continue to shoulder the burden of high-cost contract staff to fill these needs.

We support the legislature's many efforts, including this bill, to fund workforce development programs. Hospitals have benefited from using such programs, like Career Builders, to fill some of these needed positions. The health care field is the biggest user of the Career Builders program accounting for about 30 percent of the new hires gained through the program. We would greatly appreciate the continuation of the program to provide an additional effective way to recruit and retain necessary health care workforce.

In summary, we support passage of the bill and hope that you give it a **Do Pass** recommendation.

I would be happy to respond to any questions you may have. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Blasl, President
North Dakota Hospital Association



GREATER NORTH DAKOTA CHAMBER
SB 2147
House Education Committee
Chair Pat Heinert
March 9, 2025

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Andrea Pfennig, and I am the Vice President of Government Affairs for the Greater North Dakota Chamber. GNDC is North Dakota's largest statewide business advocacy organization, with membership represented by small and large businesses, local chambers, and trade and industry associations across the state. We stand in **support** of Senate Bill 2147.

Since the program's inception, GNDC has been supportive of Career Builders. SB 2147 proposes changes to the program, including:

- Enable individuals that live within 50 miles of the state to access the program while retaining the requirement to work in the state for 3 years.
- Modifies the scholarship payback requirement so that students are only required to pay the state portion back to the state.

GNDC is supportive of the changes to the program. In our 2024 ND Economics and Employer Survey of our membership, 70% of respondents indicated they were having trouble hiring employees. Labor availability has been identified as the top business concern facing companies in North Dakota. We feel these changes will help expand access to the program while maintaining its purpose.



Letter of Support – SB 2147

Monday, March 10, 2025

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee,

For the record, my name is Cale Dunwoody, and I have the distinct pleasure of serving as the Vice President of Public Policy for the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce (FMWF Chamber). On behalf of our over 1,700 members, I respectfully offer testimony in support of Senate Bill 2147.

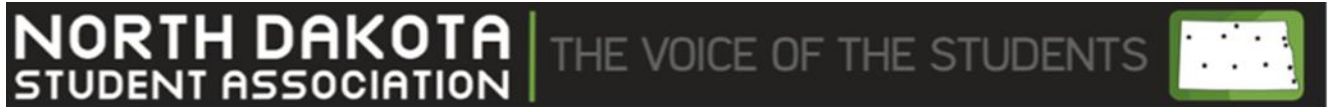
At the FMWF Chamber, our mission is to protect and promote business, inspire individuals, cultivate communities, and influence action. Our members continue to express concerns centered around the availability of high-quality, skilled workers. While the workforce gap is narrowing across the United States, North Dakota continues to face some of the most severe workforce challenges. According to the U.S. Chamber, North Dakota has only about 30 available workers for every 100 open jobs, significantly more critical than the national average of 83 available workers per 100 jobs. This highlights the urgent need for innovative strategies to attract, retain, develop, and align workers with in-demand jobs.

To address this challenge, we support continued investment in the Skilled Workforce Student Loan Repayment Program. This program enhances regional competitiveness by incentivizing qualified individuals to stay in the state, strengthening communities, supporting families, and driving economic growth. This investment would bolster building an aligned workforce pipeline through attracting, developing, and retaining skilled workers. For these reasons, we urge the committee to give this bill a DO PASS.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Cale Dunwoody
Vice President of Public Policy
Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce

**SB 2147**

March 10, 2025

Carter Gill, North Dakota Student Association

(701) 388-7589 | carter.gill@ndus.edu

Chair Heinert and Members of the Committee: My name is Carter Gill and I am Vice President of Governmental Affairs for the North Dakota Student Association. I am here today in support of SB 2147.

The North Dakota Student Association is dedicated to ensuring that students have a voice at the table in policy that affects higher education. We consist of delegates from each of the 11 public North Dakota University System (NDUS) institutions, meeting monthly to engage students in discussions about North Dakota higher education policy. Since 1969, our mission has been to empower students, create collaboration between the student bodies of the North Dakota public universities, and to provide a student perspective on higher education policy.

In recent years, the NDSA passed [NDSA-01-2425](#): A Resolution in Support of the NDSA's Legislative Priorities for the 25-27 Biennium, and [NDSA-01-2324](#): A Resolution In Support of Affordable Higher Education. Both resolutions detail the NDSA's hopes that our students will continue to be supported through the financial means of the state. In these resolutions, we state that "Incentivizing students to attend NDUS institutions by increasing the affordability of the NDUS through supporting scholarships and grants comparable to others in the region and to workforce needs." There are many barriers to our students that are not limited to just the affordability of school;. However, alleviating a consistent financial issue for students problem would go a long way to helping students who have other financial issues and must choose between their studies and basic needs such as food or rent. This \$12.2M appropriation for grants would go a long way in both assisting students in their pursuit of higher education but also an investment in North Dakota's future workforce.

The NDSA would like to stress our support for the state of North Dakota to continue to increase the affordability and accessibility of higher education. The appropriations provided in this bill is another step in reaching this goal. The NDSA has long held the stance that “decreased enrollment rates in higher education will harm the economy of North Dakota in the long-term.” Any spending on scholarships, loan repayment programs, and grants goes a long way to creating a more diverse and professional workforce by expanding the accessibility of higher education.

With all of this considered, on behalf of the NDSA, I ask this committee to give SB 2147 a DO PASS recommendation.



**House Education Committee
Chairman Pat Heinert
March 10, 2025
SB 2147**

Chairman Heinert and members of the Senate Education Committee:

My name is Marnie Walth and I am Head of Government Affairs at Sanford Health. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 2147.

As you know, the biggest challenge North Dakota businesses and organizations face is workforce. Healthcare is no exception. Sanford Health in North Dakota currently has hundreds of unfilled high-need positions, including openings for nurses, respiratory therapists, lab technicians and patient care technicians.

In 2020, Sanford spent more than \$25 million to hire 464 independent contract labor staff on varying assignments to offset staffing gaps in our clinics and hospitals. Flash forward to 2025 and we have dramatically reduced our need for contract labor thanks in large part to workforce development programs created and supported by our state legislature. Sanford has leveraged the Career Builders program to fill more than 20 positions.

Healthcare is the highest user of the Career Builders program accounting for approximately 30 percent of the new hires secured through this innovative financial incentive program. The opportunity to add the State's Career Builders program to the tools we have to recruit and retain workforce is both appreciated and proving to be highly effective. By providing an incentive for recent graduates to stay and work in North Dakota, the State has created a successful approach to attracting new graduates.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 2147. I would stand for any questions you may have.

Marnie Walth, Government Affairs
Sanford Health
Marnie.Walth@SanfordHealth.org
701-471-7211 (mobile)

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

SB 2147
3/10/2025

Relating to the skilled workforce student loan repayment and scholarship programs, Native American scholarships, and the North Dakota scholarship; and to provide an appropriation.

11:10 a.m. Chairman Heinert called the hearing to order.

Members Present: Chairman Heinert, Vice Chairman Schreiber- Beck, Representatives, Conmy, Hager, Hatlestad, Hauck, Heilman, Jonas, Longmuir, Maki, Marchall, Morton, Novak, Osowski

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

11:10 a.m. Vice Chair Schreiber- Beck proposed changing the word 'not' to 'may' in several places

11:12 a.m. Representative Hatlestad seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Pat D. Heinert	Y
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	Y
Representative Liz Conmy	Y
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	N
Representative Patrick R. Hatlestad	Y
Representative Dori Hauck	Y
Representative Matthew Heilman	Y
Representative Jim Jonas	Y
Representative Donald W. Longmuir	Y
Representative Roger A. Maki	Y
Representative Andrew Marschall	N
Representative Desiree Morton	N
Representative Anna S. Novak	Y
Representative Doug Osowski	Y

Motion carried: 11-3-0

11:15 a.m. Vice Chair Schreiber- Beck moved a Do Pass as amended and rereferred to the Appropriations committee.

11:16 a.m. Representative Hatlestad seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Pat D. Heinert	Y
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	Y
Representative Liz Conmy	Y
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	Y
Representative Patrick R. Hatlestad	Y
Representative Dori Hauck	Y
Representative Matthew Heilman	Y
Representative Jim Jonas	Y
Representative Donald W. Longmuir	Y
Representative Roger A. Maki	Y
Representative Andrew Marschall	Y
Representative Desiree Morton	Y
Representative Anna S. Novak	Y
Representative Doug Osowski	Y

Motion carried:14-0-0

Bill carrier: Vice Chair Schreiber- Beck

11:16 a.m. Chairman Heinert adjourned the meeting.

Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk

March 10, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

3-10-25

John 10013

SENATE BILL NO. 2147

Introduced by

Senators Sickler, Schaible, Sorvaag

Representatives Richter, Sanford

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new subsection to section 15-10-38.4, a new subsection
2 to section 15-62.4-03, a new section to chapter 15-62.4, and a new subsection to section
3 15-62.5-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to student financial assistance grants,
4 dual-credit tuition scholarships, and the scholars program; to amend and reenact sections
5 15-10-38.1, 15-10-38.2, 15-63-05, and 15.1-21-02.6 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating
6 to the skilled workforce student loan repayment and scholarship programs, Native American
7 scholarships, and the North Dakota scholarship; and to provide an appropriation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

9 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-10-38.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
10 amended and reenacted as follows:

11 **15-10-38.1. Skilled workforce student loan repayment program - Skilled workforce**
12 **student loan repayment program fund - Continuing appropriation - Report.**

- 13 1. There is created in the state treasury the skilled workforce student loan repayment
14 program fund. The fund consists of moneys transferred into the fund by the legislative
15 assembly, matching funds received, and loan repayments. Moneys in the fund are
16 appropriated to the state board of higher education on a continuing basis for the
17 purpose of distributing student loan repayment grants directly to the Bank of North
18 Dakota or other participating lender to repay outstanding student loan principal
19 balances for eligible applicants. The state board of higher education may transfer

1/12 2013

- 1 money between this fund and the skilled workforce scholarship fund established in
2 section 15-10-38.2.
- 3 2. The state board of higher education shall adopt policies and procedures to develop,
4 implement, promote, and administer a skilled workforce student loan repayment
5 program in cooperation with the Bank of North Dakota and the North Dakota workforce
6 development council with the intent of attracting and retaining individuals for
7 professional or technical skills in high demand in this state.
- 8 3. The North Dakota workforce development council in cooperation with job service North
9 Dakota shall use available labor market information to determine annually the eligible
10 high-demand professional and technical skills and emerging occupations in this state.
- 11 4. Graduates of degree or certificate programs from institutions or entities in any state
12 may apply for the skilled workforce student loan repayment program. To be eligible to
13 receive student loan repayment grants under the program, the applicant:
- 14 a. Must have successfully completed an educational program from an institution of
15 higher education;
- 16 b. Must have a student loan with the Bank of North Dakota or other participating
17 lender;
- 18 c. Following completion of an educational program, must reside and work in this
19 state in an eligible high-demand or emerging occupation or reside within fifty
20 miles [80.47 kilometers] of this state and work in this state in an eligible
21 high-demand or emerging occupation; and
- 22 d. Must have met and shall continue to meet any requirements established in
23 applicable state board of higher education procedures.
- 24 5. The state board of higher education shall adopt procedures to ensure compliance with
25 residency and occupation requirements after completion of the educational program.
- 26 6. The state board of higher education shall distribute student loan repayment grants
27 from the skilled workforce student loan repayment program fund directly to the Bank of
28 North Dakota or other participating lender to repay outstanding student loan principal
29 balances for eligible applicants. The maximum annual student loan repayment grant
30 amount for which an applicant may qualify is five thousand six hundred sixty-seven
31 dollars, or one-third of the applicant's outstanding student loan principal balance upon

1 initial application for the program, whichever is less. The maximum total student loan
2 repayment grant amount for which any applicant may qualify is seventeen thousand
3 dollars.

4 7. If an individual is receiving loan forgiveness under any other state program, the
5 individual may not receive a student loan repayment grant under this section during
6 the same application year.

7 8. An individual may receive a combined total of no more than seventeen thousand
8 dollars under this section and the skilled workforce scholarship program under section
9 15-10-38.2.

10 9. The state board of higher education shall provide one dollar of funding for each one
11 dollar of funds raised from the private sector or other public sources. Any matching
12 funds received must be deposited in the skilled workforce student loan repayment
13 program fund.

14 10. An applicant for student loan repayment under this section is ineligible if the applicant:

15 a. Provides or directs matching funds; or

16 b. Is the husband, wife, father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter, father-in-law,
17 mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, stepchild,
18 uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, or grandchild of:

19 (1) The individual providing or directing matching funds; or

20 (2) An individual authorized to make decisions on behalf of an entity providing
21 or directing matching funds, including a controlling shareholder, member of
22 the governing body, director, or managing partner.

23 11. The state board of higher education shall provide a biennial program report to the
24 legislative management by September first of each even-numbered year. The report
25 must include information regarding:

26 a. The eligible high-demand professional and technical skills and emerging
27 occupations;

28 b. The number of applicants, eligible applicants, and applicants receiving awards;

29 c. The amount of matching funds raised; and

30 d. The average and total amounts awarded under the program.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 15-10-38.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15-10-38.2. Skilled workforce scholarship program - Skilled workforce scholarship fund - Continuing appropriation - Report.

1. There is created in the state treasury the skilled workforce scholarship fund. The fund consists of moneys transferred into the fund by the legislative assembly, matching funds received, and scholarship repayments. Moneys in the fund are appropriated to the state board of higher education on a continuing basis for the purpose of providing grants to institutions of higher education related to skilled workforce scholarships. Institutions of higher education include institutions under the control of the state board of higher education, North Dakota nonpublic accredited institutions of higher education, tribally controlled community colleges, state-approved educator training programs, and North Dakota institutions approved to operate by the North Dakota board of career and technical education. The state board of higher education may transfer money between this fund and the skilled workforce student loan repayment program fund established in section 15-10-38.1.
2. The state board of higher education shall adopt policies and procedures to develop, implement, promote, and administer a skilled workforce scholarship program in cooperation with the Bank of North Dakota and the North Dakota workforce development council with the intent of attracting and retaining individuals for professional or technical skills in high demand in this state.
3. The North Dakota workforce development council in cooperation with job service North Dakota shall use available labor market information to determine annually the eligible high-demand professional and technical skills and emerging occupations in this state.
4. The state board of higher education and the workforce development council shall compile a list of qualifying educational programs annually. A qualifying educational program is a program resulting in attainment of an associate's degree or lower credential program that may be completed within four semesters, six quarters, or the final two years of a baccalaureate program. A qualifying educational program also must pertain to the professional and technical skills and emerging occupations in high

1 demand in this state, as determined under subsection 3. Qualifying educational
2 programs may include degree or certificate programs.

3 5. Individuals enrolled in a qualifying educational program in this state may apply for a
4 scholarship under this section. Scholarships are limited to the amount charged each
5 quarter, semester, or term by the educational institution for the tuition, fees, books, and
6 supplies required for the qualifying educational program. The scholarships are
7 intended to supplement any other scholarship or financial aid grant received by a
8 student to assist the student with the costs of the qualifying educational program. An
9 individual may not receive a combined total exceeding seventeen thousand dollars
10 under this section and the skilled workforce loan repayment program under section
11 15-10-38.1.

12 6. To be eligible for a scholarship payment under this section, a student must be enrolled
13 full time in an eligible program and have at least a 2.5 cumulative grade point average,
14 based on a 4.0 grading system, or maintain academic progress in the program
15 according to program requirements. A student may not receive scholarships under this
16 section for more than the equivalent of four semesters of full-time enrollment or six
17 quarters of full-time enrollment.

18 7. Upon completion of a qualifying educational program, a student who received a
19 scholarship under this section must reside and work in this state in an eligible
20 high-demand or emerging occupation for a minimum of three years or reside within
21 fifty miles [80.47 kilometers] of this state and work in this state in an eligible
22 high-demand or emerging occupation for a minimum of three years.

23 8. ~~An~~Except as provided in subsection 9, an individual shall repay the scholarship,
24 excluding the matching funds portion of the scholarship, pursuant to the terms in the
25 individual's scholarship award agreement if the individual fails to maintain either a 2.5
26 ~~cumulative grade point average or~~ academic progress according to program
27 requirements while enrolled, withdraws voluntarily or involuntarily before the
28 completion of the program for which a scholarship has been received, or fails to ~~reside~~
29 ~~and work in this state in an eligible high-demand or emerging occupation for at least~~
30 ~~three years following degree or certificate completion~~comply with subsection 7.

- 1 9. An individual who receives a scholarship under this section and who transfers from
2 one eligible academic program to another eligible academic program must complete
3 the program within two years and meet all other eligibility requirements to be exempt
4 from the repayment provisions under subsection 8.
- 5 10. The state board of higher education, in conjunction with the Bank of North Dakota,
6 may allow an individual who received payment under this section to delay or cancel
7 repayment under this section due to financial difficulty, military service, death, or total
8 disability.
- 9 ~~10-11.~~ Each quarter, semester, or term, the state board of higher education shall distribute
10 grants to institutions of higher education to provide the amounts necessary for the
11 scholarships awarded to the students enrolled in each institution.
- 12 ~~11-12.~~ The state board of higher education shall provide one dollar of funding for each one
13 dollar raised from the private sector or other public sources. Any matching funds
14 received must be deposited in the skilled workforce scholarship fund.
- 15 ~~12-13.~~ An applicant for a scholarship payment under this section is ineligible if the applicant:
16 a. Provides or directs matching funds; or
17 b. Is the husband, wife, father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter, father-in-law,
18 mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, stepchild,
19 uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, or grandchild of:
20 (1) The individual providing or directing matching funds; or
21 (2) An individual authorized to make decisions on behalf of an entity providing
22 or directing matching funds, including a controlling shareholder, member of
23 the governing body, director, or managing partner.
- 24 14. The state board of higher education may ~~not~~ issue a scholarship under this section
25 which is in excess of the total cost of attendance, as determined by the institution of
26 higher education, when considering all financial aid sources.
- 27 15. The state board of higher education shall provide a biennial program report to the
28 legislative management by September first of each even-numbered year. The report
29 must include information regarding:
30 a. The eligible high-demand professional and technical skills and emerging
31 occupations;

- 1 b. The qualifying educational programs;
- 2 c. The number of applicants, eligible applicants, and applicants receiving awards;
- 3 d. The amount of matching funds raised; and
- 4 e. The average and total amounts awarded under the program.

5 **SECTION 3.** A new subsection to section 15-10-38.4 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 created and enacted as follows:

7 The board may ~~not~~ issue a scholarship under this section which is in excess of the
8 total cost of attendance, as determined by the institution of higher education, when
9 considering all financial aid sources.

10 **SECTION 4.** A new subsection to section 15-62.4-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is
11 created and enacted as follows:

12 The board may ~~not~~ issue a grant under this chapter which is in excess of the total cost
13 of attendance, as determined by the institution of higher education, when considering
14 all financial aid sources.

15 **SECTION 5.** A new section to chapter 15-62.4 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
16 and enacted as follows:

17 **Supplemental state grant award.**

- 18 1. An individual eligible for a student financial assistance grant under this chapter may be
19 considered for a supplemental state grant award if the individual's total family income,
20 as identified on the free application for federal student aid, is no more than eighty
21 thousand dollars.
- 22 2. A supplemental state grant award may not be provided for the summer term.
- 23 3. Each semester or quarter, the state board of higher education shall provide to an
24 eligible student a supplemental state grant award in an amount that, combined with
25 the individual's student financial assistance grant and any federal Pell grant award,
26 does not exceed the tuition charged at the institution in which the student is enrolled.
27 The amount may not exceed the highest undergraduate semester tuition charged at
28 an institution of higher education under the control of the state board of higher
29 education.

1 4. If funding appropriated for this program is not sufficient to pay the full amount of the
2 grant award under subsection 3, the state board of higher education may prorate the
3 amount.

4 5. The state board of higher education may impose deadlines to qualify for an award
5 under this section.

6 **SECTION 6.** A new subsection to section 15-62.5-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is
7 created and enacted as follows:

8 The board may ~~not~~ issue a scholarship under this chapter which is in excess of the
9 total cost of attendance, as determined by the institution of higher education, when
10 considering all financial aid sources.

11 **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-63-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is
12 amended and reenacted as follows:

13 **15-63-05. Scholarship payments - Conditions.**

14 Upon the award of a scholarship, the recipient is eligible for a credit at the enrolling
15 institution of higher learning or accredited career and technical education program with a
16 physical presence in this state. The scholarship may be applied to tuition, fees, room and board,
17 books and supplies, and other educational expenses not to exceed six hundred sixty-seven
18 dollars per quarter or clock-hour term or one thousand dollars per semester. Awards may not
19 exceed two thousand dollars in any academic year and may ~~not~~ be issued in excess of the total
20 cost of attendance, as determined by the institution of higher education, when considering all
21 financial aid sources. The board for Native American scholarships may reduce the amount of
22 any scholarship to accord with individual financial need or funds available. The board for Native
23 American scholarships may set a priority application date. At the beginning of each quarter,
24 clock-hour term, or semester, the North Dakota university system shall verify enrollment and
25 other eligibility criteria set forth by the state board for Native American scholarships for awarded
26 applicants before issuing payment to the enrolling institution. After the enrolling institution has
27 deducted the amount due to the institution, the remaining balance must be distributed to the
28 awarded applicant for necessary expenses during the quarter, clock-hour term, or semester.

29 **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-21-02.6 of the North Dakota Century Code is
30 amended and reenacted as follows:

15.1-21-02.6. North Dakota scholarship - Amount - Applicability. (Effective through July 31, 2030)

1. a. The state board of higher education shall provide to any student certified as being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction a North Dakota scholarship, a North Dakota academic scholarship, or a North Dakota career and technical education scholarship in the amount of seven hundred fifty dollars for each semester during which the student is enrolled full time at an accredited institution of higher education with a physical presence in this state, maintains a cumulative grade point average of 2.75, and maintains progress toward program completion.
- b. The state board of higher education shall provide to any student certified as being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction a North Dakota scholarship, a North Dakota academic scholarship, or a North Dakota career and technical education scholarship in the amount of five hundred dollars for each quarter or clock-hour term during which the student is enrolled full time at an accredited institution of higher education with a physical presence in this state or an accredited private career school with a physical presence in this state, maintains a cumulative grade point average of 2.75, and maintains progress toward program completion.
- c. The state board of higher education shall provide to any student certified as being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction a North Dakota scholarship, a North Dakota academic scholarship, or a North Dakota career and technical education scholarship in the amount of five hundred dollars each term if the student is enrolled in a qualifying registered apprenticeship program within this state. The state board of higher education and the state board for career and technical education shall establish:
 - (1) Procedures to administer the scholarship;
 - (2) Requirements for eligibility, including full-time enrollment, program progress, and a minimum grade point average or its equivalency; and
 - (3) A payment schedule.

- 1 2. The state board shall monitor each scholarship recipient to ensure that the student
- 2 meets the academic and other requirements of this section. Upon determining a
- 3 recipient student has failed to meet the requirements of this section, the board shall
- 4 provide notification to the student within ten business days.
- 5 3. A student is not entitled to receive more than six thousand dollars under this section.
- 6 4. The state board of higher education shall forward the scholarship directly to the
- 7 institution in which the student is enrolled.
- 8 5. The state board of higher education may ~~not~~ issue a scholarship under this section
- 9 which is in excess of the total cost of attendance, as determined by the institution of
- 10 higher education, when considering all financial aid sources.
- 11 6. a. This section does not require a student to be enrolled in consecutive semesters,
- 12 quarters, or clock-hour terms.
- 13 b. A scholarship under this section is valid only for six academic years after the
- 14 student's graduation from high school and may be applied to a graduate or
- 15 professional program.
- 16 ~~6-7.~~ A scholarship under this section is available to any eligible resident student who fulfills
- 17 the requirements of section 15.1-21-02.4, section 15.1-21-02.5, or section
- 18 15.1-21-02.10 and who:
- 19 a. Graduates from a high school in this state;
- 20 b. Graduates from a high school in a bordering state under chapter 15.1-29;
- 21 c. Graduates from a nonpublic high school in a bordering state while residing with a
- 22 custodial parent in this state; or
- 23 d. Completes a program of home education supervised in accordance with chapter
- 24 15.1-23.
- 25 ~~7-8.~~ a. For purposes of North Dakota scholarship eligibility under this section, "full-time"
- 26 has the same meaning as the term is defined by the institution the student is
- 27 attending.
- 28 b. A student who is enrolled less than full-time may retain scholarship eligibility if the
- 29 student is in the final semester, quarter, or clock-hour term before program
- 30 completion. The waiver of the full-time enrollment status requirement for
- 31 scholarship eligibility may not apply to a student more than once.

- 1 c. For the purpose of North Dakota scholarship eligibility under this section,
2 "progress toward program completion" means earning the following minimum
3 number of credits after each semester, quarter, or clock-hour term disbursement
4 to qualify for the subsequent disbursement:
5 (1) Twenty-four credits after disbursement two;
6 (2) Thirty-nine credits after disbursement three;
7 (3) Fifty-four credits after disbursement four;
8 (4) Sixty-nine credits after disbursement five;
9 (5) Eighty-four credits after disbursement six; and
10 (6) Ninety-nine credits after disbursement seven.

- 11 ~~8-9.~~ For purposes of scholarship eligibility under this section, "clock-hour term" has the
12 same meaning as the term is defined by the state board of higher education. The state
13 board of higher education shall determine the conversion of:
14 a. Clock hours to credit hours; and
15 b. Percentage-based grading to grade point average.

16 **North Dakota scholarship - Amount - Applicability. (Effective after July 31, 2030)**

- 17 1. a. The state board of higher education shall provide to any student certified as
18 being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction a North Dakota
19 scholarship in the amount of seven hundred fifty dollars for each semester during
20 which the student is enrolled full time at an accredited institution of higher
21 education with a physical presence in this state, maintains a cumulative grade
22 point average of 2.75, and maintains progress toward program completion.
23 b. The state board of higher education shall provide to any student certified as
24 being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction a North Dakota
25 scholarship in the amount of five hundred dollars for each quarter or clock-hour
26 term during which the student is enrolled full time at an accredited institution of
27 higher education with a physical presence in this state or an accredited private
28 career school with a physical presence in this state, maintains a cumulative
29 grade point average of 2.75, and maintains progress toward program completion.
30 c. The state board of higher education shall provide to any student certified as
31 being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction a North Dakota

- 1 scholarship, a North Dakota academic scholarship, or a North Dakota career and
2 technical education scholarship in the amount of five hundred dollars each term if
3 the student is enrolled in a qualifying registered apprenticeship program within
4 this state. The state board of higher education and the state board for career and
5 technical education shall establish:
- 6 (1) Procedures to administer the scholarship;
7 (2) Requirements for eligibility, including full-time enrollment, program progress,
8 and a minimum grade point average or its equivalency; and
9 (3) A payment schedule.
- 10 2. The state board shall monitor each scholarship recipient to ensure the student meets
11 the academic and other requirements of this section. Upon determining a recipient
12 student has failed to meet the requirements of this section, the board shall provide
13 notification to the student within ten business days.
- 14 3. A student is not entitled to receive more than six thousand dollars under this section.
- 15 4. The state board of higher education shall forward the scholarship directly to the
16 institution in which the student is enrolled.
- 17 5. The state board of higher education may ~~not~~ issue a scholarship under this section
18 which is in excess of the total cost of attendance, as determined by the institution of
19 higher education, when considering all financial aid sources.
- 20 6. a. This section does not require a student to be enrolled in consecutive semesters,
21 quarters, or clock-hour terms.
- 22 b. A scholarship under this section is valid only for six academic years after the
23 student's graduation from high school and may be applied to a graduate or
24 professional program.
- 25 6-7. A scholarship under this section is available to any eligible resident student who fulfills
26 the requirements of section 15.1-21-02.10 and who:
- 27 a. Graduates from a high school in this state;
28 b. Graduates from a high school in a bordering state under chapter 15.1-29;
29 c. Graduates from a nonpublic high school in a bordering state while residing with a
30 custodial parent in this state; or

- 1 d. Completes a program of home education supervised in accordance with chapter
2 15.1-23.
- 3 ~~7-8.~~ a. For purposes of North Dakota scholarship eligibility under this section, "full-time"
4 has the same meaning as the term is defined by the institution the student is
5 attending.
- 6 b. A student who is enrolled less than full-time may retain scholarship eligibility if the
7 student is in the final semester, quarter, or clock-hour term before program
8 completion. The waiver of the full-time enrollment status requirement for
9 scholarship eligibility may not apply to a student more than once.
- 10 c. For the purpose of North Dakota scholarship eligibility under this section,
11 "progress toward program completion" means earning the following minimum
12 number of credits after each semester, quarter, or clock-hour term disbursement
13 to qualify for the subsequent disbursement:
- 14 (1) Twenty-four credits after disbursement two;
15 (2) Thirty-nine credits after disbursement three;
16 (3) Fifty-four credits after disbursement four;
17 (4) Sixty-nine credits after disbursement five;
18 (5) Eighty-four credits after disbursement six; and
19 (6) Ninety-nine credits after disbursement seven.
- 20 ~~8-9.~~ For purposes of scholarship eligibility under this section, "clock-hour term" has the
21 same meaning as the term is defined by the state board of higher education. The state
22 board of higher education shall determine the conversion of:
- 23 a. Clock hours to credit hours; and
24 b. Percentage-based grading to grade point average.

25 **SECTION 9. APPROPRIATION - NORTH DAKOTA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OFFICE -**
26 **SUPPLEMENTAL STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS.** There is appropriated out
27 of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of
28 \$12,200,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the North Dakota university
29 system office for the purpose of providing supplemental student financial assistance grants, for
30 the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
SB 2147**

Education Committee (Rep. Heinert, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0229.06002](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2147 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

2025 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2147

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Education and Environment Division Prairie Room, State Capitol

SB 2147
3/13/2025

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new subsection relating to student financial assistance grants, dual credit scholarships, and the scholars program, and to amend and reenact sections relating to the skilled workforce student loan repayment and scholarship programs, Native American scholarships, and the North Dakota scholarship, and to provide an appropriation

3:48 p.m. Chairman Nathe opened the meeting.

Members present: Chairman Nathe, Vice Chairman Swiontek, Representatives Louser, Hanson, Martinson, Richter and Sanford.

Discussion Topics:

- Required distances
- Eligibility Guidelines

3:49 p.m. Patrick Heinert, Representative, District 82, introduced the bill.

3:52 p.m. Brenda Zastoupil, Financial Aid Director, NDUS, testified in favor #41244.

4:08 p.m. Jonathan Sickler, Senator, District 7, testified in favor.

4:11 p.m. Chairman Nathe adjourned the meeting.

Steven Riehl, Committee Clerk

**SB2147**

House Appropriations - Education & Environment

March 13, 2025

Brenda Zastoupil, Financial Aid Director, NDUS

701.328.2906 | brenda.zastoupil@ndus.edu

Chair Nathe, and members of the House Appropriations Education & Environment Committee. My name is Brenda Zastoupil. I serve as the Director of Financial Aid for the North Dakota University System. I am submitting supporting testimony and information on SB2147.

This bill provides administrative amendments for several of the state scholarships and grant programs, and creates a new program called the Supplemental State Grant. State-funded financial aid programs are a critical component of affordability for students. In 2023-24, over 13,000 awards totaling \$25.6 million were issued to ND resident students attending institutions within ND. These awards also included students from other states who have committed to live and work in ND through the ND Career Builders Scholarship. Additionally, 233 awards totaling \$3.4 million were issued in student loan repayments to support workforce development through the ND Career Builders Loan Repayment program, to tribal institutions to support the education of non-beneficiary students through the Tribally Controlled Colleges Assistance Grant program, to ND resident qualifying for the Professional Student Exchange Program, and for the promotion of doctoral program in the state.

The bill provides for the following amendments:

- **ND Career Builders Scholarship & Loan Repayment**

- Page 2, Subsection 4(c) & Page 5, Subsection 7 – Border state employers often have employees filling in-demand jobs in ND but who live across the border. This amendment would provide more flexibility to meet the goal of drawing critical workforce to ND.
- Page 3, Subsection 10 & Page 6, Subsection 13 – Provides clarity as to what “private-sector” donor means.
- Page 5, Subsection 8 – Currently, the ND Career Builders Scholarship program is forgoing matching funds as donors are unable to commit to the clause that the matching funds be repaid if the student fails to meet their obligation to the state. The proposed change would open matches to support in-demand occupations, including education. Additionally, this change would provide more options for employers to actively engage with the student through an agreement of their own, while supporting the student in their pursuit of a certificate or degree in an in-demand area. The state-funded portion of the scholarship remains as the student’s obligation.
- Page 5, Subsection 8, Lines 24-25 – This is clean-up language as all students who are enrolled are also maintaining academic progress, which is stated in the latter part of the sentence. The criteria for holding a 2.5 cumulative GPA to receive payment is unchanged (see Page 5, Section 6).

- Page 5, Section 9 – On occasion, students enter qualifying programs of study and receive the ND Career Builders Scholarship but then transfer to another qualifying program of study. Current language states that a student must complete the program of study that they received funding for, or face repayment of the award. Students who transfer from one eligible program to another should not be penalized if they meet the intent of the program. As an example, a student who transfers from diesel technology to emergency medical services, and who fulfills their obligation to live and work within ND in an in-demand occupation, has truly met the spirit of the program. Currently this student would have to repay their award.
- **Supplemental State Grant** (Section 5, Page 7-8) – The ND State Grant is a need-based grant awarded to ND resident students demonstrating financial need based on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and estimated cost of attendance. The 5-year average number of awardees receiving this need-based grant is 6,329. The maximum grant for full-time enrollment is \$1,375 per semester or \$917 per quarter. Ninety percent of the awards are based on full-time enrollment, but the amount can be prorated for part-time enrollment. In 2023-24, 6,381 students were issued this need-based grant at a total of \$15.1 million.

This supplemental scholarship is designed to assist qualifying State Grant recipients in meeting their costs when the Federal Pell Grant and the base State Grant do not cover tuition. This supplemental award may only be issued if the student is first awarded a State Grant, and if total family income does not exceed \$80,000. It limits the award to fall and spring terms. It provides for eligibility at qualifying public, private and tribal institutions, as does the base State Grant, but limits the award to no more than the highest tuition rate in the NDUS (mirrors language for the ND Scholars Program).

An evaluation of the 2022-23 State Grant recipients and their total family income, as determined through the FAFSA, showed that 2,426 State Grant recipients would have qualified for this supplemental award. The estimated cost, after the base State Grant and Pell Grant were deducted from tuition was \$6.1 million. The biennial cost, therefore, would be \$12.1 million, which is reflected in Section 9 of the bill.

- Finally, this bill adds language to statute that directs the ND University System regarding situations wherein students who receive state scholarships or grants are awarded over total cost of attendance (COA) when all other non-repayable scholarships or grants are taken into consideration. COA includes tuition, fees, books, supplies/course materials/equipment, housing and food, transportation, daycare, miscellaneous, and other educational expenses. The amendment passed by House Education would allow the students to maintain their full award.

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

SB 2147
3/20/2025

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new subsection to section 15-10-38.4, a new subsection to section 15-62.4-03, a new section to chapter 15-62.4, and a new subsection to section 15-62.5-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to student financial assistance grants, dual-credit tuition scholarships, and the scholars program; to amend and reenact sections 15-10-38.1, 15-10-38.2, 15-63-05, and 15.1-21-02.6 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the skilled workforce student loan repayment and scholarship programs, Native American scholarships, and the North Dakota scholarship; and to provide an appropriation.

9:34 a.m. Chairman Vigesaa opened the meeting.

Members present: Chairman Vigesaa, Vice Chairman Kempenich, Representatives Anderson, Berg, Bosch, Brandenburg, Fisher, Hanson, Louser, Martinson, Meier, Mitskog, Monson, Murphy, Nathe, Nelson, O'Brien, Pyle, Richter, Sanford, Stemen, Swiontek, Wagner

Discussion Topics:

- Bill Schedule

9:35 a.m. Representative Nathe requested committee to wait on bill until Appropriations Education and Environment Division can hold a meeting.

9:35 a.m. Chairman Vigesaa closed the meeting.

Krystal Eberle, Committee Clerk

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Education and Environment Division Prairie Room, State Capitol

SB 2147
3/21/2025

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new subsection relating to student financial assistance grants, dual credit scholarships, and the scholars program, and to amend and reenact sections relating to the skilled workforce student loan repayment and scholarship programs, Native American scholarships, and the North Dakota scholarship, and to provide an appropriation

8:01 a.m. Chairman Nathe opened the meeting.

Members present: Chairman Nathe, Representatives Louser, Hanson, Martinson, Richter and Sanford.

Members absent: Vice Chairman Swiontek.

Discussion Topics:

- Committee Action

8:03 a.m. Brenda Zastoupil, Financial Aid Director, NDUS, answered questions.

8:10 a.m. Representative Richter, moved to amend bill from \$12,200,000. to \$2,000,000.

8:10 a.m. Representative Sanford second.

8:10 a.m. Roll call vote

Representatives	Vote
Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Steve Swiontek	A
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	N
Representative Scott Louser	Y
Representative Bob Martinson	A
Representative David Richter	Y
Representative Mark Sanford	Y

Motion passed 4-1-2

8:11 a.m. Represent Hanson moved Do Pass as amended.

8:11 a.m. Representative Richter second.

8:12 a.m. Roll call vote on Do Pass as amended.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Steve Swiontek	A
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	Y
Representative Scott Louser	Y
Representative Bob Martinson	A
Representative David Richter	Y
Representative Mark Sanford	Y

Motion passed 5-0-2

8:13 a.m. Corey Quirk, Deputy CIO, NDUS, in favor.

8:40 a.m. Chairman Nathe adjourned the meeting.

Steven Riehl, Committee Clerk

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

SB 2147
3/27/2025

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new subsection to section 15-10-38.4, a new subsection to section 15-62.4-03, a new section to chapter 15-62.4, and a new subsection to section 15-62.5-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to student financial assistance grants, dual-credit tuition scholarships, and the scholars program; to amend and reenact sections 15-10-38.1, 15-10-38.2, 15-63-05, and 15.1-21-02.6 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the skilled workforce student loan repayment and scholarship programs, Native American scholarships, and the North Dakota scholarship; and to provide an appropriation.

10:55 a.m. Chairman Vigesaa opened the meeting.

Members present: Chairman Vigesaa, Vice Chairman Kempenich, Representatives Anderson, Berg, Bosch, Brandenburg, Fisher, Hanson, Louser, Martinson, Meier, Mitskog, Monson, Murphy, Nathe, Nelson, O'Brien, Pyle, Richter, Sanford, Stemen, Swiontek, Wagner

Discussion Topics:

- Career Builder Program
- Committee Action

10:55 a.m. Representative Nathe proposed Amendment LC#25.0229.06003, #44315.

11:05 a.m. Representative Nathe moved to adopt Amendment LC#25.0229.06003.

11:05 a.m. Representative Monson seconded the motion.

11:05 a.m. Roll Call Vote

Representatives	Vote
Representative Don Vigesaa	Y
Representative Keith Kempenich	Y
Representative Bert Anderson	Y
Representative Mike Berg	Y
Representative Glen Bosch	Y
Representative Mike Brandenburg	Y
Representative Jay Fisher	Y
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	N
Representative Scott Louser	Y
Representative Bob Martinson	Y
Representative Lisa Meier	Y
Representative Alisa Mitskog	Y
Representative David Monson	Y
Representative Eric J. Murphy	N
Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y

Representative Emily O'Brien	Y
Representative Brandy L. Pyle	N
Representative David Richter	Y
Representative Mark Sanford	Y
Representative Gregory Stemen	Y
Representative Steve Swiontek	Y
Representative Scott Wagner	Y

11:05 a.m. Motion passed 20-3-0.

11:06 a.m. Representative Nathe moved Do Pass as Amended.

11:06 a.m. Representative Hanson seconded the motion.

11:15 a.m. Roll Call Vote

Representatives	Vote
Representative Don Vigesaa	N
Representative Keith Kempenich	N
Representative Bert Anderson	Y
Representative Mike Berg	N
Representative Glen Bosch	N
Representative Mike Brandenburg	N
Representative Jay Fisher	N
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	Y
Representative Scott Louser	Y
Representative Bob Martinson	Y
Representative Lisa Meier	Y
Representative Alisa Mitskog	Y
Representative David Monson	Y
Representative Eric J. Murphy	N
Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y
Representative Emily O'Brien	Y
Representative Brandy L. Pyle	N
Representative David Richter	Y
Representative Mark Sanford	Y
Representative Gregory Stemen	Y
Representative Steve Swiontek	Y
Representative Scott Wagner	Y

11:15 a.m. Motion passed 15-8-0.

11:15 a.m. Representative Hanson will carry the bill.

11:17 a.m. Chairman Vigesaa closed the meeting.

Krystal Eberle, Committee Clerk

March 21, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

CO
3/27/25
1 of 13

SENATE BILL NO. 2147

Introduced by

Senators Sickler, Schaible, Sorvaag

Representatives Richter, Sanford

In place of the amendments (25.0229.06002) adopted by the House, Senate Bill No. 2147 is amended by amendment (25.0229.06003) as follows:

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new subsection to section 15-10-38.4, a new subsection to section 15-62.4-03, a new section to chapter 15-62.4, and a new subsection to section 15-62.5-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to student financial assistance grants, dual-credit tuition scholarships, and the scholars program; to amend and reenact sections 15-10-38.1, 15-10-38.2, 15-63-05, and 15.1-21-02.6 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the skilled workforce student loan repayment and scholarship programs, Native American scholarships, and the North Dakota scholarship; and to provide an appropriation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 15-10-38.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15-10-38.1. Skilled workforce student loan repayment program - Skilled workforce student loan repayment program fund - Continuing appropriation - Report.

1. There is created in the state treasury the skilled workforce student loan repayment program fund. The fund consists of moneys transferred into the fund by the legislative assembly, matching funds received, and loan repayments. Moneys in the fund are appropriated to the state board of higher education on a continuing basis for the purpose of distributing student loan repayment grants directly to the Bank of North Dakota or other participating lender to repay outstanding student loan principal balances for eligible applicants. The state board of higher education may transfer

- 1 money between this fund and the skilled workforce scholarship fund established in
2 section 15-10-38.2.
- 3 2. The state board of higher education shall adopt policies and procedures to develop,
4 implement, promote, and administer a skilled workforce student loan repayment
5 program in cooperation with the Bank of North Dakota and the North Dakota workforce
6 development council with the intent of attracting and retaining individuals for
7 professional or technical skills in high demand in this state.
- 8 3. The North Dakota workforce development council in cooperation with job service North
9 Dakota shall use available labor market information to determine annually the eligible
10 high-demand professional and technical skills and emerging occupations in this state.
- 11 4. Graduates of degree or certificate programs from institutions or entities in any state
12 may apply for the skilled workforce student loan repayment program. To be eligible to
13 receive student loan repayment grants under the program, the applicant:
- 14 a. Must have successfully completed an educational program from an institution of
15 higher education;
- 16 b. Must have a student loan with the Bank of North Dakota or other participating
17 lender;
- 18 c. Following completion of an educational program, must reside and work in this
19 state in an eligible high-demand or emerging occupation or reside within fifty
20 miles [80.47 kilometers] of this state and work in this state in an eligible
21 high-demand or emerging occupation; and
- 22 d. Must have met and shall continue to meet any requirements established in
23 applicable state board of higher education procedures.
- 24 5. The state board of higher education shall adopt procedures to ensure compliance with
25 residency and occupation requirements after completion of the educational program.
- 26 6. The state board of higher education shall distribute student loan repayment grants
27 from the skilled workforce student loan repayment program fund directly to the Bank of
28 North Dakota or other participating lender to repay outstanding student loan principal
29 balances for eligible applicants. The maximum annual student loan repayment grant
30 amount for which an applicant may qualify is five thousand six hundred sixty-seven
31 dollars, or one-third of the applicant's outstanding student loan principal balance upon

1 initial application for the program, whichever is less. The maximum total student loan
2 repayment grant amount for which any applicant may qualify is seventeen thousand
3 dollars.

4 7. If an individual is receiving loan forgiveness under any other state program, the
5 individual may not receive a student loan repayment grant under this section during
6 the same application year.

7 8. An individual may receive a combined total of no more than seventeen thousand
8 dollars under this section and the skilled workforce scholarship program under section
9 15-10-38.2.

10 9. The state board of higher education shall provide one dollar of funding for each one
11 dollar of funds raised from the private sector or other public sources. Any matching
12 funds received must be deposited in the skilled workforce student loan repayment
13 program fund.

14 10. An applicant for student loan repayment under this section is ineligible if the applicant:

15 a. Provides or directs matching funds; or

16 b. Is the husband, wife, father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter, father-in-law,
17 mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, stepchild,
18 uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, or grandchild of:

19 (1) The individual providing or directing matching funds; or

20 (2) An individual authorized to make decisions on behalf of an entity providing
21 or directing matching funds, including a controlling shareholder, member of
22 the governing body, director, or managing partner.

23 11. The state board of higher education shall provide a biennial program report to the
24 legislative management by September first of each even-numbered year. The report
25 must include information regarding:

26 a. The eligible high-demand professional and technical skills and emerging
27 occupations;

28 b. The number of applicants, eligible applicants, and applicants receiving awards;

29 c. The amount of matching funds raised; and

30 d. The average and total amounts awarded under the program.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 15-10-38.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15-10-38.2. Skilled workforce scholarship program - Skilled workforce scholarship fund - Continuing appropriation - Report.

1. There is created in the state treasury the skilled workforce scholarship fund. The fund consists of moneys transferred into the fund by the legislative assembly, matching funds received, and scholarship repayments. Moneys in the fund are appropriated to the state board of higher education on a continuing basis for the purpose of providing grants to institutions of higher education related to skilled workforce scholarships. Institutions of higher education include institutions under the control of the state board of higher education, North Dakota nonpublic accredited institutions of higher education, tribally controlled community colleges, state-approved educator training programs, and North Dakota institutions approved to operate by the North Dakota board of career and technical education. The state board of higher education may transfer money between this fund and the skilled workforce student loan repayment program fund established in section 15-10-38.1.
2. The state board of higher education shall adopt policies and procedures to develop, implement, promote, and administer a skilled workforce scholarship program in cooperation with the Bank of North Dakota and the North Dakota workforce development council with the intent of attracting and retaining individuals for professional or technical skills in high demand in this state.
3. The North Dakota workforce development council in cooperation with job service North Dakota shall use available labor market information to determine annually the eligible high-demand professional and technical skills and emerging occupations in this state.
4. The state board of higher education and the workforce development council shall compile a list of qualifying educational programs annually. A qualifying educational program is a program resulting in attainment of an associate's degree or lower credential program that may be completed within four semesters, six quarters, or the final two years of a baccalaureate program. A qualifying educational program also must pertain to the professional and technical skills and emerging occupations in high

1 demand in this state, as determined under subsection 3. Qualifying educational
2 programs may include degree or certificate programs.

3 5. Individuals enrolled in a qualifying educational program in this state may apply for a
4 scholarship under this section. Scholarships are limited to the amount charged each
5 quarter, semester, or term by the educational institution for the tuition, fees, books, and
6 supplies required for the qualifying educational program. The scholarships are
7 intended to supplement any other scholarship or financial aid grant received by a
8 student to assist the student with the costs of the qualifying educational program. An
9 individual may not receive a combined total exceeding seventeen thousand dollars
10 under this section and the skilled workforce loan repayment program under section
11 15-10-38.1.

12 6. To be eligible for a scholarship payment under this section, a student must be enrolled
13 full time in an eligible program and have at least a 2.5 cumulative grade point average,
14 based on a 4.0 grading system, or maintain academic progress in the program
15 according to program requirements. A student may not receive scholarships under this
16 section for more than the equivalent of four semesters of full-time enrollment or six
17 quarters of full-time enrollment.

18 7. Upon completion of a qualifying educational program, a student who received a
19 scholarship under this section must reside and work in this state in an eligible
20 high-demand or emerging occupation for a minimum of three years or reside within
21 fifty miles [80.47 kilometers] of this state and work in this state in an eligible
22 high-demand or emerging occupation for a minimum of three years.

23 8. ~~An~~ Except as provided in subsection 9, an individual shall repay the scholarship,
24 excluding the matching funds portion of the scholarship, pursuant to the terms in the
25 individual's scholarship award agreement if the individual fails to maintain ~~either a 2.5~~
26 ~~cumulative grade point average or~~ academic progress according to program
27 requirements while enrolled, withdraws voluntarily or involuntarily before the
28 completion of the program for which a scholarship has been received, or fails to ~~reside~~
29 ~~and work in this state in an eligible high-demand or emerging occupation for at least~~
30 ~~three years following degree or certificate completion~~ comply with subsection 7.

- 1 9. An individual who receives a scholarship under this section and who transfers from
2 one eligible academic program to another eligible academic program must complete
3 the program within two years and meet all other eligibility requirements to be exempt
4 from the repayment provisions under subsection 8.
- 5 10. The state board of higher education, in conjunction with the Bank of North Dakota,
6 may allow an individual who received payment under this section to delay or cancel
7 repayment under this section due to financial difficulty, military service, death, or total
8 disability.
- 9 ~~10-11.~~ Each quarter, semester, or term, the state board of higher education shall distribute
10 grants to institutions of higher education to provide the amounts necessary for the
11 scholarships awarded to the students enrolled in each institution.
- 12 ~~11-12.~~ The state board of higher education shall provide one dollar of funding for each one
13 dollar raised from the private sector or other public sources. Any matching funds
14 received must be deposited in the skilled workforce scholarship fund.
- 15 ~~12-13.~~ An applicant for a scholarship payment under this section is ineligible if the applicant:
16 a. Provides or directs matching funds; or
17 b. Is the husband, wife, father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter, father-in-law,
18 mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, stepchild,
19 uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, or grandchild of:
20 (1) The individual providing or directing matching funds; or
21 (2) An individual authorized to make decisions on behalf of an entity providing
22 or directing matching funds, including a controlling shareholder, member of
23 the governing body, director, or managing partner.
- 24 14. The state board of higher education may ~~not~~ issue a scholarship under this section
25 which is in excess of the total cost of attendance, as determined by the institution of
26 higher education, when considering all financial aid sources.
- 27 15. The state board of higher education shall provide a biennial program report to the
28 legislative management by September first of each even-numbered year. The report
29 must include information regarding:
30 a. The eligible high-demand professional and technical skills and emerging
31 occupations;

- 1 b. The qualifying educational programs;
- 2 c. The number of applicants, eligible applicants, and applicants receiving awards;
- 3 d. The amount of matching funds raised; and
- 4 e. The average and total amounts awarded under the program.

5 **SECTION 3.** A new subsection to section 15-10-38.4 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 created and enacted as follows:

7 The board may ~~not~~ issue a scholarship under this section which is in excess of the
8 total cost of attendance, as determined by the institution of higher education, when
9 considering all financial aid sources.

10 **SECTION 4.** A new subsection to section 15-62.4-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is
11 created and enacted as follows:

12 The board may ~~not~~ issue a grant under this chapter which is in excess of the total cost
13 of attendance, as determined by the institution of higher education, when considering
14 all financial aid sources.

15 **SECTION 5.** A new section to chapter 15-62.4 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
16 and enacted as follows:

17 **Supplemental state grant award.**

- 18 1. An individual eligible for a student financial assistance grant under this chapter may be
19 considered for a supplemental state grant award if the individual's total family income,
20 as identified on the free application for federal student aid, is no more than eighty
21 thousand dollars.
- 22 2. A supplemental state grant award may not be provided for the summer term.
- 23 3. Each semester or quarter, the state board of higher education shall provide to an
24 eligible student a supplemental state grant award in an amount that, combined with
25 the individual's student financial assistance grant and any federal Pell grant award,
26 does not exceed the tuition charged at the institution in which the student is enrolled.
27 The amount may not exceed the highest undergraduate semester tuition charged at
28 an institution of higher education under the control of the state board of higher
29 education.

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1 4. If funding appropriated for this program is not sufficient to pay the full amount of the
2 grant award under subsection 3, the state board of higher education may prorate the
3 amount.

4 5. The state board of higher education may impose deadlines to qualify for an award
5 under this section.

6 **SECTION 6.** A new subsection to section 15-62.5-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is
7 created and enacted as follows:

8 The board may ~~not~~ issue a scholarship under this chapter which is in excess of the
9 total cost of attendance, as determined by the institution of higher education, when
10 considering all financial aid sources.

11 **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-63-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is
12 amended and reenacted as follows:

13 **15-63-05. Scholarship payments - Conditions.**

14 Upon the award of a scholarship, the recipient is eligible for a credit at the enrolling
15 institution of higher learning or accredited career and technical education program with a
16 physical presence in this state. The scholarship may be applied to tuition, fees, room and board,
17 books and supplies, and other educational expenses not to exceed six hundred sixty-seven
18 dollars per quarter or clock-hour term or one thousand dollars per semester. Awards may not
19 exceed two thousand dollars in any academic year and may ~~not~~ be issued in excess of the total
20 cost of attendance, as determined by the institution of higher education, when considering all
21 financial aid sources. The board for Native American scholarships may reduce the amount of
22 any scholarship to accord with individual financial need or funds available. The board for Native
23 American scholarships may set a priority application date. At the beginning of each quarter,
24 clock-hour term, or semester, the North Dakota university system shall verify enrollment and
25 other eligibility criteria set forth by the state board for Native American scholarships for awarded
26 applicants before issuing payment to the enrolling institution. After the enrolling institution has
27 deducted the amount due to the institution, the remaining balance must be distributed to the
28 awarded applicant for necessary expenses during the quarter, clock-hour term, or semester.

29 **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-21-02.6 of the North Dakota Century Code is
30 amended and reenacted as follows:

15.1-21-02.6. North Dakota scholarship - Amount - Applicability. (Effective through July 31, 2030)

1. a. The state board of higher education shall provide to any student certified as being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction a North Dakota scholarship, a North Dakota academic scholarship, or a North Dakota career and technical education scholarship in the amount of seven hundred fifty dollars for each semester during which the student is enrolled full time at an accredited institution of higher education with a physical presence in this state, maintains a cumulative grade point average of 2.75, and maintains progress toward program completion.
- b. The state board of higher education shall provide to any student certified as being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction a North Dakota scholarship, a North Dakota academic scholarship, or a North Dakota career and technical education scholarship in the amount of five hundred dollars for each quarter or clock-hour term during which the student is enrolled full time at an accredited institution of higher education with a physical presence in this state or an accredited private career school with a physical presence in this state, maintains a cumulative grade point average of 2.75, and maintains progress toward program completion.
- c. The state board of higher education shall provide to any student certified as being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction a North Dakota scholarship, a North Dakota academic scholarship, or a North Dakota career and technical education scholarship in the amount of five hundred dollars each term if the student is enrolled in a qualifying registered apprenticeship program within this state. The state board of higher education and the state board for career and technical education shall establish:
 - (1) Procedures to administer the scholarship;
 - (2) Requirements for eligibility, including full-time enrollment, program progress, and a minimum grade point average or its equivalency; and
 - (3) A payment schedule.

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- 1 2. The state board shall monitor each scholarship recipient to ensure that the student
- 2 meets the academic and other requirements of this section. Upon determining a
- 3 recipient student has failed to meet the requirements of this section, the board shall
- 4 provide notification to the student within ten business days.
- 5 3. A student is not entitled to receive more than six thousand dollars under this section.
- 6 4. The state board of higher education shall forward the scholarship directly to the
- 7 institution in which the student is enrolled.
- 8 5. The state board of higher education may ~~not~~ issue a scholarship under this section
- 9 which is in excess of the total cost of attendance, as determined by the institution of
- 10 higher education, when considering all financial aid sources.
- 11 6. a. This section does not require a student to be enrolled in consecutive semesters,
- 12 quarters, or clock-hour terms.
- 13 b. A scholarship under this section is valid only for six academic years after the
- 14 student's graduation from high school and may be applied to a graduate or
- 15 professional program.
- 16 ~~6-7.~~ A scholarship under this section is available to any eligible resident student who fulfills
- 17 the requirements of section 15.1-21-02.4, section 15.1-21-02.5, or section
- 18 15.1-21-02.10 and who:
- 19 a. Graduates from a high school in this state;
- 20 b. Graduates from a high school in a bordering state under chapter 15.1-29;
- 21 c. Graduates from a nonpublic high school in a bordering state while residing with a
- 22 custodial parent in this state; or
- 23 d. Completes a program of home education supervised in accordance with chapter
- 24 15.1-23.
- 25 ~~7-8.~~ a. For purposes of North Dakota scholarship eligibility under this section, "full-time"
- 26 has the same meaning as the term is defined by the institution the student is
- 27 attending.
- 28 b. A student who is enrolled less than full-time may retain scholarship eligibility if the
- 29 student is in the final semester, quarter, or clock-hour term before program
- 30 completion. The waiver of the full-time enrollment status requirement for
- 31 scholarship eligibility may not apply to a student more than once.

11/04/13

c. For the purpose of North Dakota scholarship eligibility under this section, "progress toward program completion" means earning the following minimum number of credits after each semester, quarter, or clock-hour term disbursement to qualify for the subsequent disbursement:

- (1) Twenty-four credits after disbursement two;
- (2) Thirty-nine credits after disbursement three;
- (3) Fifty-four credits after disbursement four;
- (4) Sixty-nine credits after disbursement five;
- (5) Eighty-four credits after disbursement six; and
- (6) Ninety-nine credits after disbursement seven.

~~8-9.~~ For purposes of scholarship eligibility under this section, "clock-hour term" has the same meaning as the term is defined by the state board of higher education. The state board of higher education shall determine the conversion of:

- a. Clock hours to credit hours; and
- b. Percentage-based grading to grade point average.

North Dakota scholarship - Amount - Applicability. (Effective after July 31, 2030)

1. a. The state board of higher education shall provide to any student certified as being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction a North Dakota scholarship in the amount of seven hundred fifty dollars for each semester during which the student is enrolled full time at an accredited institution of higher education with a physical presence in this state, maintains a cumulative grade point average of 2.75, and maintains progress toward program completion.
- b. The state board of higher education shall provide to any student certified as being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction a North Dakota scholarship in the amount of five hundred dollars for each quarter or clock-hour term during which the student is enrolled full time at an accredited institution of higher education with a physical presence in this state or an accredited private career school with a physical presence in this state, maintains a cumulative grade point average of 2.75, and maintains progress toward program completion.
- c. The state board of higher education shall provide to any student certified as being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction a North Dakota

1 scholarship, a North Dakota academic scholarship, or a North Dakota career and
2 technical education scholarship in the amount of five hundred dollars each term if
3 the student is enrolled in a qualifying registered apprenticeship program within
4 this state. The state board of higher education and the state board for career and
5 technical education shall establish:

- 6 (1) Procedures to administer the scholarship;
7 (2) Requirements for eligibility, including full-time enrollment, program progress,
8 and a minimum grade point average or its equivalency; and
9 (3) A payment schedule.

10 2. The state board shall monitor each scholarship recipient to ensure the student meets
11 the academic and other requirements of this section. Upon determining a recipient
12 student has failed to meet the requirements of this section, the board shall provide
13 notification to the student within ten business days.

14 3. A student is not entitled to receive more than six thousand dollars under this section.

15 4. The state board of higher education shall forward the scholarship directly to the
16 institution in which the student is enrolled.

17 5. The state board of higher education may not issue a scholarship under this section
18 which is in excess of the total cost of attendance, as determined by the institution of
19 higher education, when considering all financial aid sources.

20 6. a. This section does not require a student to be enrolled in consecutive semesters,
21 quarters, or clock-hour terms.

22 b. A scholarship under this section is valid only for six academic years after the
23 student's graduation from high school and may be applied to a graduate or
24 professional program.

25 6.7. A scholarship under this section is available to any eligible resident student who fulfills
26 the requirements of section 15.1-21-02.10 and who:

- 27 a. Graduates from a high school in this state;
28 b. Graduates from a high school in a bordering state under chapter 15.1-29;
29 c. Graduates from a nonpublic high school in a bordering state while residing with a
30 custodial parent in this state; or

- 1 d. Completes a program of home education supervised in accordance with chapter
2 15.1-23.
- 3 7.8. a. For purposes of North Dakota scholarship eligibility under this section, "full-time"
4 has the same meaning as the term is defined by the institution the student is
5 attending.
- 6 b. A student who is enrolled less than full-time may retain scholarship eligibility if the
7 student is in the final semester, quarter, or clock-hour term before program
8 completion. The waiver of the full-time enrollment status requirement for
9 scholarship eligibility may not apply to a student more than once.
- 10 c. For the purpose of North Dakota scholarship eligibility under this section,
11 "progress toward program completion" means earning the following minimum
12 number of credits after each semester, quarter, or clock-hour term disbursement
13 to qualify for the subsequent disbursement:
- 14 (1) Twenty-four credits after disbursement two;
15 (2) Thirty-nine credits after disbursement three;
16 (3) Fifty-four credits after disbursement four;
17 (4) Sixty-nine credits after disbursement five;
18 (5) Eighty-four credits after disbursement six; and
19 (6) Ninety-nine credits after disbursement seven.
- 20 8.9. For purposes of scholarship eligibility under this section, "clock-hour term" has the
21 same meaning as the term is defined by the state board of higher education. The state
22 board of higher education shall determine the conversion of:
- 23 a. Clock hours to credit hours; and
24 b. Percentage-based grading to grade point average.

25 **SECTION 9. APPROPRIATION - NORTH DAKOTA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OFFICE -**
26 **SUPPLEMENTAL STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS.** There is appropriated out
27 of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of
28 ~~\$12,200,000~~ \$2,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the North Dakota
29 university system office for the purpose of providing supplemental student financial assistance
30 grants, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
SB 2147**

Appropriations Committee (Rep. Vigesaa, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0229.06003](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (15 YEAS, 8 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2147 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

25.0229.06003
Title.

Prepared for House Appropriations -
Education and Environment Division
Committee

March 21, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

SENATE BILL NO. 2147

Introduced by

Senators Sickler, Schaible, Sorvaag

Representatives Richter, Sanford

In place of the amendments (25.0229.06002) adopted by the House, Senate Bill No. 2147 is amended by amendment (25.229.06003) as follows:

- 1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new subsection to section 15-10-38.4, a new subsection
- 2 to section 15-62.4-03, a new section to chapter 15-62.4, and a new subsection to section
- 3 15-62.5-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to student financial assistance grants,
- 4 dual-credit tuition scholarships, and the scholars program; to amend and reenact sections
- 5 15-10-38.1, 15-10-38.2, 15-63-05, and 15.1-21-02.6 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating
- 6 to the skilled workforce student loan repayment and scholarship programs, Native American
- 7 scholarships, and the North Dakota scholarship; and to provide an appropriation.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

9 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-10-38.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
10 amended and reenacted as follows:

11 **15-10-38.1. Skilled workforce student loan repayment program - Skilled workforce** 12 **student loan repayment program fund - Continuing appropriation - Report.**

- 13 1. There is created in the state treasury the skilled workforce student loan repayment
- 14 program fund. The fund consists of moneys transferred into the fund by the legislative
- 15 assembly, matching funds received, and loan repayments. Moneys in the fund are
- 16 appropriated to the state board of higher education on a continuing basis for the
- 17 purpose of distributing student loan repayment grants directly to the Bank of North
- 18 Dakota or other participating lender to repay outstanding student loan principal
- 19 balances for eligible applicants. The state board of higher education may transfer

1 money between this fund and the skilled workforce scholarship fund established in
2 section 15-10-38.2.

3 2. The state board of higher education shall adopt policies and procedures to develop,
4 implement, promote, and administer a skilled workforce student loan repayment
5 program in cooperation with the Bank of North Dakota and the North Dakota workforce
6 development council with the intent of attracting and retaining individuals for
7 professional or technical skills in high demand in this state.

8 3. The North Dakota workforce development council in cooperation with job service North
9 Dakota shall use available labor market information to determine annually the eligible
10 high-demand professional and technical skills and emerging occupations in this state.

11 4. Graduates of degree or certificate programs from institutions or entities in any state
12 may apply for the skilled workforce student loan repayment program. To be eligible to
13 receive student loan repayment grants under the program, the applicant:

14 a. Must have successfully completed an educational program from an institution of
15 higher education;

16 b. Must have a student loan with the Bank of North Dakota or other participating
17 lender;

18 c. Following completion of an educational program, must reside and work in this
19 state in an eligible high-demand or emerging occupation or reside within fifty
20 miles [80.47 kilometers] of this state and work in this state in an eligible
21 high-demand or emerging occupation; and

22 d. Must have met and shall continue to meet any requirements established in
23 applicable state board of higher education procedures.

24 5. The state board of higher education shall adopt procedures to ensure compliance with
25 residency and occupation requirements after completion of the educational program.

26 6. The state board of higher education shall distribute student loan repayment grants
27 from the skilled workforce student loan repayment program fund directly to the Bank of
28 North Dakota or other participating lender to repay outstanding student loan principal
29 balances for eligible applicants. The maximum annual student loan repayment grant
30 amount for which an applicant may qualify is five thousand six hundred sixty-seven
31 dollars, or one-third of the applicant's outstanding student loan principal balance upon

- 1 initial application for the program, whichever is less. The maximum total student loan
2 repayment grant amount for which any applicant may qualify is seventeen thousand
3 dollars.
- 4 7. If an individual is receiving loan forgiveness under any other state program, the
5 individual may not receive a student loan repayment grant under this section during
6 the same application year.
- 7 8. An individual may receive a combined total of no more than seventeen thousand
8 dollars under this section and the skilled workforce scholarship program under section
9 15-10-38.2.
- 10 9. The state board of higher education shall provide one dollar of funding for each one
11 dollar of funds raised from the private sector or other public sources. Any matching
12 funds received must be deposited in the skilled workforce student loan repayment
13 program fund.
- 14 10. An applicant for student loan repayment under this section is ineligible if the applicant:
15 a. Provides or directs matching funds; or
16 b. Is the husband, wife, father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter, father-in-law,
17 mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, stepchild,
18 uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, or grandchild of:
19 (1) The individual providing or directing matching funds; or
20 (2) An individual authorized to make decisions on behalf of an entity providing
21 or directing matching funds, including a controlling shareholder, member of
22 the governing body, director, or managing partner.
- 23 11. The state board of higher education shall provide a biennial program report to the
24 legislative management by September first of each even-numbered year. The report
25 must include information regarding:
26 a. The eligible high-demand professional and technical skills and emerging
27 occupations;
28 b. The number of applicants, eligible applicants, and applicants receiving awards;
29 c. The amount of matching funds raised; and
30 d. The average and total amounts awarded under the program.

1 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-10-38.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3 **15-10-38.2. Skilled workforce scholarship program - Skilled workforce scholarship**
4 **fund - Continuing appropriation - Report.**

- 5 1. There is created in the state treasury the skilled workforce scholarship fund. The fund
6 consists of moneys transferred into the fund by the legislative assembly, matching
7 funds received, and scholarship repayments. Moneys in the fund are appropriated to
8 the state board of higher education on a continuing basis for the purpose of providing
9 grants to institutions of higher education related to skilled workforce scholarships.
10 Institutions of higher education include institutions under the control of the state board
11 of higher education, North Dakota nonpublic accredited institutions of higher
12 education, tribally controlled community colleges, state-approved educator training
13 programs, and North Dakota institutions approved to operate by the North Dakota
14 board of career and technical education. The state board of higher education may
15 transfer money between this fund and the skilled workforce student loan repayment
16 program fund established in section 15-10-38.1.
- 17 2. The state board of higher education shall adopt policies and procedures to develop,
18 implement, promote, and administer a skilled workforce scholarship program in
19 cooperation with the Bank of North Dakota and the North Dakota workforce
20 development council with the intent of attracting and retaining individuals for
21 professional or technical skills in high demand in this state.
- 22 3. The North Dakota workforce development council in cooperation with job service North
23 Dakota shall use available labor market information to determine annually the eligible
24 high-demand professional and technical skills and emerging occupations in this state.
- 25 4. The state board of higher education and the workforce development council shall
26 compile a list of qualifying educational programs annually. A qualifying educational
27 program is a program resulting in attainment of an associate's degree or lower
28 credential program that may be completed within four semesters, six quarters, or the
29 final two years of a baccalaureate program. A qualifying educational program also
30 must pertain to the professional and technical skills and emerging occupations in high

1 demand in this state, as determined under subsection 3. Qualifying educational
2 programs may include degree or certificate programs.

3 5. Individuals enrolled in a qualifying educational program in this state may apply for a
4 scholarship under this section. Scholarships are limited to the amount charged each
5 quarter, semester, or term by the educational institution for the tuition, fees, books, and
6 supplies required for the qualifying educational program. The scholarships are
7 intended to supplement any other scholarship or financial aid grant received by a
8 student to assist the student with the costs of the qualifying educational program. An
9 individual may not receive a combined total exceeding seventeen thousand dollars
10 under this section and the skilled workforce loan repayment program under section
11 15-10-38.1.

12 6. To be eligible for a scholarship payment under this section, a student must be enrolled
13 full time in an eligible program and have at least a 2.5 cumulative grade point average,
14 based on a 4.0 grading system, or maintain academic progress in the program
15 according to program requirements. A student may not receive scholarships under this
16 section for more than the equivalent of four semesters of full-time enrollment or six
17 quarters of full-time enrollment.

18 7. Upon completion of a qualifying educational program, a student who received a
19 scholarship under this section must reside and work in this state in an eligible
20 high-demand or emerging occupation for a minimum of three years or reside within
21 fifty miles [80.47 kilometers] of this state and work in this state in an eligible
22 high-demand or emerging occupation for a minimum of three years.

23 8. An~~Except as provided in subsection 9, an~~ individual shall repay the scholarship,
24 excluding the matching funds portion of the scholarship, pursuant to the terms in the
25 individual's scholarship award agreement if the individual fails to maintain ~~either a 2.5~~
26 ~~cumulative grade point average or academic progress according to program~~
27 ~~requirements while enrolled, withdraws voluntarily or involuntarily before the~~
28 ~~completion of the program for which a scholarship has been received, or fails to reside~~
29 ~~and work in this state in an eligible high-demand or emerging occupation for at least~~
30 ~~three years following degree or certificate completion~~comply with subsection 7.

1 9. An individual who receives a scholarship under this section and who transfers from
2 one eligible academic program to another eligible academic program must complete
3 the program within two years and meet all other eligibility requirements to be exempt
4 from the repayment provisions under subsection 8.

5 10. The state board of higher education, in conjunction with the Bank of North Dakota,
6 may allow an individual who received payment under this section to delay or cancel
7 repayment under this section due to financial difficulty, military service, death, or total
8 disability.

9 ~~10-11.~~ Each quarter, semester, or term, the state board of higher education shall distribute
10 grants to institutions of higher education to provide the amounts necessary for the
11 scholarships awarded to the students enrolled in each institution.

12 ~~11-12.~~ The state board of higher education shall provide one dollar of funding for each one
13 dollar raised from the private sector or other public sources. Any matching funds
14 received must be deposited in the skilled workforce scholarship fund.

15 ~~12-13.~~ An applicant for a scholarship payment under this section is ineligible if the applicant:
16 a. Provides or directs matching funds; or
17 b. Is the husband, wife, father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter, father-in-law,
18 mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, stepchild,
19 uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, or grandchild of:

20 (1) The individual providing or directing matching funds; or

21 (2) An individual authorized to make decisions on behalf of an entity providing
22 or directing matching funds, including a controlling shareholder, member of
23 the governing body, director, or managing partner.

24 14. The state board of higher education may not issue a scholarship under this section
25 which is in excess of the total cost of attendance, as determined by the institution of
26 higher education, when considering all financial aid sources.

27 15. The state board of higher education shall provide a biennial program report to the
28 legislative management by September first of each even-numbered year. The report
29 must include information regarding:

30 a. The eligible high-demand professional and technical skills and emerging
31 occupations;

- 1 b. The qualifying educational programs;
- 2 c. The number of applicants, eligible applicants, and applicants receiving awards;
- 3 d. The amount of matching funds raised; and
- 4 e. The average and total amounts awarded under the program.

5 **SECTION 3.** A new subsection to section 15-10-38.4 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 created and enacted as follows:

7 The board may not issue a scholarship under this section which is in excess of the
8 total cost of attendance, as determined by the institution of higher education, when
9 considering all financial aid sources.

10 **SECTION 4.** A new subsection to section 15-62.4-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is
11 created and enacted as follows:

12 The board may not issue a grant under this chapter which is in excess of the total cost
13 of attendance, as determined by the institution of higher education, when considering
14 all financial aid sources.

15 **SECTION 5.** A new section to chapter 15-62.4 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
16 and enacted as follows:

17 **Supplemental state grant award.**

- 18 1. An individual eligible for a student financial assistance grant under this chapter may be
19 considered for a supplemental state grant award if the individual's total family income,
20 as identified on the free application for federal student aid, is no more than eighty
21 thousand dollars.
- 22 2. A supplemental state grant award may not be provided for the summer term.
- 23 3. Each semester or quarter, the state board of higher education shall provide to an
24 eligible student a supplemental state grant award in an amount that, combined with
25 the individual's student financial assistance grant and any federal Pell grant award,
26 does not exceed the tuition charged at the institution in which the student is enrolled.
27 The amount may not exceed the highest undergraduate semester tuition charged at
28 an institution of higher education under the control of the state board of higher
29 education.

1 4. If funding appropriated for this program is not sufficient to pay the full amount of the
2 grant award under subsection 3, the state board of higher education may prorate the
3 amount.

4 5. The state board of higher education may impose deadlines to qualify for an award
5 under this section.

6 **SECTION 6.** A new subsection to section 15-62.5-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is
7 created and enacted as follows:

8 The board may ~~not~~ issue a scholarship under this chapter which is in excess of the
9 total cost of attendance, as determined by the institution of higher education, when
10 considering all financial aid sources.

11 **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-63-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is
12 amended and reenacted as follows:

13 **15-63-05. Scholarship payments - Conditions.**

14 Upon the award of a scholarship, the recipient is eligible for a credit at the enrolling
15 institution of higher learning or accredited career and technical education program with a
16 physical presence in this state. The scholarship may be applied to tuition, fees, room and board,
17 books and supplies, and other educational expenses not to exceed six hundred sixty-seven
18 dollars per quarter or clock-hour term or one thousand dollars per semester. Awards may not
19 exceed two thousand dollars in any academic year and may not be issued in excess of the total
20 cost of attendance, as determined by the institution of higher education, when considering all
21 financial aid sources. The board for Native American scholarships may reduce the amount of
22 any scholarship to accord with individual financial need or funds available. The board for Native
23 American scholarships may set a priority application date. At the beginning of each quarter,
24 clock-hour term, or semester, the North Dakota university system shall verify enrollment and
25 other eligibility criteria set forth by the state board for Native American scholarships for awarded
26 applicants before issuing payment to the enrolling institution. After the enrolling institution has
27 deducted the amount due to the institution, the remaining balance must be distributed to the
28 awarded applicant for necessary expenses during the quarter, clock-hour term, or semester.

29 **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-21-02.6 of the North Dakota Century Code is
30 amended and reenacted as follows:

15.1-21-02.6. North Dakota scholarship - Amount - Applicability. (Effective through July 31, 2030)

1. a. The state board of higher education shall provide to any student certified as being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction a North Dakota scholarship, a North Dakota academic scholarship, or a North Dakota career and technical education scholarship in the amount of seven hundred fifty dollars for each semester during which the student is enrolled full time at an accredited institution of higher education with a physical presence in this state, maintains a cumulative grade point average of 2.75, and maintains progress toward program completion.
- b. The state board of higher education shall provide to any student certified as being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction a North Dakota scholarship, a North Dakota academic scholarship, or a North Dakota career and technical education scholarship in the amount of five hundred dollars for each quarter or clock-hour term during which the student is enrolled full time at an accredited institution of higher education with a physical presence in this state or an accredited private career school with a physical presence in this state, maintains a cumulative grade point average of 2.75, and maintains progress toward program completion.
- c. The state board of higher education shall provide to any student certified as being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction a North Dakota scholarship, a North Dakota academic scholarship, or a North Dakota career and technical education scholarship in the amount of five hundred dollars each term if the student is enrolled in a qualifying registered apprenticeship program within this state. The state board of higher education and the state board for career and technical education shall establish:
 - (1) Procedures to administer the scholarship;
 - (2) Requirements for eligibility, including full-time enrollment, program progress, and a minimum grade point average or its equivalency; and
 - (3) A payment schedule.

1 2. The state board shall monitor each scholarship recipient to ensure that the student
2 meets the academic and other requirements of this section. Upon determining a
3 recipient student has failed to meet the requirements of this section, the board shall
4 provide notification to the student within ten business days.

5 3. A student is not entitled to receive more than six thousand dollars under this section.

6 4. The state board of higher education shall forward the scholarship directly to the
7 institution in which the student is enrolled.

8 5. The state board of higher education may not issue a scholarship under this section
9 which is in excess of the total cost of attendance, as determined by the institution of
10 higher education, when considering all financial aid sources.

11 6. a. This section does not require a student to be enrolled in consecutive semesters,
12 quarters, or clock-hour terms.

13 b. A scholarship under this section is valid only for six academic years after the
14 student's graduation from high school and may be applied to a graduate or
15 professional program.

16 6-7. A scholarship under this section is available to any eligible resident student who fulfills
17 the requirements of section 15.1-21-02.4, section 15.1-21-02.5, or section
18 15.1-21-02.10 and who:

- 19 a. Graduates from a high school in this state;
20 b. Graduates from a high school in a bordering state under chapter 15.1-29;
21 c. Graduates from a nonpublic high school in a bordering state while residing with a
22 custodial parent in this state; or
23 d. Completes a program of home education supervised in accordance with chapter
24 15.1-23.

25 7-8. a. For purposes of North Dakota scholarship eligibility under this section, "full-time"
26 has the same meaning as the term is defined by the institution the student is
27 attending.
28 b. A student who is enrolled less than full-time may retain scholarship eligibility if the
29 student is in the final semester, quarter, or clock-hour term before program
30 completion. The waiver of the full-time enrollment status requirement for
31 scholarship eligibility may not apply to a student more than once.

- 1 c. For the purpose of North Dakota scholarship eligibility under this section,
2 "progress toward program completion" means earning the following minimum
3 number of credits after each semester, quarter, or clock-hour term disbursement
4 to qualify for the subsequent disbursement:
5 (1) Twenty-four credits after disbursement two;
6 (2) Thirty-nine credits after disbursement three;
7 (3) Fifty-four credits after disbursement four;
8 (4) Sixty-nine credits after disbursement five;
9 (5) Eighty-four credits after disbursement six; and
10 (6) Ninety-nine credits after disbursement seven.

- 11 8.9. For purposes of scholarship eligibility under this section, "clock-hour term" has the
12 same meaning as the term is defined by the state board of higher education. The state
13 board of higher education shall determine the conversion of:
14 a. Clock hours to credit hours; and
15 b. Percentage-based grading to grade point average.

16 **North Dakota scholarship - Amount - Applicability. (Effective after July 31, 2030)**

- 17 1. a. The state board of higher education shall provide to any student certified as
18 being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction a North Dakota
19 scholarship in the amount of seven hundred fifty dollars for each semester during
20 which the student is enrolled full time at an accredited institution of higher
21 education with a physical presence in this state, maintains a cumulative grade
22 point average of 2.75, and maintains progress toward program completion.
23 b. The state board of higher education shall provide to any student certified as
24 being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction a North Dakota
25 scholarship in the amount of five hundred dollars for each quarter or clock-hour
26 term during which the student is enrolled full time at an accredited institution of
27 higher education with a physical presence in this state or an accredited private
28 career school with a physical presence in this state, maintains a cumulative
29 grade point average of 2.75, and maintains progress toward program completion.
30 c. The state board of higher education shall provide to any student certified as
31 being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction a North Dakota

1 scholarship, a North Dakota academic scholarship, or a North Dakota career and
2 technical education scholarship in the amount of five hundred dollars each term if
3 the student is enrolled in a qualifying registered apprenticeship program within
4 this state. The state board of higher education and the state board for career and
5 technical education shall establish:

- 6 (1) Procedures to administer the scholarship;
7 (2) Requirements for eligibility, including full-time enrollment, program progress,
8 and a minimum grade point average or its equivalency; and
9 (3) A payment schedule.

10 2. The state board shall monitor each scholarship recipient to ensure the student meets
11 the academic and other requirements of this section. Upon determining a recipient
12 student has failed to meet the requirements of this section, the board shall provide
13 notification to the student within ten business days.

14 3. A student is not entitled to receive more than six thousand dollars under this section.

15 4. The state board of higher education shall forward the scholarship directly to the
16 institution in which the student is enrolled.

17 5. The state board of higher education may not issue a scholarship under this section
18 which is in excess of the total cost of attendance, as determined by the institution of
19 higher education, when considering all financial aid sources.

20 6. a. This section does not require a student to be enrolled in consecutive semesters,
21 quarters, or clock-hour terms.

22 b. A scholarship under this section is valid only for six academic years after the
23 student's graduation from high school and may be applied to a graduate or
24 professional program.

25 6-7. A scholarship under this section is available to any eligible resident student who fulfills
26 the requirements of section 15.1-21-02.10 and who:

- 27 a. Graduates from a high school in this state;
28 b. Graduates from a high school in a bordering state under chapter 15.1-29;
29 c. Graduates from a nonpublic high school in a bordering state while residing with a
30 custodial parent in this state; or

- 1 d. Completes a program of home education supervised in accordance with chapter
2 15.1-23.
- 3 7.8. a. For purposes of North Dakota scholarship eligibility under this section, "full-time"
4 has the same meaning as the term is defined by the institution the student is
5 attending.
- 6 b. A student who is enrolled less than full-time may retain scholarship eligibility if the
7 student is in the final semester, quarter, or clock-hour term before program
8 completion. The waiver of the full-time enrollment status requirement for
9 scholarship eligibility may not apply to a student more than once.
- 10 c. For the purpose of North Dakota scholarship eligibility under this section,
11 "progress toward program completion" means earning the following minimum
12 number of credits after each semester, quarter, or clock-hour term disbursement
13 to qualify for the subsequent disbursement:
- 14 (1) Twenty-four credits after disbursement two;
15 (2) Thirty-nine credits after disbursement three;
16 (3) Fifty-four credits after disbursement four;
17 (4) Sixty-nine credits after disbursement five;
18 (5) Eighty-four credits after disbursement six; and
19 (6) Ninety-nine credits after disbursement seven.
- 20 8.9. For purposes of scholarship eligibility under this section, "clock-hour term" has the
21 same meaning as the term is defined by the state board of higher education. The state
22 board of higher education shall determine the conversion of:
- 23 a. Clock hours to credit hours; and
24 b. Percentage-based grading to grade point average.

25 **SECTION 9. APPROPRIATION - NORTH DAKOTA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OFFICE -**
26 **SUPPLEMENTAL STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS.** There is appropriated out
27 of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of
28 ~~\$12,200,000~~ \$2,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the North Dakota
29 university system office for the purpose of providing supplemental student financial assistance
30 grants, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

2025 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

SB 2147

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

SB 2147
4/18/2025
Conference Committee

Relating to student financial assistance grants, dual-credit tuition scholarships, and the scholars program and to the skilled workforce student loan repayment and scholarship programs, Native American scholarships, and the North Dakota scholarship; and to provide an appropriation.
--

9:35 a.m. Chair Axtman called the hearing to order.

Members Present: Chair Axtman; Senators: Sorvaag and Gerhardt; Chairman Richter; Representatives: Nathe and Hanson

Discussion Topics:

- Full benefit of scholarship
- Administrative burden
- Initial intent of funding

9:36 a.m. Representative Richter explained the reasoning for the House changes on the bill.

9:47 a.m. Chair Axtman suggested getting feedback from the university systems.

9:53 a.m. Representative Nathe would like to go back to his committee and then meet again.

9:53 a.m. Chair Axtman closed the hearing.

Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

SB 2147
4/21/2025
Conference Committee

Relating to student financial assistance grants, dual-credit tuition scholarships, and the scholars program and to the skilled workforce student loan repayment and scholarship programs, Native American scholarships, and the North Dakota scholarship; and to provide an appropriation.

11:00 a.m. Chair Axtman called the hearing to order.

Members Present: Chair Axtman; Senators: Sorvaag and Gerhardt; Chairman Richter; Representatives: Nathe and Hanson

Discussion Topics:

- Funding levels
- Add the word "not"
- Dual credit

11:00 a.m. Chair Axtman called for discussion.

11:01 a.m. Representative Richter explained the chart he handed out testimony #45104.

11:04 a.m. Brenda Zastoupil, ND University Systems, answered questions from the committee.

11:16 a.m. Chair Axtman recessed the hearing.

11:18 a.m. Chair Axtman reconvened the hearing.

11:20 a.m. Chair Axtman stated the committee will meet one more time to discuss the amount of the appropriation.

11:20 a.m. Chair Axtman closed the hearing.

Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk

Biennium	Annual	# of Students	\$ Per Student Per Semester
\$ 12,100,000	\$ 6,050,000	2,400	\$ 1,260
\$ 2,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	2,400	\$ 208
\$ 7,000,000	\$ 3,500,000	2,400	\$ 729

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

SB 2147
4/24/2025
Conference Committee

Relating to student financial assistance grants, dual-credit tuition scholarships, and the scholars program and to the skilled workforce student loan repayment and scholarship programs, Native American scholarships, and the North Dakota scholarship; and to provide an appropriation.

9:08 a.m. Chair Axtman called the hearing to order.

Members Present: Chair Axtman; Senators: Sorvaag and Gerhardt; Chairman Richter; Representatives: Nathe and Hanson

Discussion Topics:

- Committee Action
- Appropriation stays the same

9:09 a.m. Chair Axtman called for discussion.

9:09 a.m. Representative Richter moved Amendment LC #25.0229.06004.

9:10 a.m. Representative Nathe seconded the motion.

9:11 a.m. Roll call vote - motion carried 6-0-0.

9:11 a.m. Representative Nathe moved in place of House amendment LC #25.0229.06003 adopted by the House, the bill is amended by the conference committee amendment LC #25.0229.06004.

9:11 a.m. Senator Sorvaag seconded the motion.

9:12 a.m. Roll call vote - motion carried 6-0-0.

9:12 a.m. Senator Axtman is the Senate bill carrier.

9:12 a.m. Representative Richter is the House bill carrier.

9:13 a.m. Chair Axtman closed the hearing.

Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk

April 24, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

YG 4/24/25
1 of 13

SENATE BILL NO. 2147

Introduced by

Senators Sickler, Schaible, Sorvaag

Representatives Richter, Sanford

In place of amendment (25.0229.06003) adopted by the House, Senate Bill No. 2147 is amended by amendment (25.0229.06004) as follows:

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new subsection to section 15-10-38.4, a new subsection
2 to section 15-62.4-03, a new section to chapter 15-62.4, and a new subsection to section
3 15-62.5-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to student financial assistance grants,
4 dual-credit tuition scholarships, and the scholars program; to amend and reenact sections
5 15-10-38.1, 15-10-38.2, 15-63-05, and 15.1-21-02.6 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating
6 to the skilled workforce student loan repayment and scholarship programs, Native American
7 scholarships, and the North Dakota scholarship; and to provide an appropriation.

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

9 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-10-38.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
10 amended and reenacted as follows:

11 **15-10-38.1. Skilled workforce student loan repayment program - Skilled workforce**
12 **student loan repayment program fund - Continuing appropriation - Report.**

13 1. There is created in the state treasury the skilled workforce student loan repayment
14 program fund. The fund consists of moneys transferred into the fund by the legislative
15 assembly, matching funds received, and loan repayments. Moneys in the fund are
16 appropriated to the state board of higher education on a continuing basis for the
17 purpose of distributing student loan repayment grants directly to the Bank of North
18 Dakota or other participating lender to repay outstanding student loan principal
19 balances for eligible applicants. The state board of higher education may transfer

1 money between this fund and the skilled workforce scholarship fund established in
2 section 15-10-38.2.

3 2. The state board of higher education shall adopt policies and procedures to develop,
4 implement, promote, and administer a skilled workforce student loan repayment
5 program in cooperation with the Bank of North Dakota and the North Dakota workforce
6 development council with the intent of attracting and retaining individuals for
7 professional or technical skills in high demand in this state.

8 3. The North Dakota workforce development council in cooperation with job service North
9 Dakota shall use available labor market information to determine annually the eligible
10 high-demand professional and technical skills and emerging occupations in this state.

11 4. Graduates of degree or certificate programs from institutions or entities in any state
12 may apply for the skilled workforce student loan repayment program. To be eligible to
13 receive student loan repayment grants under the program, the applicant:

14 a. Must have successfully completed an educational program from an institution of
15 higher education;

16 b. Must have a student loan with the Bank of North Dakota or other participating
17 lender;

18 c. Following completion of an educational program, must reside and work in this
19 state in an eligible high-demand or emerging occupation or reside within fifty
20 miles [80.47 kilometers] of this state and work in this state in an eligible
21 high-demand or emerging occupation; and

22 d. Must have met and shall continue to meet any requirements established in
23 applicable state board of higher education procedures.

24 5. The state board of higher education shall adopt procedures to ensure compliance with
25 residency and occupation requirements after completion of the educational program.

26 6. The state board of higher education shall distribute student loan repayment grants
27 from the skilled workforce student loan repayment program fund directly to the Bank of
28 North Dakota or other participating lender to repay outstanding student loan principal
29 balances for eligible applicants. The maximum annual student loan repayment grant
30 amount for which an applicant may qualify is five thousand six hundred sixty-seven
31 dollars, or one-third of the applicant's outstanding student loan principal balance upon

1 initial application for the program, whichever is less. The maximum total student loan
2 repayment grant amount for which any applicant may qualify is seventeen thousand
3 dollars.

4 7. If an individual is receiving loan forgiveness under any other state program, the
5 individual may not receive a student loan repayment grant under this section during
6 the same application year.

7 8. An individual may receive a combined total of no more than seventeen thousand
8 dollars under this section and the skilled workforce scholarship program under section
9 15-10-38.2.

10 9. The state board of higher education shall provide one dollar of funding for each one
11 dollar of funds raised from the private sector or other public sources. Any matching
12 funds received must be deposited in the skilled workforce student loan repayment
13 program fund.

14 10. An applicant for student loan repayment under this section is ineligible if the applicant:

15 a. Provides or directs matching funds; or

16 b. Is the husband, wife, father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter, father-in-law,
17 mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, stepchild,
18 uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, or grandchild of:

19 (1) The individual providing or directing matching funds; or

20 (2) An individual authorized to make decisions on behalf of an entity providing
21 or directing matching funds, including a controlling shareholder, member of
22 the governing body, director, or managing partner.

23 11. The state board of higher education shall provide a biennial program report to the
24 legislative management by September first of each even-numbered year. The report
25 must include information regarding:

26 a. The eligible high-demand professional and technical skills and emerging
27 occupations;

28 b. The number of applicants, eligible applicants, and applicants receiving awards;

29 c. The amount of matching funds raised; and

30 d. The average and total amounts awarded under the program.

1 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-10-38.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3 **15-10-38.2. Skilled workforce scholarship program - Skilled workforce scholarship**
4 **fund - Continuing appropriation - Report.**

- 5 1. There is created in the state treasury the skilled workforce scholarship fund. The fund
6 consists of moneys transferred into the fund by the legislative assembly, matching
7 funds received, and scholarship repayments. Moneys in the fund are appropriated to
8 the state board of higher education on a continuing basis for the purpose of providing
9 grants to institutions of higher education related to skilled workforce scholarships.
10 Institutions of higher education include institutions under the control of the state board
11 of higher education, North Dakota nonpublic accredited institutions of higher
12 education, tribally controlled community colleges, state-approved educator training
13 programs, and North Dakota institutions approved to operate by the North Dakota
14 board of career and technical education. The state board of higher education may
15 transfer money between this fund and the skilled workforce student loan repayment
16 program fund established in section 15-10-38.1.
- 17 2. The state board of higher education shall adopt policies and procedures to develop,
18 implement, promote, and administer a skilled workforce scholarship program in
19 cooperation with the Bank of North Dakota and the North Dakota workforce
20 development council with the intent of attracting and retaining individuals for
21 professional or technical skills in high demand in this state.
- 22 3. The North Dakota workforce development council in cooperation with job service North
23 Dakota shall use available labor market information to determine annually the eligible
24 high-demand professional and technical skills and emerging occupations in this state.
- 25 4. The state board of higher education and the workforce development council shall
26 compile a list of qualifying educational programs annually. A qualifying educational
27 program is a program resulting in attainment of an associate's degree or lower
28 credential program that may be completed within four semesters, six quarters, or the
29 final two years of a baccalaureate program. A qualifying educational program also
30 must pertain to the professional and technical skills and emerging occupations in high

1 demand in this state, as determined under subsection 3. Qualifying educational
2 programs may include degree or certificate programs.

3 5. Individuals enrolled in a qualifying educational program in this state may apply for a
4 scholarship under this section. Scholarships are limited to the amount charged each
5 quarter, semester, or term by the educational institution for the tuition, fees, books, and
6 supplies required for the qualifying educational program. The scholarships are
7 intended to supplement any other scholarship or financial aid grant received by a
8 student to assist the student with the costs of the qualifying educational program. An
9 individual may not receive a combined total exceeding seventeen thousand dollars
10 under this section and the skilled workforce loan repayment program under section
11 15-10-38.1.

12 6. To be eligible for a scholarship payment under this section, a student must be enrolled
13 full time in an eligible program and have at least a 2.5 cumulative grade point average,
14 based on a 4.0 grading system, or maintain academic progress in the program
15 according to program requirements. A student may not receive scholarships under this
16 section for more than the equivalent of four semesters of full-time enrollment or six
17 quarters of full-time enrollment.

18 7. Upon completion of a qualifying educational program, a student who received a
19 scholarship under this section must reside and work in this state in an eligible
20 high-demand or emerging occupation for a minimum of three years or reside within
21 fifty miles [80.47 kilometers] of this state and work in this state in an eligible
22 high-demand or emerging occupation for a minimum of three years.

23 8. ~~An~~ Except as provided in subsection 9, an individual shall repay the scholarship,
24 excluding the matching funds portion of the scholarship, pursuant to the terms in the
25 individual's scholarship award agreement if the individual fails to maintain either a 2.5
26 ~~cumulative grade point average or~~ academic progress according to program
27 requirements while enrolled, withdraws voluntarily or involuntarily before the
28 completion of the program for which a scholarship has been received, or fails to reside
29 ~~and work in this state in an eligible high-demand or emerging occupation for at least~~
30 ~~three years following degree or certificate completion~~ comply with subsection 7.

- 1 9. An individual who receives a scholarship under this section and who transfers from
2 one eligible academic program to another eligible academic program must complete
3 the program within two years and meet all other eligibility requirements to be exempt
4 from the repayment provisions under subsection 8.
- 5 10. The state board of higher education, in conjunction with the Bank of North Dakota,
6 may allow an individual who received payment under this section to delay or cancel
7 repayment under this section due to financial difficulty, military service, death, or total
8 disability.
- 9 ~~10-11.~~ Each quarter, semester, or term, the state board of higher education shall distribute
10 grants to institutions of higher education to provide the amounts necessary for the
11 scholarships awarded to the students enrolled in each institution.
- 12 ~~11-12.~~ The state board of higher education shall provide one dollar of funding for each one
13 dollar raised from the private sector or other public sources. Any matching funds
14 received must be deposited in the skilled workforce scholarship fund.
- 15 ~~12-13.~~ An applicant for a scholarship payment under this section is ineligible if the applicant:
16 a. Provides or directs matching funds; or
17 b. Is the husband, wife, father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter, father-in-law,
18 mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, stepchild,
19 uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, or grandchild of:
20 (1) The individual providing or directing matching funds; or
21 (2) An individual authorized to make decisions on behalf of an entity providing
22 or directing matching funds, including a controlling shareholder, member of
23 the governing body, director, or managing partner.
- 24 14. The state board of higher education may not issue a scholarship under this section
25 which is in excess of the total cost of attendance, as determined by the institution of
26 higher education, when considering all financial aid sources.
- 27 15. The state board of higher education shall provide a biennial program report to the
28 legislative management by September first of each even-numbered year. The report
29 must include information regarding:
30 a. The eligible high-demand professional and technical skills and emerging
31 occupations;

- b. The qualifying educational programs;
- c. The number of applicants, eligible applicants, and applicants receiving awards;
- d. The amount of matching funds raised; and
- e. The average and total amounts awarded under the program.

SECTION 3. A new subsection to section 15-10-38.4 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

The board may not issue a scholarship under this section which is in excess of the total cost of attendance, as determined by the institution of higher education, when considering all financial aid sources.

SECTION 4. A new subsection to section 15-62.4-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

The board may not issue a grant under this chapter which is in excess of the total cost of attendance, as determined by the institution of higher education, when considering all financial aid sources.

SECTION 5. A new section to chapter 15-62.4 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Supplemental state grant award.

1. An individual eligible for a student financial assistance grant under this chapter may be considered for a supplemental state grant award if the individual's total family income, as identified on the free application for federal student aid, is no more than eighty thousand dollars.
2. A supplemental state grant award may not be provided for the summer term.
3. Each semester or quarter, the state board of higher education shall provide to an eligible student a supplemental state grant award in an amount that, combined with the individual's student financial assistance grant and any federal Pell grant award, does not exceed the tuition charged at the institution in which the student is enrolled. The amount may not exceed the highest undergraduate semester tuition charged at an institution of higher education under the control of the state board of higher education.

1 4. If funding appropriated for this program is not sufficient to pay the full amount of the
2 grant award under subsection 3, the state board of higher education may prorate the
3 amount.

4 5. The state board of higher education may impose deadlines to qualify for an award
5 under this section.

6 **SECTION 6.** A new subsection to section 15-62.5-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is
7 created and enacted as follows:

8 The board may not issue a scholarship under this chapter which is in excess of the
9 total cost of attendance, as determined by the institution of higher education, when
10 considering all financial aid sources.

11 **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-63-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is
12 amended and reenacted as follows:

13 **15-63-05. Scholarship payments - Conditions.**

14 Upon the award of a scholarship, the recipient is eligible for a credit at the enrolling
15 institution of higher learning or accredited career and technical education program with a
16 physical presence in this state. The scholarship may be applied to tuition, fees, room and board,
17 books and supplies, and other educational expenses not to exceed six hundred sixty-seven
18 dollars per quarter or clock-hour term or one thousand dollars per semester. Awards may not
19 exceed two thousand dollars in any academic year and may not be issued in excess of the total
20 cost of attendance, as determined by the institution of higher education, when considering all
21 financial aid sources. The board for Native American scholarships may reduce the amount of
22 any scholarship to accord with individual financial need or funds available. The board for Native
23 American scholarships may set a priority application date. At the beginning of each quarter,
24 clock-hour term, or semester, the North Dakota university system shall verify enrollment and
25 other eligibility criteria set forth by the state board for Native American scholarships for awarded
26 applicants before issuing payment to the enrolling institution. After the enrolling institution has
27 deducted the amount due to the institution, the remaining balance must be distributed to the
28 awarded applicant for necessary expenses during the quarter, clock-hour term, or semester.

29 **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-21-02.6 of the North Dakota Century Code is
30 amended and reenacted as follows:

15.1-21-02.6. North Dakota scholarship - Amount - Applicability. (Effective through July 31, 2030)

1. a. The state board of higher education shall provide to any student certified as being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction a North Dakota scholarship, a North Dakota academic scholarship, or a North Dakota career and technical education scholarship in the amount of seven hundred fifty dollars for each semester during which the student is enrolled full time at an accredited institution of higher education with a physical presence in this state, maintains a cumulative grade point average of 2.75, and maintains progress toward program completion.
- b. The state board of higher education shall provide to any student certified as being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction a North Dakota scholarship, a North Dakota academic scholarship, or a North Dakota career and technical education scholarship in the amount of five hundred dollars for each quarter or clock-hour term during which the student is enrolled full time at an accredited institution of higher education with a physical presence in this state or an accredited private career school with a physical presence in this state, maintains a cumulative grade point average of 2.75, and maintains progress toward program completion.
- c. The state board of higher education shall provide to any student certified as being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction a North Dakota scholarship, a North Dakota academic scholarship, or a North Dakota career and technical education scholarship in the amount of five hundred dollars each term if the student is enrolled in a qualifying registered apprenticeship program within this state. The state board of higher education and the state board for career and technical education shall establish:
 - (1) Procedures to administer the scholarship;
 - (2) Requirements for eligibility, including full-time enrollment, program progress, and a minimum grade point average or its equivalency; and
 - (3) A payment schedule.

1 2. The state board shall monitor each scholarship recipient to ensure that the student
2 meets the academic and other requirements of this section. Upon determining a
3 recipient student has failed to meet the requirements of this section, the board shall
4 provide notification to the student within ten business days.

5 3. A student is not entitled to receive more than six thousand dollars under this section.

6 4. The state board of higher education shall forward the scholarship directly to the
7 institution in which the student is enrolled.

8 5. The state board of higher education may not issue a scholarship under this section
9 which is in excess of the total cost of attendance, as determined by the institution of
10 higher education, when considering all financial aid sources.

11 6. a. This section does not require a student to be enrolled in consecutive semesters,
12 quarters, or clock-hour terms.

13 b. A scholarship under this section is valid only for six academic years after the
14 student's graduation from high school and may be applied to a graduate or
15 professional program.

16 ~~6-7.~~ A scholarship under this section is available to any eligible resident student who fulfills
17 the requirements of section 15.1-21-02.4, section 15.1-21-02.5, or section
18 15.1-21-02.10 and who:

19 a. Graduates from a high school in this state;

20 b. Graduates from a high school in a bordering state under chapter 15.1-29;

21 c. Graduates from a nonpublic high school in a bordering state while residing with a
22 custodial parent in this state; or

23 d. Completes a program of home education supervised in accordance with chapter
24 15.1-23.

25 ~~7-8.~~ a. For purposes of North Dakota scholarship eligibility under this section, "full-time"
26 has the same meaning as the term is defined by the institution the student is
27 attending.

28 b. A student who is enrolled less than full-time may retain scholarship eligibility if the
29 student is in the final semester, quarter, or clock-hour term before program
30 completion. The waiver of the full-time enrollment status requirement for
31 scholarship eligibility may not apply to a student more than once.

c. For the purpose of North Dakota scholarship eligibility under this section, "progress toward program completion" means earning the following minimum number of credits after each semester, quarter, or clock-hour term disbursement to qualify for the subsequent disbursement:

- (1) Twenty-four credits after disbursement two;
- (2) Thirty-nine credits after disbursement three;
- (3) Fifty-four credits after disbursement four;
- (4) Sixty-nine credits after disbursement five;
- (5) Eighty-four credits after disbursement six; and
- (6) Ninety-nine credits after disbursement seven.

~~8.9.~~ For purposes of scholarship eligibility under this section, "clock-hour term" has the same meaning as the term is defined by the state board of higher education. The state board of higher education shall determine the conversion of:

- a. Clock hours to credit hours; and
- b. Percentage-based grading to grade point average.

North Dakota scholarship - Amount - Applicability. (Effective after July 31, 2030)

1. a. The state board of higher education shall provide to any student certified as being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction a North Dakota scholarship in the amount of seven hundred fifty dollars for each semester during which the student is enrolled full time at an accredited institution of higher education with a physical presence in this state, maintains a cumulative grade point average of 2.75, and maintains progress toward program completion.
- b. The state board of higher education shall provide to any student certified as being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction a North Dakota scholarship in the amount of five hundred dollars for each quarter or clock-hour term during which the student is enrolled full time at an accredited institution of higher education with a physical presence in this state or an accredited private career school with a physical presence in this state, maintains a cumulative grade point average of 2.75, and maintains progress toward program completion.
- c. The state board of higher education shall provide to any student certified as being eligible by the superintendent of public instruction a North Dakota

1 scholarship, a North Dakota academic scholarship, or a North Dakota career and
2 technical education scholarship in the amount of five hundred dollars each term if
3 the student is enrolled in a qualifying registered apprenticeship program within
4 this state. The state board of higher education and the state board for career and
5 technical education shall establish:

- 6 (1) Procedures to administer the scholarship;
7 (2) Requirements for eligibility, including full-time enrollment, program progress,
8 and a minimum grade point average or its equivalency; and
9 (3) A payment schedule.

10 2. The state board shall monitor each scholarship recipient to ensure the student meets
11 the academic and other requirements of this section. Upon determining a recipient
12 student has failed to meet the requirements of this section, the board shall provide
13 notification to the student within ten business days.

14 3. A student is not entitled to receive more than six thousand dollars under this section.

15 4. The state board of higher education shall forward the scholarship directly to the
16 institution in which the student is enrolled.

17 5. The state board of higher education may not issue a scholarship under this section
18 which is in excess of the total cost of attendance, as determined by the institution of
19 higher education, when considering all financial aid sources.

20 6. a. This section does not require a student to be enrolled in consecutive semesters,
21 quarters, or clock-hour terms.

22 b. A scholarship under this section is valid only for six academic years after the
23 student's graduation from high school and may be applied to a graduate or
24 professional program.

25 6.7. A scholarship under this section is available to any eligible resident student who fulfills
26 the requirements of section 15.1-21-02.10 and who:

- 27 a. Graduates from a high school in this state;
28 b. Graduates from a high school in a bordering state under chapter 15.1-29;
29 c. Graduates from a nonpublic high school in a bordering state while residing with a
30 custodial parent in this state; or

- 1 d. Completes a program of home education supervised in accordance with chapter
2 15.1-23.
- 3 ~~7.8.~~ a. For purposes of North Dakota scholarship eligibility under this section, "full-time"
4 has the same meaning as the term is defined by the institution the student is
5 attending.
- 6 b. A student who is enrolled less than full-time may retain scholarship eligibility if the
7 student is in the final semester, quarter, or clock-hour term before program
8 completion. The waiver of the full-time enrollment status requirement for
9 scholarship eligibility may not apply to a student more than once.
- 10 c. For the purpose of North Dakota scholarship eligibility under this section,
11 "progress toward program completion" means earning the following minimum
12 number of credits after each semester, quarter, or clock-hour term disbursement
13 to qualify for the subsequent disbursement:
- 14 (1) Twenty-four credits after disbursement two;
15 (2) Thirty-nine credits after disbursement three;
16 (3) Fifty-four credits after disbursement four;
17 (4) Sixty-nine credits after disbursement five;
18 (5) Eighty-four credits after disbursement six; and
19 (6) Ninety-nine credits after disbursement seven.
- 20 ~~8.9.~~ For purposes of scholarship eligibility under this section, "clock-hour term" has the
21 same meaning as the term is defined by the state board of higher education. The state
22 board of higher education shall determine the conversion of:
- 23 a. Clock hours to credit hours; and
24 b. Percentage-based grading to grade point average.

25 **SECTION 9. APPROPRIATION - NORTH DAKOTA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OFFICE -**

26 **SUPPLEMENTAL STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS.** There is appropriated out
27 of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of
28 ~~\$12,200,000~~ \$2,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the North Dakota
29 university system office for the purpose of providing supplemental student financial assistance
30 grants, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

SB 2147 042425 0910 AM Roll Call Vote

Amendment

SB 2147

Date Submitted: April 24, 2025, 9:10 a.m.

Action: Passed

Amendment LC #: Pending LC #

Description of Amendment: Remove the overstrike on "not" throughout

Motioned By: Richter, David

Seconded By: Nathe, Mike

Emergency Clause: None

Vote Results: 6 - 0 - 0

Sen. Axtman, Michelle	Yea
Sen. Sorvaag, Ronald	Yea
Sen. Gerhardt, Justin	Yea
Rep. Richter, David	Yea
Rep. Nathe, Mike	Yea
Rep. Hanson, Karla Rose	Yea

SB 2147 042425 0912 AM Roll Call Vote

Final Recommendation

SB 2147

Date Submitted: April 24, 2025, 9:12 a.m.

Recommendation: In Place Of

Amendment LC #: 25.0229.06004

Engrossed LC #: N/A

Description:

Motioned By: Nathe, Mike

Seconded By: Sorvaag, Ronald

House Carrier: Richter, David

Senate Carrier: Axtman, Michelle

Emergency Clause: None

Vote Results: 6 - 0 - 0

Sen. Axtman, Michelle	Yea
Sen. Sorvaag, Ronald	Yea
Sen. Gerhardt, Justin	Yea
Rep. Richter, David	Yea
Rep. Nathe, Mike	Yea
Rep. Hanson, Karla Rose	Yea

**REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
SB 2147**

Your conference committee (Sens. Axtman, Sorvaag, Gerhardt and Reps. Richter, Nathe, Hanson) recommends that in place of amendment [25.0229.06003](#) adopted by the House, SB 2147 is amended by amendment [25.0229.06004](#).

SB 2147 was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.