

2025 SENATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SB 2221

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Workforce Development Committee Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2221
1/31/2025

Relating to eligibility for the skilled workforce scholarship program.
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10:17 a.m. Chairman Wobbema called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Wobbema, Vice-Chairman Axtman, Senator Boschee, Senator Larson, Senator Powers.

Discussion Topics:

- ND career build
- Credit limitations
- Nursing education
- Competency and skills-based approach

10:17 a.m. Senator Kristin Roers introduced the bill.

10:25 a.m. Brenda Zastoupil, ND University Financial Aid Director, testified in neutral.

Additional written testimony:

Tim Blasl, President of ND hospital Association, submitted testimony in favor #33059.

Cale Dunwoody, Vice President of Public Policy of Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce, submitted testimony in favor #33136

10:35 a.m. Chairman Wobbema closed the hearing.

Andrew Ficek, Committee Clerk

**2025 SB 2221****Senate Workforce Development Committee****Senator Mike Wobbema, Chairman****January 31, 2025**

Chairman Wobbema and members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee, I am Tim Blasl, President of the North Dakota Hospital Association (NDHA). I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 2221. I ask that you give this bill a **Do Pass** recommendation.

This bill expands the qualifying criteria for the skilled workforce student loan repayment program. To be eligible to receive student loan repayment grants under the current program, an applicant must:

- 1) Have successfully completed an educational program from an institution of higher education;
- 2) Have a student loan with the Bank of North Dakota or other participating lender;
- 3) Reside and work in North Dakota in an eligible high-demand or emerging occupation; and
- 4) Have met and continue to meet any requirements established in applicable state board of higher education procedures.

This bill would add that the third requirement is met if an applicant has completed a Master of Science degree in nursing while teaching four clinical credits per year and resides and works in the state in an occupation requiring the degree. Section two of the bill adds that a Master of Science degree in nursing, if the applicant teaches four clinical credits per calendar year, is a qualifying educational program for student loan repayment.

Hospitals support the bill because workforce is our number one challenge. We struggle to hire enough workers in almost all health care-related occupations, but nurses in particular are always in high demand. Anything we can do to encourage more people to go into nursing – and teach nursing - is beneficial. Expanding the list of those who qualify for student loan repayment as this bill does would be helpful to achieve that goal.

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

Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Blasl, President
North Dakota Hospital Association



Letter of Support – SB 2221

Friday, January 31, 2025

Chairman Wobbema and members of the Senate Work Force 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 2221.

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. The expanded eligibility of Skilled workforce student loan repayment program to include those holding a Master of Science in nursing, while teaching clinicals, and resides and works in this state in an occupation requiring the degree, will offer another incentive to attract, develop, and retain qualified individuals to fill the critical shortage of health care professionals throughout the state, without whom the health and wellbeing of our state would be in jeopardy.

It is imperative we take steps to attract, develop, and retain skilled workers to develop a robust workforce pipeline. This repayment program increases our regional competitiveness, further incentivizing qualified individuals to remain in the state, ensuring our families and communities are cared for while driving our state towards economic prosperity. 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

Workforce Development Committee Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2221
2/6/2025

Relating to eligibility for the skilled workforce student loan repayment program; and to amend and reenact subsection 4 of section 15-10-38.2 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to eligibility for the skilled workforce scholarship program.

9:13 a.m. Chairman Wobbema opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Wobbema, Vice-Chairman Axtman, Senator Boschee, Senator Larson, Senator Powers.

Discussion Topics:

- Master's degree holders
- Educators

9:18 a.m. Senator Powers moved Do Pass.

9:18 a.m. Senator Larson seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Mike Wobbema	Y
Senator Michelle Axtman	Y
Senator Josh Boschee	Y
Senator Diane Larson	Y
Senator Michelle Powers	Y

Motion passed 5-0-0.

Senator Powers will carry the bill.

9:22 p.m. Chairman Wobbema closed the hearing.

Andrew Ficek, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
SB 2221 ([25.0638.02000](#))

Workforce Development Committee (Sen. Wobbema, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2221 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar. This bill affects workforce development.

2025 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

SB 2221

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

SB 2221
3/17/2025

Relating to eligibility for the skilled workforce student loan repayment program and relating to eligibility for the skilled workforce scholarship program.

3:22 p.m. Chairman M. Ruby opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman M. Ruby, Representatives Beltz, Bolinske, Fegley, Hendrix, Holle, Kiefert, Rios, Rohr

Members Absent: Vice-Chairman Frelich, Representatives K. Anderson, Davis, Dobervich

Discussion Topics:

- Eligibility of teachers for clinicals
- Clinical faculty's eligibility for support

3:22 p.m. Senator Roers, District 27, introduced the bill.

3:26 p.m. Beth Sanford, President of the North Dakota Nurses Association, testified in favor and submitted testimony, #42234.

3:39 p.m. Sherri Miller, Executive Director of the North Dakota Nurses Association, testified in favor and submitted testimony, #42158.

Additional written testimony:

Melissa Moser, Lake Region State College, submitted testimony in favor, #41658.

Penny Brieze, Director of Advocacy of the North Dakota Nurses Association, submitted testimony in favor, #41714.

Julie Traynor, Consortium Director of the Dakota Nursing Program Consortium, submitted testimony in favor, #41791.

Richelle Johnson, Private Citizen, submitted testimony in favor, #41799.

Tim Blasl, President of the North Dakota Hospital Association, submitted testimony in favor, #41820.

Cale Dunwoody, FMWF Chamber of Commerce, submitted testimony in favor, #42213.

3:41 p.m. Chairman M. Ruby adjourned the meeting.

Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk

2025 SB 2221

Testimony in Support of Adding Master of Nursing to the Skilled Workforce Student Loan
Forgiveness Program SB 2221

Melissa A. Moser
414 13th Street NW
Devils Lake, ND 58301

House Human Services Committee

Representative Ruby, Chairman

Testimony in Support of SN 2221

Monday, March 17, 2025

Dear Chairman Ruby, Vice Chairman Frelich and the House Human Services Committee:

I am Melissa Moser, a resident of North Dakota and an Associate Professor at Lake Region State college. I am writing to request the inclusion of the Master of Nursing (MSN) degree in the Skilled Workforce Student Loan Forgiveness Program.

Nursing programs require instructors to hold a master's degree to ensure students receive high-quality education and training. This requirement is necessary for approval by the North Dakota Board of Nursing and other national nursing accrediting bodies. A master's degree provides nurse educators with the advanced knowledge and skills needed to teach complex nursing concepts and develop effective curricula. It also ensures they are up-to-date with the latest healthcare advancements, preparing students to meet the demands of the evolving healthcare environment. By maintaining high educational standards, nursing programs can produce competent graduates ready to provide excellent patient care and address the nursing shortage.

When I was hired in 2011 as a BSN, RN, I had to return to school to qualify for teaching at the college level. Since 2013, I have witnessed the critical need for qualified nurse educators firsthand. To effectively teach and support students in our nursing program, I completed my MSN in 2016. Unfortunately, I was not eligible for any loan forgiveness programs at that time, which placed a significant financial burden on my family and me.

Since then, I have pursued and completed a doctoral degree, entirely self-funded without any financial assistance from my employer or the state of North Dakota.

As a mentor for students in MSN programs specializing in nursing education, I have observed the financial struggles they face. Many of these students work full-time while pursuing their degrees, making them ineligible for traditional financial aid. This financial strain can be a significant barrier to completing their education and entering the field of nursing education. By including the Master of Nursing degree in the Skilled Workforce Student Loan Forgiveness Program, we can provide much-needed financial support to these dedicated individuals.

The shortage of nurse educators is a significant issue that impacts the entire healthcare system. According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), U.S. nursing schools turned away 65,766 qualified applicants in 2023 due to insufficient faculty, clinical sites, and other resources. The national nurse faculty vacancy rate is 7.8%, with most vacancies requiring or preferring a doctoral degree. Additionally, about one-third of the current nursing faculty workforce is expected to retire by 2025. This shortage limits the capacity of nursing programs and contributes to the broader nursing shortage.

By including the Master of Nursing degree in the Skilled Workforce Student Loan Forgiveness Program, we can encourage more nurses to pursue advanced degrees and careers in nursing education. This will help alleviate the faculty shortage and ensure that we can continue to educate and train the next generation of nurses.

Thank you for considering this important addition to the bill.

Sincerely,

Melissa Moser

Melissa Moser, DNP, RN, CNEcl



✧ 1912-2025 ✧
1515 Burnt Boat Drive
Suite C #325
Bismarck, ND 58503
701-335-6376

House Human Services Committee
Representative Ruby, Chairman
Testimony in Support of SN 2221
Monday, March 17, 2025

Chairman Ruby, Vice Chairman Frelich and the House Human Services Committee:

My name is Dr. Penny Brieese, and I have been a registered nurse in North Dakota for more than 20 years. I am a certified healthcare simulationist and nurse educator at the University of Jamestown and the Director of Advocacy for the North Dakota Nurses Association (NDNA). Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of SB 2221.

As difficult as it has been to find qualified nurses to staff our hospitals, long-term care facilities and clinics here in North Dakota, it has been even more difficult to find and retain nurse educators to teach young people the art of nursing. The lack of nurse educators is a nationwide crisis, one that must be addressed if we are to sustain the workforce of our healthcare system. SB 2221 addresses North Dakota's pressing nursing shortage by integrating a master's program into the skilled workforce student loan repayment program. Quite often, it is merely the additional financial burden of pursuing a higher nursing degree that prevents nurses from returning to school, as they are often still paying student loans from obtaining their undergraduate nursing degree. This bill will encourage nurses to pursue master's level education by providing them with that essential financial assistance. These masters prepared nurses will be qualified to teach and, in return for financial assistance, will be required to work in North Dakota as an educator, teaching four clinical credits each year. The requirements of this bill will not only increase the pool of nurse educators but will also aid in the retention of our nursing workforce. Recipients of the financial assistance will also be required to live and work in North Dakota for a set period of time, hopefully becoming integrated in their communities and coming to love North Dakota as much as I do.

The NDNA is the sole professional organization representing all nurses in North Dakota and we are committed to implementing effective recruitment and retention strategies for our nursing workforce. This bill aligns with our mission: "to advance the nursing profession by promoting professional development and advocating for healthcare issues that impact both nurses and the public at large". SB 2221 supports this mission and would benefit nursing education by enabling nurses to pursue higher degrees, making them qualified to instruct and train new nurses right here in North Dakota.

I ask that you unanimously pass SB 2221 to ensure that North Dakota has enough nurse educators to train a more sustainable nursing workforce in our state. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Dr. Penny Brieese, PhD, MS, BSN, RN, CHSE
Director of Advocacy
North Dakota Nurses Association
Associate Professor of Nursing
Simulation Lab Coordinator
University of Jamestown

Senate Bill 2221
House Human Services Committee
Representative Ruby, Chairman
Monday, March 17, 2025

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2221

Chairman Ruby, Vice Chairman Frelich and the House Human Services Committee:

My name is Julie Traynor. I am a nurse in ND and the Director of the Dakota Nursing Program Consortium. I am providing written testimony in support of Senate Bill 2221.

Over the past decade, I have found it increasingly more difficult to hire nursing faculty who are academically qualified to teach our students. A nursing faculty is required to have a master's degree or higher to teach in the classroom or to supervise RN students in the clinical area. Senate Bill 2221 will financially assist nurses to advance their degrees to become qualified to teach our nursing students. The bill adds a master's in nursing program to the skilled workforce student loan repayment program.

I have talked to many registered nurses with baccalaureate degrees who do not have the financial ability to fund a master's degree. There are many reasons, examples are: the nurse is the family's primary wage earner, they want to help fund their children's college educations, or they want to save for retirement. Tuition assistance provided by the skilled workforce student loan repayment program will make a difference in recruiting some of these nurses.

The Dakota Nursing Program partners and satellite locations are based in many rural areas where the nursing shortage is more intense than in urban areas. If we can get a few more nurse educators, we can educate more nurses. At one of our colleges, we have been trying to recruit a nurse educator for almost a year. This next fall, we may have to drop from two cohorts of students to one cohort of students for lack of faculty.

I ask for your support to pass SB 2221 to assist with growing a strong nursing workforce in North Dakota.

Julie Traynor, MSN, RN
Consortium Director, Dakota Nursing Program
701-230-1739
Julietraynor424@gmail.com

Testimony in Support of SB 2221

Sunday, March 16, 2025

Chairman Ruby, Vice Chairman Frelich, and Members of the House Human Services Committee:

My name is Richelle Johnson, and I am a nursing educator in North Dakota dedicated to preparing the next generation of nurses to meet our state's growing healthcare demands. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2221, a bill that directly addresses the urgent need for both nurses and nursing educators in our state.

North Dakota is facing a critical nursing shortage, and a key component of strengthening our workforce is ensuring we have enough qualified nursing faculty to educate future nurses. SB 2221 supports this effort by expanding the skilled workforce student loan repayment program to include master's-prepared nurses who commit to teaching clinical courses. This investment will not only ease the financial burden for those pursuing advanced nursing education but also increase the number of educators available to train new nurses.

As a nursing educator, I see firsthand the impact of faculty shortages on our ability to expand nursing programs and graduate enough nurses to meet patient care needs. This bill is a proactive solution that strengthens our workforce by recruiting and retaining both practicing nurses and educators in North Dakota. Participants in this program will gain financial assistance while also contributing to the profession by teaching—helping to ensure that our healthcare system remains strong for years to come.

I urge you to support SB 2221 with a **Do Pass** recommendation to build a sustainable nursing workforce and invest in the future of healthcare in our state. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richelle Johnson

Richelle Johnson DNP, RN



2025 SB 2221
House Human Services Committee
Representative Matthew Ruby, Chairman
March 17, 2025

Chairman Ruby and members of the House Human Services Committee, I am Tim Blasl, President of the North Dakota Hospital Association (NDHA). I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 2221. I ask that you give this bill a **Do Pass** recommendation.

This bill expands the qualifying criteria for the skilled workforce student loan repayment program. To be eligible to receive student loan repayment grants under the current program, an applicant must:

- 1) Have successfully completed an educational program from an institution of higher education;
- 2) Have a student loan with the Bank of North Dakota or other participating lender;
- 3) Reside and work in North Dakota in an eligible high-demand or emerging occupation; and
- 4) Have met and continue to meet any requirements established in applicable state board of higher education procedures.

This bill would add that the third requirement is met if an applicant has completed a Master of Science degree in nursing while teaching four clinical credits per year and resides and works in the state in an occupation requiring the degree. Section two of the bill adds that a Master of Science degree in nursing, if the applicant teaches four clinical credits per calendar year, is a qualifying educational program for student loan repayment.

Hospitals support the bill because workforce is our number one challenge. We struggle to hire enough workers in almost all health care-related occupations, but nurses in particular are always in high demand. Anything we can do to encourage more people to go into nursing – and teach nursing - is beneficial. Expanding the list of those who qualify for student loan repayment as this bill does would be helpful to achieve that goal.

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

Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Blasl, President
North Dakota Hospital Association



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701-335-6376

House Human Services Committee
Representative Ruby, Chairman
Testimony in Support of SN 2221
Monday, March 17, 2025

Chairman Ruby, Vice Chairman Frelich and the House Human Services Committee:

My name is Sherri Miller, and I have been a registered nurse in North Dakota for 26 years. Additionally, I am the Executive Director of the North Dakota Nurses Association (NDNA). Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of SB 2221.

The NDNA stands as the only professional organization representing all nurses in North Dakota. Part of our mission is to advance the nursing profession by promoting professional development and advocating for healthcare issues that impact both nurses and the public at large. We are committed to implementing effective recruitment and retention strategies for our nursing workforce. SB 2221 is one way to assist with this.

The bill would add a Master of Science degree in nursing to the student loan repayment program. A nurse will qualify for the program if they teach four clinical credits per year and reside and work in the state in an occupation requiring the degree.

Nurses make up the largest group of healthcare professionals, yet our state is currently facing a significant nursing demand due to a range of factors. This shortage is a complex challenge that has far-reaching effects on North Dakota's workforce, communities, and economy. We feel that SB 2221 is another step forward to assist nursing education and enhances our collective efforts to support nurses in North Dakota.

We urge you to pass the bill to ensure a stronger, more sustainable nursing workforce in our state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sherri Miller, BS, BSN, RN
Executive Director
North Dakota Nurses Association



Letter of Support – SB 2221

Monday, March 17, 2025

Chairman M. Ruby and Members of the House Human Services 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 2221.

At the FMWF Chamber, our mission is to protect and promote business, inspire individuals, cultivate communities, and influence action. Our members have consistently expressed concerns about the availability of high-quality, skilled workers. Expanding the eligibility of the skilled workforce student loan repayment program to include those holding a Master of Science in Nursing, who teach clinicals and reside and work in the state in an occupation requiring the degree, will provide an additional incentive to attract, develop, and retain qualified individuals. This is crucial in addressing the critical shortage of healthcare professionals across the state, without whom the health and well-being of North Dakota would be at risk.

It is essential that we take steps to attract, develop, and retain skilled workers to build a robust workforce pipeline. This repayment program enhances our regional competitiveness by further incentivizing qualified individuals to stay in the state, ensuring our families and communities are well cared for, while driving North Dakota toward economic prosperity. For these reasons, we urge the committee to approve this bill.

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

Sincerely,

Cale Dunwoody

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

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2221 (SB2221)

3-17-2025

Chair Ruby and Members of the House Human Services Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 2221 (SB2221). This bill is crucial in strengthening North Dakota's nursing workforce by supporting the development of qualified nursing educators. It provides financial assistance to those who are advancing their education in exchange for contributing to the education of the next generation of nurses as clinical instructors.

Problem:

- **Nursing Shortage:** North Dakota faces a significant nursing shortage, which has forced healthcare facilities to rely on traveling nurses and internally educated nurses to fill the gap. This highlights the urgent need for more qualified nurses and nursing educators to support our healthcare system.
- **Lack of Qualified Nursing Educators:** Across the state there is a shortage of qualified nursing educators to teach the next generation of nurses, even more so in rural areas where these professionals are in high demand.

Solution:

- **Building Our Own Nursing Workforce:** A key solution to this problem is to build our own nursing workforce from the ground up. **Step one is increasing the pool of qualified nurses to teach future nurses.** By supporting those who are both advancing their education **and** teaching future nurses, SB2221 directly addresses this gap.
- **Support for MSN-Qualified Educators:** SB2221 allows individuals who are in process or have completed a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) to teach clinical nursing courses to qualify for ND Career Builders scholarships and student loan repayment programs. This will help **incentivize more nursing professionals to pursue advanced degrees and become nursing educators.**

Benefits:

- **Building and Retaining a Qualified Workforce in Rural Communities:** SB2221 helps address the shortage of healthcare providers in rural areas by incentivizing nursing professionals to stay and work in these underserved communities. Additionally, it ensures that skilled nurses **remain in North Dakota**, supporting long-term workforce retention in areas where healthcare professionals are critically needed.
- **Allow Opportunities for Nursing Program Expansion:** allows future opportunities for creative collaboration between critical access hospitals and nursing programs (**more MSN prepared nurses to teach students and expand programs**).

In conclusion, SB2221 offers a vital solution to the nursing shortage in North Dakota by addressing the need to build our own nursing workforce from the ground up. By increasing the pool of qualified nursing educators and supporting them with financial incentives, **the bill fosters a cycle of growth and workforce development—ensuring that qualified educators continue to train new nurses, who in turn contribute to meeting the state's healthcare needs.** This approach not only strengthens the healthcare system but also supports the long-term development of a skilled, sustainable workforce. Passing this bill will ensure North Dakota's nursing professionals are well-prepared to serve the state's diverse populations. I urge the committee to support this important legislation.

Thank you and I will stand for any questions.

Dr. Beth Sanford
DNP, MSN, RN, ACN, CLC, LNC
President, North Dakota Nurses Association
President-Elect North Dakota Center for Nursing

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

SB 2221
3/19/2025

Relating to eligibility for the skilled workforce student loan repayment program and relating to eligibility for the skilled workforce scholarship program.

9:34 a.m. Chairman M. Ruby opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman M. Ruby, Vice-Chairman Frelich, Representatives K. Anderson, Beltz, Bolinske, Dobervich, Fegley, Holle, Kiefert, Rohr
Members Absent: Representatives Davis, Hendrix, Rios

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

9:34 a.m. Representative Rohr moved a Do Pass.

9:35 a.m. Representative Holle seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Matthew Ruby	Y
Representative Kathy Frelich	Y
Representative Karen Anderson	Y
Representative Mike Beltz	Y
Representative Macy Bolinske	Y
Representative Jayme Davis	AB
Representative Gretchen Dobervich	Y
Representative Cleyton Fegley	Y
Representative Jared Hendrix	AB
Representative Dawson Holle	Y
Representative Dwight Kiefert	Y
Representative Nico Rios	AB
Representative Karen Rohr	Y

9:36 a.m. Motion passed 10-0-3. Representative
Rohr will carry the bill.

9:36 a.m. Chairman M. Ruby closed the meeting.

Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk

Bill was reconsidered on 03/24/25.

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

SB 2221
3/24/2025

Relating to eligibility for the skilled workforce student loan repayment program and relating to eligibility for the skilled workforce scholarship program.

2:32 p.m. Chairman M. Ruby opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman M. Ruby, Vice-Chairman Frelich, Representatives K. Anderson, Beltz, Davis, Dobervich, Fegley, Hendrix, Holle, Kiefert, Rios, Rohr
Members Absent: Representative Bolinske

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

2:33 p.m. Representative Rohr moved to reconsider the committee's actions.

2:33 p.m. Representative Holle seconded the motion.

2:34 p.m. Voice vote passed

2:35 p.m. Representative Rohr proposed amendments relating to section 1, lines 8 and 9.

2:35 p.m. Vice-Chairman Frelich seconded the motion.

2:36 p.m. Voice vote passed.

2:36 p.m. Representative Rohr moved a Do Pass as amended.

2:36 p.m. Representative Holle seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Matthew Ruby	Y
Representative Kathy Frelich	Y
Representative Karen Anderson	Y
Representative Mike Beltz	Y
Representative Macy Bolinske	AB
Representative Jayme Davis	Y
Representative Gretchen Dobervich	Y
Representative Cleyton Fegley	Y
Representative Jared Hendrix	Y
Representative Dawson Holle	Y
Representative Dwight Kiefert	Y
Representative Nico Rios	Y
Representative Karen Rohr	Y

House Human Services Committee

SB 2221

3/24/2025

Page 2

2:37 p.m. Motion passed 12-0-1.

Representative Rohr will carry the bill.

2:37 p.m. Chairman M. Ruby closed the meeting.

Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk

March 24, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

VC 3/24/25
1 of 2

SENATE BILL NO. 2221

Introduced by

Senators Roers, Larson, Rummel

Representatives Lefor, Nathe, Rohr

- 1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new subsection to section 15-10-38.1 of the North
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to eligibility for the skilled workforce student loan repayment
3 program; and to amend and reenact subsection 4 of section 15-10-38.2 of the North Dakota
4 Century Code, relating to eligibility for the skilled workforce scholarship program.

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

- 6 **SECTION 1.** A new subsection to section 15-10-38.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
7 created and enacted as follows:

8 The requirement under subdivision c of subsection 4 is met if an individual is enrolled
9 in or has completed a master of science degree in nursing while teaching four clinical
10 credits per year and resides and works in this state in an occupation requiring the
11 degree.

- 12 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 4 of section 15-10-38.2 of the North Dakota
13 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 14 4. The state board of higher education and the workforce development council shall
15 compile a list of qualifying educational programs annually. A qualifying educational
16 program is:

- 17 a. Is a program resulting in attainment of an associate's degree or lower credential
18 program that may be completed within four semesters, six quarters, or the final
19 two years of a baccalaureate program. A qualifying educational program also
20 must

- 1 b. Must pertain to the professional and technical skills and emerging occupations in
- 2 high demand in this state, as determined under subsection 3. ~~Qualifying~~
- 3 ~~educational programs may~~
- 4 c. May include degree or certificate programs.
- 5 d. Notwithstanding any other requirements under this subsection, is a master of
- 6 science degree in nursing, if the individual teaches four clinical credits per
- 7 calendar year.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
SB 2221**

Human Services Committee (Rep. M. Ruby, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0638.02001](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2221 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.