

Introduced by

Legislative Management

(Taxation Committee)

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact ~~two new sections to chapter 6-09~~ a new section to chapter
2 15-10 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the development and implementation of a
3 skilled workforce scholarship program; to provide a continuing appropriation; and to provide for
4 a transfer.

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

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

8 ~~**Skilled workforce scholarship program - Development and implementation.**~~

9 ~~1. The Bank of North Dakota shall adopt rules to develop, implement, promote, and~~
10 ~~administer a skilled workforce scholarship program in conjunction with the North-~~
11 ~~Dakota university system and the workforce education advisory council with the intent~~
12 ~~of attracting and retaining students for professional or technical skills in high demand~~
13 ~~in this state.~~

14 ~~2. The North Dakota university system and the workforce education advisory council~~
15 ~~shall compile a list of qualifying educational programs by August first of each year.~~
16 ~~Qualifying educational programs must be able to be completed within four semesters~~
17 ~~or eight quarters and pertain to the technical skills in high demand in this state.~~

18 ~~3. Individuals enrolled in a qualifying educational program in this state may apply for a~~
19 ~~scholarship under this section.~~

20 ~~4. Scholarships must be provided in the form of a grant administered by the Bank of~~
21 ~~North Dakota. Each quarter or semester the Bank of North Dakota shall forward the~~
22 ~~amount of the scholarships payable under this section directly to the institution in~~
23 ~~which the student is enrolled. The amount of the scholarship is equal to the amount~~
24 ~~charged each quarter or semester by the educational institution at which the student is~~

1 ~~enrolled for the tuition, fees, books, and supplies required for the qualifying~~
2 ~~educational program.~~

3 ~~5. The scholarships provided under this section are conditioned on the student~~
4 ~~maintaining a 2.5 cumulative grade point average, based on a 4.0 grading system. A~~
5 ~~student is not entitled to receive scholarships under this section for more than the~~
6 ~~equivalent of four semesters of full-time enrollment or eight quarters of full-time~~
7 ~~enrollment. A graduate who received a scholarship under this section shall remain and~~
8 ~~work in this state for a minimum of three years following degree or certificate~~
9 ~~completion.~~

10 ~~6. An individual is subject to the repayment provisions provided in the individual's~~
11 ~~scholarship award agreement if the individual fails to maintain a 2.5 cumulative grade~~
12 ~~point average while enrolled, discontinues attendance before the completion of any~~
13 ~~semester or quarter for which a scholarship has been received, or fails to remain and~~
14 ~~work in this state for at least three years following degree or certificate completion.~~

15 ~~7. The skilled workforce scholarship program must be a joint public and private effort.~~
16 ~~The Bank of North Dakota shall provide one dollar of funding for each one dollar of~~
17 ~~funding raised from the private sector. The Bank of North Dakota shall provide no~~
18 ~~more than ten million dollars per biennium for the purpose of funding the skilled~~
19 ~~workforce scholarship program fund.~~

20 ~~8. The scholarship, which is intended to assist the student in meeting attendance costs,~~
21 ~~must be designed to supplement any other financial aid received by a student.~~

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

24 ~~**Skilled workforce scholarship program fund established - Continuing appropriation.**~~
25 ~~The skilled workforce scholarship program fund is established and is a revolving fund, and~~
26 ~~all moneys transferred into the fund, interest upon fund moneys, and payments to the fund are~~
27 ~~appropriated for the purposes of section 1 of this Act. This fund is not subject to section~~
28 ~~54-44.1-11.~~

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

Skilled workforce scholarship program - Skilled workforce scholarship fund - State board of higher education - Continuing appropriation.

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, and tribally controlled community colleges.
2. The state board of higher education shall develop policies to administer a skilled workforce scholarship program in cooperation with the Bank of North Dakota and the workforce education advisory council. The purpose of the skilled workforce scholarship program is to attract and retain students for professional or technical skills in high demand in this state.
3. The state board of higher education and the workforce education advisory council shall compile a list of qualifying educational programs by August first of each year. Qualifying educational programs must be able to be completed within four semesters or eight quarters and pertain to the technical skills in high demand in this state.
4. Individuals enrolled in a qualifying educational program in this state may apply for a scholarship under this section. Scholarships are limited to the amount charged each quarter or semester by the educational institution for the tuition, fees, books, and supplies required for the qualifying educational program. The scholarships may supplement any other scholarship or grant financial aid received by a student to assist the student with the costs of the qualifying educational program.
5. To be eligible for a scholarship under this section, a student shall maintain a 2.5 cumulative grade point average, based on a 4.0 grading system. A student may not receive scholarships under this section for more than the equivalent of four semesters of full-time enrollment or eight quarters of full-time enrollment. Upon completion of a qualifying educational program, a student who received a scholarship under this section shall remain and work in this state for a minimum of three years.

1 6. An individual shall repay the scholarship pursuant to the terms in the individual's
2 scholarship award agreement if the individual fails to maintain a 2.5 cumulative grade
3 point average while enrolled, discontinues attendance before the completion of any
4 semester or quarter for which a scholarship has been received, or fails to remain and
5 work in this state for at least three years following degree or certificate completion.

6 7. Each quarter or semester, the state board of higher education shall distribute grants to
7 institutions of higher education to provide the amounts necessary for the scholarships
8 awarded to the students enrolled in each institution. The state board of higher
9 education may distribute grants only to the extent that the private sector has provided
10 one dollar of matching funds for each dollar of funding provided by the state.

11 **SECTION 2. TRANSFER - BANK OF NORTH DAKOTA - SKILLED WORKFORCE**

12 **SCHOLARSHIP FUND.** The Bank of North Dakota shall transfer the sum of \$10,000,000, or so
13 much of the sum as may be necessary, from the Bank's current earnings and undivided profits
14 to the skilled workforce scholarship fund during the biennium beginning July 1, 2019, and
15 ending June 30, 2021.