

Introduced by

Senators Axtman, Elkin, Schaible

Representatives Bosch, Hauck, Heinert

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 15.1-06-19 of the North Dakota Century Code,
2 relating to required school counselors.

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

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-06-19 of the North Dakota Century Code is
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **15.1-06-19. Counselor positions - Requirement.**

7 1. ~~Beginning with the 2010-11 school year, each~~Each school district must have available
8 one full-time equivalent school counselor or contract for services equivalent to one
9 full-time equivalent school counselor for every three hundred students in grades seven
10 through twelve.

11 2. ~~Beginning with the 2022-23 school year, each~~Each school district must have available
12 one full-time equivalent school counselor or contract for services equivalent to one
13 full-time equivalent school counselor for every three hundred students in grades
14 kindergarten through six.

15 3. Up to one-third of the full-time equivalency requirement established in subsection 1
16 may be met by career advisors.

17 4. For purposes of this section, a "career";

18 ~~a. "Career~~ "Career advisor" means an individual who holds a certificate in career
19 development facilitation issued by the department of career and technical
20 education under section 15-20.1-24 or an individual who is provisionally
21 approved by the department of career and technical education under section
22 15-20.1-25 to serve as a career advisor; ~~and~~

23 ~~b. "Counselor" means an individual who meets the requirements of an approved~~
24 ~~program of graduate study in school guidance and counseling from a college or~~

1 ~~university approved by the education standards and practices board, a school-~~
2 ~~psychologist recognized by the education standards and practices board, or a~~
3 ~~licensed social worker, licensed professional counselor, licensed marriage and~~
4 ~~family therapist, licensed psychologist, or licensed addiction counselor.~~

5 5. A school district shall attempt to meet the three hundred to one ratio requirements
6 under subsections 1 and 2 with an individual who meets the requirements of an
7 approved program of graduate study in school guidance and counseling from a
8 college or university approved by the education standards and practices board. If a
9 school district is unable to meet the ratio requirements under subsections 1 and 2, for
10 the purposes of qualifying for the three hundred to one ratio, positions may be filled by
11 a school psychologist recognized by the education standards and practices board,
12 licensed social worker, licensed professional counselor, licensed marriage and family
13 therapist, licensed psychologist, licensed vocational rehabilitation counselor, or
14 licensed addiction counselor.