

Introduced by

Senators Hogan, Mathern

Representatives Dobervich, Schneider

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-60 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to a COVID-19 relief grant program for essential workers; to provide an  
3 appropriation; to provide a contingent appropriation; and to provide an expiration date.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 54-60 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
6 and enacted as follows:

7 **COVID-19 essential worker relief grant program - Eligibility.**

- 8 1. The department shall establish a COVID-19 essential worker relief grant program to  
9 provide financial assistance to essential workers. The grant program must be  
10 designed to award one thousand dollars to each eligible essential worker.
- 11 2. To be eligible for financial assistance under the COVID-19 essential worker relief grant  
12 program an individual must:
- 13 a. Apply for the grant before May 31, 2022;
- 14 b. Be employed as an essential worker on a full-time basis;
- 15 c. Be a North Dakota resident; and
- 16 d. Earn less than sixty thousand dollars a year.
- 17 3. As used in this section, "essential worker" means:
- 18 a. A state or local government employee;
- 19 b. A health and human services employee;
- 20 c. A public health employee;
- 21 d. A mortuary service provider;
- 22 e. An emergency services provider;
- 23 f. A public transportation, taxi, or rideshare driver;
- 24 g. An educator or school employee;

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- 1            h. A pharmacist, pharmacy technician, or other pharmacy employee;
- 2            i. A child care provider;
- 3            j. A cashier, stocker, clerk, or any other employee who enables the sale of food for
- 4            human consumption;
- 5            k. A food assistance program employee;
- 6            l. A food ingredient production and processing facility employee;
- 7            m. A slaughter and processing facility employee;
- 8            n. An individual employed in the direct extraction, processing, or delivery of wind,
- 9            water, solar, oil, gas, or coal energy;
- 10           o. A community water and wastewater treatment facility employee;
- 11           p. A plumber, electrician, builder, or any other trade professional employed in repair
- 12           and maintenance except a new construction builder;
- 13           q. A communication infrastructure technician, operator, or call center provider;
- 14           r. An information technology command center employee;
- 15           s. An individual employed to preempt and respond to cyber incidents involving
- 16           critical infrastructure;
- 17           t. An individual employed to administer and deliver unemployment programs;
- 18           u. A 2020 census worker;
- 19           v. An individual employed for emergency-related permitting, credentialing,
- 20           certifying, and licensing for essential critical infrastructure operations;
- 21           w. A member of the armed forces, North Dakota national guard, or armed forces
- 22           reserve component stationed in this state;
- 23           x. An individual employed to support public radio, print, internet, or television news
- 24           services;
- 25           y. An individual employed to support a dependent care provider including child care
- 26           and elder care;
- 27           z. A hotel or temporary lodging facility employee;
- 28           aa. An individual employed to provide food, shelter, or social services to vulnerable
- 29           populations or to COVID-19 responders;
- 30           bb. An individual employed to produce, deliver, or distribute hygiene and cleaning
- 31           products; and

1           cc. An individual employed to provide disinfection services.

2           **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - FEDERAL FISCAL STIMULUS FUNDS.** There is  
3 appropriated from federal fiscal stimulus funds made available to the state before December 31,  
4 2021, for COVID-19 relief purposes, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$200,000,000, or  
5 so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of commerce for the purpose of  
6 administering the COVID-19 essential worker relief grant program, for the period beginning with  
7 the effective date of this Act and ending June 30, 2022.

8           **SECTION 3. CONTINGENT APPROPRIATION.** If federal funds appropriated under  
9 section 2 of this Act are not available to provide the sum of \$200,000,000, there is appropriated  
10 out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum  
11 of \$200,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of commerce  
12 for the purpose of administering the COVID-19 essential worker relief grant program, for the  
13 period beginning on January 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2022. The department of commerce  
14 may spend the funds appropriated under this section only to the extent federal funds  
15 appropriated in section 2 of this Act are not available for these purposes.

16           **SECTION 4. EXPIRATION DATE.** This Act is effective through June 30, 2022, and after that  
17 date is ineffective.