

**SENATE BILL NO. 2311**

Introduced by

Senators Holmberg, Goetz, Grindberg, Nalewaja, Robinson, St. Aubyn

1 A BILL for an Act to provide for the establishment of a beginning entrepreneur loan guarantee  
2 program; and to provide an appropriation.

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

4 **SECTION 1. Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise  
5 requires:

- 6 1. "Beginning entrepreneur" means a person who:
- 7 a. Has graduated from an institution of higher education in this state within three
  - 8 years preceding the purchase or establishment of a qualified
  - 9 revenue-producing enterprise.
  - 10 b. Intends to use any revenue-producing enterprise purchased for business
  - 11 purposes.
  - 12 c. Has had some training, by education or experience, in the type of
  - 13 revenue-producing enterprise which that person wishes to begin.
  - 14 d. Has, including the net worth of that person's dependents and spouse, if any, a
  - 15 net worth of less than one hundred thousand dollars, not including the value
  - 16 of their equity in their principal residence, the value of one personal or family
  - 17 motor vehicle, and the value of their household goods, including furniture,
  - 18 appliances, musical instruments, clothing, and other personal belongings.
- 19 2. "Lender" means any lending institution that is regulated or funded under the laws of
- 20 this state or the United States and which has provided financing to a beginning
- 21 entrepreneur for the partial or total purchase or establishment of a qualified
- 22 revenue-producing enterprise.
- 23 3. "Loan guarantee" means an agreement that in the event of default by a beginning
- 24 entrepreneur under a note and mortgage or other loan or financing agreement, the

1 Bank of North Dakota shall pay the seller or lender the amount agreed upon up to  
2 one hundred percent of the amount of principal due the seller or lender on a loan at  
3 the time the claim is approved from the loan guarantee fund.

4 4. "Qualified revenue-producing enterprise" means any real property, buildings,  
5 improvements on the property or to the buildings, any equipment located on the  
6 property or in the buildings, and any personal property used or useful in connection  
7 with a revenue-producing enterprise engaged in any industry or business not  
8 prohibited by the Constitution of North Dakota or the laws of this state.

9 5. "Seller" means any person who has provided financing to a beginning entrepreneur  
10 for the purchase of qualified revenue-producing enterprise.

11 **SECTION 2. Loan guarantee fund - Administration.** A beginning entrepreneur loan  
12 guarantee fund is created to be used by the Bank of North Dakota to administer a beginning  
13 entrepreneur loan guarantee program. The fund includes moneys appropriated by the  
14 legislative assembly for administration of the program and all earnings, less any administrative  
15 charges, from the investment of those moneys. The Bank may retain any administrative  
16 charges necessary for the administration of the program established by this chapter. The fund  
17 is not subject to section 54-44.1-11.

18 **SECTION 3. Application for guarantee - Term - Annual fee.** A lender or seller may  
19 apply to the Bank of North Dakota for a loan guarantee for a loan of up to seventy-five thousand  
20 dollars. The Bank may not approve a loan guarantee over twenty-five thousand dollars if the  
21 purchase price of the qualified revenue-producing enterprise exceeds its appraisal value for real  
22 estate or its fair market value for all other property. The Bank of North Dakota may approve a  
23 guarantee of a loan of up to five thousand dollars to a beginning entrepreneur for use by the  
24 beginning entrepreneur for accounting, legal, and business planning and other consulting or  
25 advisory services in planning for the establishment of a qualified revenue-producing enterprise.  
26 The Bank of North Dakota may approve a guarantee of a loan of up to twenty-five thousand  
27 dollars to a beginning entrepreneur without requiring the beginning entrepreneur to provide  
28 collateral for the loan. The term of a loan guarantee may not exceed five years. The Bank may  
29 charge a seller or lender an annual fee during the term of a loan guarantee.

30 **SECTION 4. Termination.** The Bank of North Dakota may terminate a loan guarantee  
31 upon the sale, exchange, assignment, or transfer of the beginning entrepreneur's interest in the

1 qualified revenue-producing enterprise. The Bank shall terminate a loan guarantee if the Bank  
2 determines that the loan guarantee was obtained by fraud or material misrepresentation of  
3 which the lender or seller has actual knowledge.

4         **SECTION 5. Rules.** The Bank of North Dakota shall adopt rules to implement this  
5 chapter. The rules may include a formula for determining the ratio of reserves in the loan  
6 guarantee fund to the amount of guaranteed loans, the maximum dollar amount of a guarantee,  
7 and the maximum allowable annual interest rate on a loan eligible for a guarantee.

8         **SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION.** There is hereby appropriated out of any moneys in  
9 the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$600,000, or so  
10 much of the funds as may be necessary, to the Bank of North Dakota for the purposes of  
11 administering the beginning entrepreneur loan guarantee program, for the biennium beginning  
12 July 1, 1997, and ending June 30, 1999.