

**SENATE BILL NO. 2252**

Introduced by

Senators O'Connell, Kelsh, Wogsland

Representatives S. Kelsh, Sveen

1 A BILL for an Act relating to the acquisition of computer technology by school districts; to  
2 amend and reenact subsection 1 of section 15-34.1-03 and subdivision b of subsection 2 of  
3 section 15-40.1-06 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the approval of schools; and  
4 to provide an appropriation.

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

6 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 15-34.1-03 of the 1995  
7 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

8 1. That the child is in attendance for the same length of time at a parochial or private  
9 school approved by the county superintendent of schools and the superintendent  
10 of public instruction. Except as provided in section 15-41-27, no such school shall  
11 be approved unless the ~~teachers therein are legally certificated in the state of~~  
12 ~~North Dakota in accordance with section 15-41-25 and chapter 15-36, the subjects~~  
13 ~~offered are in accordance with sections 15-38-07, 15-41-06, and 15-41-24, and~~  
14 ~~such school is in compliance with all municipal and state health, fire, and safety~~  
15 ~~laws~~ school meets the requirements of section 3 of this Act.

16 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Subdivision b of subsection 2 of section 15-40.1-06 of the  
17 1995 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

18 b. School districts operating high schools not meeting the ~~minimum curriculum~~  
19 ~~as provided in section 15-41-24 or the teacher qualifications in section~~  
20 ~~15-41-25~~ requirements of section 3 of this Act must be supported in the  
21 amount of two hundred twenty dollars, which is the basis for calculating  
22 grants-in-aid on a per student basis as provided in section 15-40.1-07.

23 **SECTION 3. Approved schools.** The superintendent of public instruction shall  
24 approve any school in this state which:

- 1           1. Offers the minimum curricular requirements established by statute;
- 2           2. Employs as teachers only those persons holding a valid North Dakota teaching
- 3           certificate;
- 4           3. Meets the requirements of section 4 of this Act regarding available technology and
- 5           technological assistance; and
- 6           4. Is in compliance with all state and local health, fire, and safety requirements.

7           **SECTION 4. Technology requirements.** On or before July 1, 1999, each school  
8 district in this must have at a minimum one computer with internet access in every classroom,  
9 sufficient computers available to afford each student in kindergarten through grade twelve, at a  
10 minimum, the equivalent of one hundred fifty minutes per week of access to programs having  
11 grade appropriate instructional merit, and interactive television capability, and each school  
12 district must singly or jointly employ or contract with, on a full-time or part-time basis as needed,  
13 a person having at a minimum a bachelor's degree in computer science for the purpose of  
14 assisting in acquisition decisions and ensuring the operational status of all technological  
15 equipment required by this Act, as well as providing assistance to classroom teachers in the  
16 operation and use of the technology required by this Act.

17           **SECTION 5. Rules - Computer literacy - Teacher requirements.** The  
18 superintendent of public instruction shall adopt rules under chapter 28-32 requiring computer  
19 literacy of classroom teachers. The rules must require a teacher to demonstrate a level of  
20 computer literacy sufficient to incorporate computer technology into the instructional programs  
21 and to adequately instruct students in the use of computers. All persons entering a teacher  
22 training program after August 1, 1997, must meet the computer literacy requirements  
23 established by the superintendent under this section as a condition of graduation. Beginning  
24 July 1, 2001, no school district may employ or continue to employ a teacher who is unable to  
25 meet the requirements established by the superintendent under this section.

26           **SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION.** There is hereby appropriated out of any moneys in  
27 the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$8,000,000, or so  
28 much of the sum as may be necessary, to the superintendent of public instruction for the  
29 purpose of providing matching technology grants to school districts. Any school district levying  
30 the maximum allowable mills under section 57-15-14.5 for long-distance learning and  
31 technology and having a general fund mill levy of at least one hundred fifty mills is eligible to

Fifty-fifth  
Legislative Assembly

1 receive matching technology grants under this section. The superintendent of public instruction  
2 shall determine the maximum amount for which each school district is eligible by dividing the  
3 number of elementary and secondary students in average daily membership in this state into  
4 the funds appropriated by this section and then multiplying the result by the number of  
5 elementary and secondary students in average daily membership in the district. The  
6 superintendent may not use any of the funds appropriated under this section for personnel  
7 expenditures or other administrative expenditures incurred by the department of public  
8 instruction.