

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT
with House Amendments
ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2037**

Introduced by

Legislative Management

(Higher Education Committee)

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 15-10-37 and 15-10-38 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to the technology occupations student loan program and the teacher
3 shortage loan forgiveness program.

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

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-10-37 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **15-10-37. Technology occupations student loan program.**

- 8 1. The state board of higher education shall administer a science, technology,
9 engineering, and mathematics occupations student loan program that encourages
10 college students to pursue studies in these fields, to participate in internship programs,
11 and to remain in the state after graduation. The board shall adopt rules to implement
12 the program, including internship requirements, guidelines to determine which
13 technology-related courses of study are eligible under the program, and standards for
14 eligibility.
- 15 2. Graduates of board-approved colleges may apply for the technology occupations
16 student loan program. To be eligible to receive student loan grants under the program,
17 the applicant:
- 18 a. Must have graduated from a board-approved college;
 - 19 b. Must have successfully completed the board-approved technology-related
20 courses;
 - 21 c. Must have maintained at least a 2.5 grade point average, based on a 4.0 grading
22 system, at a board-approved college;
 - 23 d. Must have a student loan with the Bank of North Dakota or other participating
24 lender;

- 1 e. Following graduation must be employed in the state in a board-approved
- 2 technology occupation; and
- 3 f. Must have met and shall continue to meet any requirements established by rule.
- 4 3. The state board of higher education shall distribute student loan grants directly to the
- 5 Bank of North Dakota to repay outstanding student loan principal balances for eligible
- 6 applicants. The maximum student loan grant amount for which an applicant may
- 7 qualify is one thousand ~~five hundred~~ dollars per year and a total of ~~six~~five thousand
- 8 dollars, or a lesser amount established by rule adopted by the state board of higher
- 9 education.

10 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-10-38 of the North Dakota Century Code is
11 amended and reenacted as follows:

12 **15-10-38. Loans - Teacher shortages - Loan forgiveness.**

- 13 1. The state board of higher education shall administer a student loan forgiveness
- 14 program for individuals teaching at grade levels or in content areas identified as
- 15 having a teacher shortage. The board shall adopt rules to implement the program.
- 16 2. The superintendent of public instruction shall annually identify the grade levels and
- 17 content areas in which a teacher shortage exists.
- 18 3. To be eligible for loan forgiveness under this section, an individual:
- 19 a. ~~Must have been admitted as a full-time student in a teacher preparation program,~~
- 20 with the declared intention hold a qualified license, endorsements or credentials
- 21 to teach at a grade level or in a content area identified by the superintendent of
- 22 public instruction as one in which a teacher shortage exists; ~~and~~
- 23 b. ~~Must have obtained a student loan~~ with the Bank of North Dakota or other
- 24 participating lender; and
- 25 c. Must hold a current North Dakota educator's license.
- 26 4. An individual may receive up to one thousand dollars per year and a maximum of five
- 27 thousand dollars, or a lesser amount established by rule adopted by the state board of
- 28 higher education under this section.
- 29 5. The board shall consider all applications under this section in chronological order.
- 30 6. Upon notification that the individual has completed or will complete a full year of
- 31 teaching in a school district or nonpublic school in this state at a grade level or in a

1 content area identified by the superintendent of public instruction as one in which a
2 teacher shortage exists, the board shall distribute funds directly to the Bank of North
3 Dakota or other participating lender to repay outstanding loan principal balances for
4 eligible applicants.

5 7. An individual may not receive a loan forgiveness award under this section if the
6 individual is receiving a loan forgiveness award under section 15-10-37 during the
7 same application year.