

Introduced by

Senators J. Lee, Dever, O. Larsen, Heckaman

Representatives Heinert, Olson

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15-10 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to professional student exchange programs; to amend and reenact  
3 sections 43-28.1-01 and 43-28.1-03 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the dental  
4 student loan repayment program; and to provide for application.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
7 and enacted as follows:

8 **Professional student exchange programs - Bank of North Dakota - Notes -**

9 **Repayment.**

- 10 1. The state board of higher education may not make a payment to an out-of-state  
11 institution on behalf of an individual participating in a professional student exchange  
12 program in dentistry, optometry, or veterinary medicine, unless that individual signed  
13 an annual note with the Bank of North Dakota in an amount equal to the amount by  
14 which the individual's tuition is reduced as a result of a contract between the institution  
15 and the board.
- 16 2. If the individual who signed the note under subsection 1 is not practicing dentistry,  
17 optometry, or veterinary medicine in this state within thirty-six months following  
18 graduation, the individual shall begin repaying the note, together with interest accruing  
19 from the date of signing, at the rate per annum established by the Bank of North  
20 Dakota.
- 21 3. If the individual who signed the note under subsection 1 practices dentistry, optometry,  
22 or veterinary medicine in this state within thirty-six months following graduation, the  
23 Bank of North Dakota shall reduce the amount of the note by one-third, together with  
24 all accrued interest, for each full year the individual continues practicing in the state. If

1           the individual stops practicing in this state before the note is waived in its entirety, from  
2           the date that individual stopped such practice the individual shall repay the remaining  
3           portion of the note, together with interest accruing at the rate per annum established  
4           by the Bank of North Dakota.

5           4. If the individual who signed the note under subsection 1 departs before graduation  
6           from a program in dentistry, optometry, or veterinary medicine, at the time of departure  
7           that individual shall begin repaying the note, together with interest accruing from the  
8           date of signing, at the rate per annum established by the Bank of North Dakota.

9           5. The Bank of North Dakota shall determine the terms applicable to the time and  
10           manner in which a note must be repaid.

11           6. The Bank of North Dakota shall defer any repayment of a note otherwise due under  
12           this section for the period of time the individual who signed the note is pursuing  
13           full-time graduate or postdoctoral studies or is called to active duty as a member of the  
14           armed forces.

15           7. The state board of higher education shall consult with the Bank of North Dakota and  
16           adopt rules implementing this section. The state board of higher education shall report  
17           to the Bank on the student status and practice status of individuals who signed a note  
18           under subsection 1.

19           **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-28.1-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
20 amended and reenacted as follows:

21           **43-28.1-01. Loan repayment program - Dentists - Defined need - Maximum amount of**  
22 **funds.**

23           ~~Each year~~Annually, the state health council shall select, from a pool of applicants, dentists  
24 who ~~shall~~will provide dental services in cities or surrounding areas, or both, in this state which  
25 the state health council identifies as having a defined need for dental services. The dentists  
26 selected from this pool of applicants ~~may include dentists who will~~must agree to accept  
27 medicaid patients and assignments or provide dental services in a public health clinic, a  
28 practice with a focus on an underserved population, or a nonprofit dental clinic. The dentists-  
29 areA selected dentist who agrees to the terms of this program is eligible to receive funds for the  
30 repayment of theirthe dentist's education loans. The funds, which are payable over a five-year  
31 period, may not exceed one hundred thousand dollars per applicant. If the state health council

1 accepts any gifts, grants, or donations under this chapter, the council may select additional  
2 dentists for participation in the loan repayment program under this chapter.

3 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-28.1-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
4 amended and reenacted as follows:

5 **43-28.1-03. Criteria.**

- 6 1. The health council shall establish criteria to be used in selecting qualified dentists and  
7 in identifying cities or surrounding areas, or both, that have a defined need for dental  
8 services. The criteria must include consideration of:
- 9 a. The number of dentists already providing dental services in the city or  
10 surrounding areas, or both;
  - 11 b. Access to dental services in the city and the surrounding areas;
  - 12 c. How the dentist will provide dental services to individuals on medical assistance  
13 or in a public health clinic, a practice with a focus on an underserved population,  
14 or a nonprofit dental clinic; and
  - 15 d. The dentist's training in general dentistry or in a dental specialty and the extent to  
16 which such services are needed in the identified city or surrounding areas, or  
17 both.
- 18 2. As a term of receipt of funds under this chapter, a dentist shall accept medical  
19 assistance patients and assignments or provide dental services in a public health  
20 clinic, a practice with a focus on an underserved population, or a nonprofit dental  
21 clinic. For purposes of a dentist selected for loan payment under this chapter who  
22 practices within fifteen miles [24.14 kilometers] of the city limits of one of the three  
23 largest cities in the state, to qualify to receive a yearly disbursement under this chapter  
24 during that year of obligated service, the dentist must have:
- 25 a. Received dental medical payments of at least twenty thousand dollars in the form  
26 of medical assistance reimbursement; or
  - 27 b. Practiced at least two full workdays per week at a public health clinic or at a  
28 nonprofit dental clinic that uses a sliding fee schedule to bill the nonprofit dental  
29 clinic's patients.
- 30 3. The health council may consult with public and private sector entities in establishing  
31 criteria and evaluating needs based on the criteria.

1       **SECTION 4. APPLICATION.** Section 1 of this Act applies to individuals initially entering a  
2 professional student exchange program in dentistry, optometry, or veterinary medicine after  
3 June 30, 2018. Sections 2 and 3 of this Act apply to dental loan repayment contracts entered on  
4 or after the effective date of this Act.