

HOUSE BILL NO. 1353

Introduced by

Representatives P. Anderson, Beadle, Boschee, Guggisberg, M. Johnson, Maragos, Mock,
Schneider

Senators Dotzenrod, Nelson, Oban

1 A BILL ~~for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 15 of the North Dakota Century~~
2 ~~Code, relating to the creation of a senior year tuition waiver program for North Dakota students~~
3 ~~attending North Dakota university system institutions.~~ for an Act to provide for a study of the
4 creation of a college tuition waiver or reimbursement program.

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

6 ~~SECTION 1. A new chapter to title 15 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and~~
7 ~~enacted as follows:~~

8 ~~Senior year tuition waiver program - Administration and eligibility.~~

9 ~~The state board of higher education shall administer a senior year tuition waiver program for~~
10 ~~the purpose of waiving specified tuition expenses at institutions under the control of the state~~
11 ~~board of higher education for students who are North Dakota residents and either graduated~~
12 ~~from high schools in North Dakota or completed programs of home education supervised in~~
13 ~~accordance with chapter 15.1-23. The state board of higher education shall adopt procedures to~~
14 ~~provide fiscal control and accounting for the program.~~

15 ~~Senior year tuition waiver program - Waiver amounts - Application.~~

16 ~~1. Each institution under the control of the state board of higher education shall waive~~
17 ~~tuition under the senior year tuition waiver program as follows:~~

18 ~~a. An eligible student enrolled at a four-year institution is entitled to receive a tuition~~
19 ~~waiver for not more than two semesters during which the individual is designated~~
20 ~~a senior by the institution.~~

21 ~~b. An eligible student enrolled in a degree program at a two-year institution is~~
22 ~~entitled to receive a tuition waiver for the individual's final semester before~~
23 ~~graduating from the institution.~~

- 1 ~~c. An eligible student enrolled in a certificate program is entitled to receive a tuition-~~
2 ~~waiver for twenty-five percent of the tuition costs of the program.~~
- 3 ~~2. The amount of each waiver under subdivisions a and b of subsection 1 must equal the~~
4 ~~tuition the student would otherwise pay for the courses in which the student is enrolled~~
5 ~~minus the amount of any scholarships, grants, or other waivers to which the student is~~
6 ~~entitled. The amount of each waiver under subdivision c of subsection 1 must equal~~
7 ~~twenty-five percent of the tuition the student would otherwise pay for the certificate~~
8 ~~program in which the student is enrolled minus the amount of any scholarships,~~
9 ~~grants, or other waivers to which the student is entitled.~~
- 10 ~~3. The board shall develop an application for the senior year tuition waiver program and~~
11 ~~make the application available to students at each institution under the control of the~~
12 ~~board. An institution may not require an eligible student to apply more than once to~~
13 ~~receive the student's full tuition waiver under subsection 1.~~
- 14 ~~4. A student may not receive more than one tuition waiver under the program.~~
- 15 ~~5. The tuition waiver may not be applied to any coursework from which the student~~
16 ~~withdraws or receives a failing grade.~~

17 ~~**Senior year tuition waiver program - Funding.**~~

18 ~~The Bank of North Dakota shall transfer from its undivided profits a sum equal to the total~~
19 ~~tuition waived for all students receiving waivers under the senior year tuition waiver program to~~
20 ~~the state board of higher education each semester upon request by the commissioner of higher~~
21 ~~education. The state board of higher education shall use the sum to reimburse each institution~~
22 ~~under its control for the cost of the waivers the institution provides under the program.~~

23 **SECTION 1. STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION STUDY - SENIOR TUITION**

24 **WAIVER OR REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM.** During the 2017-18 interim, the state board of
25 higher education shall study the feasibility and desirability of the development of a state tuition
26 waiver or reimbursement program for college seniors at institutions of higher education under
27 the control of the board. The study must consider designing a program to waive or reimburse
28 tuition expenses at these institutions for students who are North Dakota residents who
29 graduated from a high school in this state or completed a program of home education
30 supervised in accordance with chapter 15.1-23. The study may include the objectives of a
31 senior tuition waiver or reimbursement program, the definition of residency for purposes of the

1 program, the duration of a tuition waiver once a student is designated a senior by the institution,
2 the necessary funding mechanisms for the program, the maximum total waiver or
3 reimbursement amounts available to individual students, grade point average requirements,
4 post-graduation requirements, merit-based requirements, and the effectiveness of tuition
5 waivers versus post-graduation reimbursement. The state board of higher education shall report
6 its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the
7 recommendations, to the sixty-sixth legislative assembly.