

Introduced by

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 a dentistry, optometry, and veterinary medicine student loan
3 repayment program.

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

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

7 **Dentists, optometrists, and veterinarians - Student loan repayment.**

8 1. The state board of higher education shall administer a dentistry, optometry, and
9 veterinary medicine student loan repayment program that encourages college
10 students to return to and remain in this state after graduation. The board shall adopt
11 rules to implement the program.

12 2. To be eligible for student loan repayment under this section, an individual:

13 a. Must have a degree in dentistry, optometry, or veterinary medicine;

14 b. Must have worked in the field of dentistry, optometry, or veterinary medicine in
15 this state for thirty-six months;

16 c. Must not have received discounted tuition as a result of professional student
17 exchange program payment to an out-of-state institution by this state;

18 d. Must have an existing student loan; and

19 e. Must have either:

20 (1) Graduated from a high school in this state;

21 (2) Graduated from a high school in a bordering state, pursuant to
22 chapter 15.1-29;

23 (3) Graduated from a nonpublic high school in a bordering state while residing
24 with a custodial parent in this state;

- 1 (4) Completed a program of home education supervised in accordance with
2 chapter 15.1-23; or
- 3 (5) Received a general educational development high school diploma from the
4 superintendent of public instruction.
- 5 3. The state board of higher education shall distribute student loan grants directly to the
6 bank of North Dakota or other participating lenders to repay outstanding student loan
7 principal balances for eligible applicants. The maximum student loan grant amount for
8 which an applicant may qualify is one hundred thousand dollars, or a lesser amount
9 established by rule adopted by the state board of higher education.