

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1353**

Introduced by

Representatives Hatlestad, B. Anderson, Kreidt, Longmuir, Richter, Trottier

Senator Bekkedahl

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact section 15.1-36-09 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
2 relating to a common schools building and renovation grant fund; to provide a continuing  
3 appropriation; to provide for a transfer; and to provide for a contingent effective date.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 15.1-36-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted  
6 as follows:

7 **15.1-36-09. Common schools building and renovation grant fund - Bank of North**  
8 **Dakota - Continuing appropriation.**

9 1. The common schools building and renovation grant fund is a special fund in the state  
10 treasury administered by the Bank of North Dakota. The fund consists of moneys  
11 transferred from the common schools trust fund and all interest or other earnings of  
12 the fund. The Bank shall use moneys in the fund for school district bonded debt  
13 reduction and building and renovation grants according to this section. The Bank and  
14 the superintendent of public instruction shall adopt policies and establish guidelines to  
15 administer the grant program in accordance with this section.

16 2. To be eligible for a building or renovation grant under this section, the board of a  
17 school district shall obtain the approval of the superintendent of public instruction for a  
18 building or renovation project under section 15.1-36-01 and submit a completed grant  
19 application to the Bank of North Dakota. The superintendent of public instruction shall  
20 review grant applications based on a prioritization system that includes a review of all  
21 applications filed during a twelve-month period preceding April first and gives  
22 consideration to:

23 a. Student occupancy, student enrollment growth, and academic needs in the  
24 district;

- 1           b. The age of existing structures to be replaced or remodeled;
- 2           c. Building design proposals based on safety and vulnerability assessments;
- 3           d. Cost; and
- 4           e. Any other criteria established by the superintendent of public instruction, after  
5           consultation with an interim committee appointed by the legislative management.
- 6        3. To be eligible for a bonded debt reduction grant, the board of a school district shall  
7           submit a completed grant application to the Bank of North Dakota. The superintendent  
8           of public instruction shall review grant applications based on a prioritization system  
9           that includes a review of all applications filed during a twelve-month period preceding  
10          April first and gives consideration to student occupancy, student enrollment growth,  
11          academic needs in the district, and other criteria established by the superintendent of  
12          public instruction, after consultation with an interim committee appointed by the  
13          legislative management.
- 14       4. If the superintendent of public instruction approves the grant application, the Bank of  
15          North Dakota shall award grants for bonded debt reduction and building and  
16          renovation as follows:
  - 17           a. For school districts with an average daily membership number of at least five  
18            hundred students but fewer than one thousand students, the grant award must  
19            equal ninety percent of the project cost or bonded debt outstanding, not to  
20            exceed four hundred thousand dollars; and
  - 21           b. For school districts with an average daily membership number of at least one  
22            thousand students, the grant award must equal fifty percent of the project cost or  
23            bonded debt outstanding, not to exceed five hundred thousand dollars.
- 24       5. All moneys in the common schools building and renovation grant fund in the state  
25          treasury are appropriated on a continuing basis to the Bank of North Dakota for the  
26          purpose of providing bonded debt reduction and building and renovation grants to  
27          school districts.
- 28       6. The Bank of North Dakota shall report annually to the legislative management  
29          regarding the common schools building and renovation grant program, including  
30          information regarding grants provided from the common schools building and  
31          renovation grant fund and the status of the fund.

1       **SECTION 2. TRANSFER - COMMON SCHOOLS TRUST FUND TO COMMON SCHOOLS**

2       **BUILDING AND RENOVATION GRANT FUND.** During the period beginning with the effective  
3       date of this Act, and ending June 30, 2021, the board of university and school lands shall  
4       transfer the sum of \$800,000,000 from the common schools trust fund to the common schools  
5       building and renovation grant fund.

6       **SECTION 3. CONTINGENT EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Act is contingent on the passage of  
7       House Concurrent Resolution No. XXXX by the sixty-sixth legislative assembly and approval of  
8       that measure by the voters of this state. If House Concurrent Resolution No. XXXX is approved  
9       by the voters, this Act becomes effective on December 4, 2020.