

Introduced by

Representatives Zubke, Mitskog, Owens, Schreiber-Beck

Senators Luick, Schaible

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 15.1-15-02 of the North Dakota Century Code,
2 relating to probationary teacher contracts.

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

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-15-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **15.1-15-02. ~~First-year~~Probationary teachers - Review of evaluations - Renewal and**
7 **nonrenewal of contracts.**

- 8 1. If the board of a school district contemplates not renewing the contract of an individual
9 employed as a ~~first-year~~probationary teacher, the board shall review the individual's
10 evaluations required by section 15.1-15-01 and meet with the individual in an
11 executive session to discuss the reasons for the contemplated nonrenewal.
- 12 2. The individual employed as a ~~first-year~~probationary teacher may be accompanied by
13 two representatives selected by the individual for the purpose of speaking on behalf of
14 the individual and by the individual's spouse or one other family member.
- 15 3. No claim for relief for libel or slander may be brought regarding any communication
16 made at an executive session of a school board held pursuant to this section.
- 17 4. If the board of a school district elects not to renew the contract of an individual
18 employed as a ~~first-year~~probationary teacher, the board shall provide written
19 notification of the decision, together with a detailed description of the board's reasons,
20 to the individual no earlier than April fifteenth nor later than May first.
- 21 5. Failure by the board of a school district to provide the notification required by
22 subsection 4 constitutes an offer to renew the individual's contract on the same terms
23 and conditions as the individual's contract for the current year.

- 1 6. The board of a school district may waive probationary status for a teacher with at least
- 2 three years of teaching experience in the state.
- 3 7. The board of a school district shall offer, as needed, based on the teacher's
- 4 evaluation, a teacher mentoring program for probationary teachers.
- 5 8. For purposes of this section, a "~~first-year~~probationary teacher" means an individual
- 6 teaching for ~~the first school year since obtaining a license to teach~~less than three
- 7 years.