

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT
with House Amendments**

Fifty-sixth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2441

Introduced by

Senator Freborg

(Approved by the Delayed Bills Committee)

1 A BILL for an Act to provide for school district reorganization bonuses.

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

3 **SECTION 1. Reorganization bonus - Eligibility - Distribution.**

4 1. If a school district reorganizes with one or more contiguous school districts or
5 portions of districts, the newly reorganized district is entitled to receive a
6 reorganization bonus, provided at least one of the reorganizing districts is a high
7 school district, that the newly reorganized district consists of at least eight hundred
8 square miles, and that the superintendent of public instruction, using demographic
9 and statistical data provided by an institution of higher education in this state,
10 determines that the reorganized district will have a student population and an
11 economic base sufficient to allow the provision of appropriate educational
12 opportunities to its students for a period of at least ten years from the date of its
13 reorganization or that the reorganized district will need to be maintained for a
14 period of at least ten years from the date of its reorganization to serve students
15 residing in a sparsely populated area of the state. A reorganized district may
16 appeal the determination of the superintendent to the state board of public school
17 education. A determination of the state board under this section is final.

18 2. The total reorganization bonus to which a newly reorganized district is eligible
19 consists of:
20 a. Fifty thousand dollars per one hundred square mile block, or a major portion
21 thereof, included within the reorganized district and calculated by determining
22 the lesser of the total square mileage of the reorganized district or one
23 thousand four hundred square miles, and subtracting from that amount the

- 1 square mileage of the largest district or portion of a district involved in the
2 reorganization;
- 3 b. One thousand dollars per student calculated by determining the lesser of the
4 total fall enrollment of the newly reorganized district or seven hundred fifty
5 and subtracting from that amount the fall enrollment in the district or portion of
6 the district that had the largest student population of those districts or portions
7 of districts participating in the reorganization during the school year
8 immediately preceding the effective date of the reorganization; and
- 9 c. Fifty thousand dollars for each whole school district that formed the
10 reorganized district.
- 11 3. The superintendent of public instruction shall distribute the reorganization bonus to
12 each eligible reorganized district during the month of December, following the
13 effective date of the district's reorganization.

14 **SECTION 2. Reorganization bonus - Distribution - Limitation.** For purposes of
15 distributing reorganization bonuses, the superintendent of public instruction shall determine the
16 eligibility of reorganized districts chronologically, according to the date on which each district's
17 reorganization plan was approved by the state board of public school education. After all other
18 statutory obligations have been met within the limits of legislative appropriations, the
19 superintendent of public instruction shall make the distribution of reorganization bonuses from
20 funds made available in the grants - foundation aid and transportation line items in Senate Bill
21 No. 2013, as approved by the fifty-sixth legislative assembly, for the 1999-2001 biennium,
22 provided the superintendent may not expend more than three million dollars during the
23 1999-2001 biennium for the purpose of this Act. No reorganization bonus payable under this
24 Act may exceed five hundred thousand dollars. A reorganized district that receives a
25 reorganization bonus under this Act is not eligible to receive additional reorganization bonuses
26 based on future reorganization efforts for a period of ten years. If any funds remain in the
27 grants - foundation aid and transportation line item after the obligations of this Act are met and
28 after all other statutory obligations within the limits of legislative appropriations are met, the
29 superintendent of public instruction shall distribute the funds as a separate and additional per
30 student payment on a weighted basis as determined under chapter 15-40.1.