

HOUSE BILL NO. 1491

Introduced by

Representatives Berg, Boucher, Ekstrom, Keiser

Senators O'Connell, Stenehjem

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 65-05.1 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to the establishment of a workforce safety and insurance educational
3 revolving loan fund; and to provide a continuing appropriation.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 65-05.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 created and enacted as follows:

7 **Workforce safety and insurance educational revolving loan fund - Continuing**
8 **appropriation.**

- 9 1. The organization may establish a revolving loan fund to provide a low-interest loan
10 to an individual who has suffered a compensable injury. The loan must be used to
11 pursue an education at an accredited institution of higher education or an institution
12 of technical education. In order to be eligible for a loan under this section, an
13 individual must have obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent and either
14 must be ineligible for retraining under this chapter or must have exhausted training
15 and education benefits. The Bank of North Dakota and the organization shall
16 establish eligibility requirements and make application determinations based on the
17 established criteria. The application must require an applicant to demonstrate a
18 viable education plan that will enable the individual to achieve gainful employment.
- 19 2. The total amount loaned annually under this section may not exceed two million
20 five hundred thousand dollars. The maximum amount payable on behalf of an
21 applicant may not exceed fifty thousand dollars and must be payable within five
22 years. A loan must be repaid within a period not to exceed twenty years at an
23 interest rate of one percent below the Bank of North Dakota's prime interest rate.
24 The organization shall pay the Bank of North Dakota a negotiated fee for

1 administering and servicing loans under this section. At the board's discretion,
2 moneys to establish and maintain the revolving loan fund must be appropriated
3 from the organization's workforce safety and insurance fund. The revolving loan
4 fund is a special fund and must be invested pursuant to section 21-10-06.
5 Investment income and collections of interest and principal on loans made from the
6 revolving loan fund are appropriated on a continuing basis to maintain the fund and
7 provide loans in accordance with this section. The board, as determined
8 necessary, may transfer uncommitted moneys of the revolving loan fund to the
9 workforce safety and insurance fund.