

SENATE BILL NO. 2078

Introduced by

Education Committee

(At the request of the State Board of Higher Education)

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 15-10-37 and 15-10-38 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to eligibility for loans under the technology occupations student loan
3 program and eligibility for loan forgiveness under the teacher shortages loan forgiveness
4 program.

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

6 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-10-37 of the North Dakota Century Code is
7 amended and reenacted as follows:

8 **15-10-37. Technology occupations student loan program.**

- 9 1. The state board of higher education shall administer a technology occupations
10 student loan program that encourages college students to pursue
11 technology-based studies, to participate in technology internship programs, and to
12 remain in the state after graduation. The board shall adopt rules to implement the
13 program, including internship requirements, guidelines to determine which
14 technology-related courses of study are eligible under the program, and standards
15 for eligibility.
- 16 2. ~~Students~~ Graduates of board-approved colleges may apply for the technology
17 occupations student loan program. To be eligible to receive student loan grants
18 under the program, the applicant:
- 19 a. Must have graduated from a board-approved college;
 - 20 b. Must have successfully completed the board-approved technology-related
21 courses;
 - 22 c. ~~Must have maintained at least a 3.0 grade point average, based on a~~
23 ~~4.0 grading system, at a board-approved college;~~

- 1 e- Must have actively participated before graduation in a board-approved
2 technology internship with a business or governmental entity in the state;
3 e- d. Must have a student loan with the Bank of North Dakota or other participating
4 lender;
5 f- e. Following graduation must be employed in the state in a board-approved
6 technology occupation; and
7 g- f. Must have met and shall continue to meet any requirements established by
8 rule.
9 3. The state board of higher education shall distribute student loan grants directly to
10 the Bank of North Dakota to repay outstanding student loan principal balances for
11 eligible applicants. The maximum student loan grant amount for which an
12 applicant may qualify is one thousand dollars per ~~twelve months of employment for~~
13 ~~a maximum of five years~~ year and a total of five thousand dollars, or a lesser
14 amount established by rule adopted by the state board of higher education.

15 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-10-38 of the North Dakota Century Code is
16 amended and reenacted as follows:

17 **15-10-38. Loans - Teacher shortages - Loan forgiveness.**

- 18 1. The state board of higher education shall administer a student loan forgiveness
19 program for individuals teaching at grade levels or in content areas identified as
20 having a teacher shortage. The board shall adopt rules to implement the program.
21 2. The superintendent of public instruction shall annually identify the grade levels and
22 content areas in which a teacher shortage exists.
23 3. To be eligible for loan forgiveness under this section, an individual:
24 a. Must have been admitted as a full-time student in a teacher preparation
25 program, with the declared intention to teach at a grade level or in a content
26 area identified by the superintendent of public instruction as one in which a
27 teacher shortage exists; and
28 b. Must have obtained a student loan.
29 4. An individual may receive up to one thousand dollars per year and a maximum of
30 five thousand dollars, or a lesser amount established by rule adopted by the state
31 board of higher education under this section.

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- 1 5. The board shall consider all applications under this section in chronological order.
- 2 6. Upon notification that the individual has completed a full year of teaching in a
- 3 school district or nonpublic school in this state at a grade level or in a content area
- 4 identified by the superintendent of public instruction as one in which a teacher
- 5 shortage exists, the board shall distribute funds directly to the Bank of North
- 6 Dakota to repay outstanding loan principal balances for eligible applicants.