

**Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 4, 2005**

SENATE BILL NO. 2078
(Education Committee)
(At the request of the State Board of Higher Education)

AN ACT to amend and reenact sections 15-10-37 and 15-10-38 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to eligibility for loans under the technology occupations student loan program and eligibility for loan forgiveness under the teacher shortages loan forgiveness program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

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

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

1. The state board of higher education shall administer a technology occupations student loan program that encourages college students to pursue technology-based studies, to participate in technology internship programs, and to remain in the state after graduation. The board shall adopt rules to implement the program, including internship requirements, guidelines to determine which technology-related courses of study are eligible under the program, and standards for eligibility.
2. ~~Students~~ Graduates of board-approved colleges may apply for the technology occupations student loan program. To be eligible to receive student loan grants under the program, the applicant:
 - a. Must have graduated from a board-approved college;
 - b. Must have successfully completed the board-approved technology-related courses;
 - c. Must have maintained at least a ~~3.0~~ 2.5 grade point average, based on a 4.0 grading system, at a board-approved college;
 - d. ~~Must have actively participated in a board-approved technology internship with a business in the state;~~
 - e. Must have a student loan with the Bank of North Dakota or other participating lender;
 - f. e. Following graduation must be employed in the state in a board-approved technology occupation; and
 - g. f. Must have met and shall continue to meet any requirements established by rule.
3. The state board of higher education shall distribute student loan grants directly to the Bank of North Dakota to repay outstanding student loan principal balances for eligible applicants. The maximum student loan grant amount for which an applicant may qualify is one thousand dollars per twelve months of employment for a maximum of five years year and a total of five thousand dollars, or a lesser amount established by rule adopted by the state board of higher education.

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

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

1. The state board of higher education shall administer a student loan forgiveness program for individuals teaching at grade levels or in content areas identified as having a teacher shortage. The board shall adopt rules to implement the program.
2. The superintendent of public instruction shall annually identify the grade levels and content areas in which a teacher shortage exists.
3. To be eligible for loan forgiveness under this section, an individual:
 - a. Must have been admitted as a full-time student in a teacher preparation program, with the declared intention to teach at a grade level or in a content area identified by the superintendent of public instruction as one in which a teacher shortage exists; and
 - b. Must have obtained a student loan.
4. An individual may receive up to one thousand dollars per year and a maximum of five thousand dollars, or a lesser amount established by rule adopted by the state board of higher education under this section.
5. The board shall consider all applications under this section in chronological order.
6. Upon notification that the individual has completed a full year of teaching in a school district or nonpublic school in this state at a grade level or in a content area identified by the superintendent of public instruction as one in which a teacher shortage exists, the board shall distribute funds directly to the Bank of North Dakota to repay outstanding loan principal balances for eligible applicants.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2078.

Senate Vote: Yeas 47 Nays 0 Absent 0

House Vote: Yeas 86 Nays 2 Absent 6

Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2005.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2005.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2005,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State