

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT
with Conference Committee Amendments
ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1248**

Introduced by

Representatives Koppelman, Karls, Sanford, Delmore

Senators Wardner, Nelson

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact chapter 15.1-04.1 of the North Dakota Century Code,
2 relating to entry into the compact on educational opportunity for military children; to amend and
3 reenact sections 15.1-06-01 and 15.1-21-02.1 and subsection 1 of section 15.1-29-13 of the
4 North Dakota Century Code, relating to the age of school admission, the issuance of high
5 school diplomas, and the charging of tuition; to provide for a report; to provide a funding source;
6 and to provide an expiration date.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** Chapter 15.1-04.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted
9 as follows:

10 **15.1-04.1-01. Compact on educational opportunity for military children.**

11 The compact on educational opportunity for military children is entered with all jurisdictions
12 legally joining therein, in the form substantially as follows:

13 ARTICLE I. PURPOSE

14 It is the purpose of this compact to remove barriers to educational success imposed on
15 children of military families because of frequent moves and deployment of their parents by:

- 16 1. Facilitating the timely enrollment of children of military families and ensuring that they
17 are not placed at a disadvantage due to difficulty in the transfer of educational records
18 from a sending to a receiving school district or variations in entrance or age
19 requirements;
- 20 2. Facilitating the student placement process to ensure that children of military families
21 are not disadvantaged by variations in attendance requirements, scheduling,
22 sequencing, grading, course content, or assessment;

- 1 3. Facilitating the qualification and eligibility of children of military families for enrollment,
2 educational programs, and participation in extracurricular academic, athletic, and
3 social activities;
- 4 4. Facilitating the on-time graduation of children of military families;
- 5 5. Providing for the promulgation and enforcement of administrative rules implementing
6 this compact;
- 7 6. Providing for the uniform collection and sharing of information among member states,
8 school districts, and military families under this compact;
- 9 7. Promoting coordination between this compact and other compacts affecting the
10 children of military families; and
- 11 8. Promoting flexibility and cooperation between the educational system, parents, and
12 the student in order to achieve educational success for the children of military
13 families.

ARTICLE II. DEFINITIONS

15 As used in this compact, unless the context otherwise requires:

- 16 1. "Active duty" means full-time duty status in the active uniformed services of the United
17 States, including members of the national guard and reserve on active duty orders
18 pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1209 and 1211.
- 19 2. "Children of military families" means school-aged children, enrolled in kindergarten
20 through grade twelve, in the household of an active duty member.
- 21 3. "Commission" means the commission that is created under article IX of this compact.
- 22 4. "Compact commissioner" means the voting representative of each compacting state
23 appointed pursuant to article VIII of this compact.
- 24 5. "Deployment" means the period one month before the service member's departure
25 from the home station on military orders through six months after return to the home
26 station.
- 27 6. "Educational records" means official records, files, and data directly related to a
28 student and maintained by the student's school or school district, including records
29 encompassing all the material kept in the student's cumulative folder such as general
30 identifying data, records of attendance and of academic work completed, records of

1 achievement and results of evaluative tests, health data, disciplinary status, test
2 protocols, and individualized education programs.

3 7. "Extracurricular activities" means a voluntary activity sponsored by the school or
4 school district or an organization sanctioned by the school district, including
5 preparation for involvement in public performances, contests, athletic competitions,
6 demonstrations, displays, and club activities.

7 8. "Member state" means a state that has enacted this compact.

8 9. "Military installation" means a base, camp, post, station, yard, center, homeport facility
9 for any ship, or other facility under the jurisdiction of the department of defense,
10 including any leased facility that is located within a state. The term does not include
11 any facility used primarily for civil works, rivers and harbors projects, or flood control
12 projects.

13 10. "Nonmember state" means a state that has not enacted this compact.

14 11. "Receiving state" means the state to which a child of a military family is sent, brought,
15 or caused to be sent or brought.

16 12. "Rule" means a written statement by the commission promulgated pursuant to
17 article XII of this compact which:

18 a. Is of general applicability;

19 b. Implements, interprets, or prescribes a policy or provision of the compact;

20 c. Is an organizational, procedural, or practice requirement of the commission;

21 d. Has the force and effect of law in a member state; and

22 e. Includes the amendment, repeal, or suspension of an existing rule.

23 13. "Sending state" means the state from which a child of a military family is sent, brought,
24 or caused to be sent or brought.

25 14. "State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the
26 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American
27 Samoa, the Northern Marianas Islands, and any other United States territory.

28 15. "Student" means the child of a military family who is formally enrolled in kindergarten
29 through grade twelve and for whom a school district receives public funding.

30 16. "Transition" means:

31 a. The formal and physical process of transferring from one school to another; or

- 1 information as determined by the commission. Upon receipt of the unofficial
2 educational records by a school in the receiving state, the school shall enroll and
3 appropriately place the student based on the information provided in the unofficial
4 records pending validation by the official records, as quickly as possible.
- 5 2. Simultaneous with the enrollment and conditional placement of the student, the school
6 in the receiving state shall request the student's official educational records from the
7 school in the sending state. Upon receipt of this request, the school in the sending
8 state shall process and furnish the official educational records to the school in the
9 receiving state within ten days or within the time determined to be reasonable under
10 the rules promulgated by the commission.
- 11 3. Compacting states shall give thirty days from the date of enrollment, or the time
12 determined to be reasonable under the rules promulgated by the commission, for
13 students to obtain any immunization required by the receiving state. For a series of
14 immunizations, initial vaccinations must be obtained within thirty days or within the
15 time determined to be reasonable under the rules promulgated by the commission.
- 16 4. Students must be allowed to continue their enrollment at grade level in the receiving
17 state commensurate with their grade level in the sending state at the time of transition,
18 regardless of age. A student who satisfactorily has completed the prerequisite grade
19 level in the sending state is eligible for enrollment in the next highest grade level in the
20 receiving state, regardless of age. A student transferring after the start of the school
21 calendar in the receiving state shall enter the school in the receiving state on the
22 validated level from the school in the sending state.

ARTICLE V. PLACEMENT AND ATTENDANCE

- 23
- 24 1. When a student transfers before or during the regular school calendar, the receiving
25 state school shall initially honor placement of the student in educational courses based
26 on the student's enrollment in the sending school or educational assessments
27 conducted at the school in the sending state, if the courses are offered. Course
28 placement includes honors, international baccalaureate, advanced placement, and
29 career and technical education courses. Continuing the student's academic program
30 from the sending school and promoting placement in challenging courses should be
31 paramount when considering placement. This does not preclude the school in the

1 receiving state from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate
2 placement and continued enrollment of the student in the course.

3 2. a. The receiving school initially shall honor placement of the student in educational
4 programs based on current educational assessments conducted at the sending
5 school or based on placement in like programs in the sending school. Such
6 programs include gifted and talented programs and English language learner
7 programs. This does not preclude the receiving school from performing
8 subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement of the student.

9 b. This subsection does not require a school district to create programs or offer
10 services that were not in place before the enrollment of the student unless the
11 programs or services are required by federal law.

12 3. a. In compliance with the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act [20 U.S.C. 1400
13 et seq.], the receiving school initially shall provide comparable services to a
14 student with disabilities based on the student's current individualized education
15 program; and

16 b. In compliance with the requirements of section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
17 [29 U.S.C. 794] and with the Americans with Disabilities Act [42 U.S.C. 12131
18 et seq.], the receiving school shall make reasonable accommodations and
19 modifications to address the needs of incoming students with disabilities, subject
20 to an existing 504 or title II plan, to provide the student with equal access to
21 education. This does not preclude the receiving school from performing
22 subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement of the student.

23 4. School district administrators have flexibility in waiving course or program
24 prerequisites and other preconditions for placement in courses or programs offered by
25 the district.

26 5. A student whose parent or legal guardian is an active duty member of the uniformed
27 services and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned
28 from deployment to a combat zone or a combat support posting must be granted
29 additional excused absences by the school district superintendent to visit with the
30 student's parent or legal guardian relative to the leave or deployment of the parent or
31 guardian.

ARTICLE VI. ELIGIBILITY

1. Eligibility for enrollment:

- a. A special power of attorney, relative to the guardianship of a child of a military family and executed under applicable law is sufficient for the purposes of enrollment and all other actions requiring parental participation and consent.
- b. A school district may not charge tuition to a transitioning military child placed in the care of a noncustodial parent or other individual standing in loco parentis who lives in a school district other than that of the custodial parent.
- c. A transitioning military child, placed in the care of a noncustodial parent or other person standing in loco parentis who lives in a school district other than that of the custodial parent, may continue to attend the school in which the child was enrolled while residing with the custodial parent.

2. The superintendent of public instruction, school districts, and the North Dakota high school activities association shall facilitate the opportunity for transitioning military children's inclusion in extracurricular activities, regardless of application deadlines, to the extent they are otherwise qualified.

ARTICLE VII. GRADUATION

To facilitate the on-time graduation of children of military families, the superintendent of public instruction and school district administrators shall incorporate the following procedures:

1. School district administrators shall waive specific courses required for graduation if similar coursework has been satisfactorily completed in another school district or shall provide reasonable justification for denial. Should a waiver not be granted to a student who would qualify to graduate from the sending school, the receiving school district shall provide an alternative means of acquiring required coursework so that graduation may occur on time.
2. States must accept exit or end-of-course examinations required for graduation from the sending state, national norm-referenced achievement tests, or alternative testing in lieu of testing requirements for graduation in the receiving state. If these alternatives cannot be accommodated by the receiving state for a student transferring in the student's senior year, then subsection 3 applies.

- 1 4. The compact commissioner and the military family education liaison are ex officio
2 members of the state council, unless either is already a full voting member of the state
3 council.

4 ARTICLE IX. INTERSTATE COMMISSION ON
5 EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

- 6 1. The interstate commission on educational opportunity for military children is created.
7 2. The activities of the commission are the formation of public policy and are a
8 discretionary state function.
9 3. The commission is a body corporate and joint agency of the member states and has
10 all the responsibilities, powers, and duties set forth herein, and any additional powers
11 as may be conferred upon it by a subsequent concurrent action of the respective
12 legislatures of member states in accordance with the terms of this compact.
13 4. The commission consists of one commission voting representative from each member
14 state who must be that state's compact commissioner.
15 a. Each member state represented at a meeting of the commission is entitled to
16 one vote.
17 b. A majority of the total member states constitutes a quorum for the transaction of
18 business unless a larger quorum is required by the bylaws of the commission.
19 c. A representative may not delegate a vote to another member state. If the
20 compact commissioner is unable to attend a meeting of the commission, the
21 governor or state council may delegate voting authority to another person from
22 the state for a specified meeting.
23 d. The bylaws may provide for meetings of the commission to be conducted by
24 telecommunications or electronic communication.
25 5. The commission consists of ex officio, nonvoting representatives who are members of
26 interested organizations. Ex officio members, as defined in the bylaws, may include
27 members of the representative organizations of military family advocates, school
28 district officials, parent and teacher groups, the department of defense, the education
29 commission of the states, the interstate agreement on the qualification of educational
30 personnel, and other interstate compacts affecting the education of children of military
31 members.

- 1 6. The commission shall meet at least once each calendar year. The chairman may call
2 additional meetings and, upon the request of a majority of the member states, shall
3 call additional meetings.
- 4 7. The commission shall establish an executive committee, whose members must
5 include the officers of the commission and any other members of the commission as
6 determined by the bylaws. Members of the executive committee shall serve a
7 one-year term. Members of the executive committee are entitled to one vote each. The
8 executive committee may act on behalf of the commission, with the exception of
9 rulemaking, during periods when the commission is not in session. The executive
10 committee shall oversee the day-to-day activities of the administration of the compact,
11 including enforcement and compliance with the compact, its bylaws and rules, and
12 other such duties as determined necessary. The department of defense is an ex officio
13 nonvoting member of the executive committee.
- 14 8. The commission shall establish bylaws and rules that provide for conditions and
15 procedures under which the commission shall make its information and official records
16 available to the public for inspection or copying. The commission may exempt from
17 disclosure information or official records to the extent they would adversely affect
18 personal privacy rights or proprietary interests.
- 19 9. The commission shall give public notice of all meetings and all meetings shall be open
20 to the public, except as set forth in the rules or as otherwise provided in the compact.
21 The commission and its committees may close a meeting, or portion thereof, when it
22 determines by two-thirds vote that an open meeting would be likely to:
- 23 a. Relate solely to the commission's internal personnel practices and procedures;
24 b. Disclose matters specifically exempted from disclosure by federal and state
25 statute;
- 26 c. Disclose trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or
27 confidential;
- 28 d. Involve accusing a person of a crime or formally censuring a person;
29 e. Disclose information of a personal nature when disclosure would constitute a
30 clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- 31 f. Disclose investigative records compiled for law enforcement purposes; or

- 1 g. Specifically relate to the commission's participation in a civil action or other legal
2 proceeding.
- 3 10. The commission shall cause its legal counsel or designee to certify that a meeting may
4 be closed and shall reference each relevant exemptible provision for any meeting, or
5 portion of a meeting, which is closed pursuant to this provision. The commission shall
6 keep minutes that fully and clearly describe all matters discussed in a meeting and
7 shall provide a full and accurate summary of actions taken, and the reasons therefore,
8 including a description of the views expressed and the record of a roll call vote. All
9 documents considered in connection with an action must be identified in the minutes.
10 All minutes and documents of a closed meeting must remain under seal, subject to
11 release by a majority vote of the commission.
- 12 11. The commission shall collect standardized data concerning the educational transition
13 of the children of military families under this compact as directed through its rules,
14 which shall specify the data to be collected, the means of collection, and data
15 exchange and reporting requirements. The methods of data collection, exchange, and
16 reporting, insofar as is reasonably possible, must conform to current technology and
17 coordinate its information functions with the appropriate custodian of records as
18 identified in the bylaws and rules.
- 19 12. The commission shall create a process that permits military officials, education
20 officials, and parents to inform the commission if and when there are alleged violations
21 of the compact or its rules or when issues subject to the jurisdiction of the compact or
22 its rules are not addressed by the state or local education agency. This subsection
23 does not create a private right of action against the commission, any member state, or
24 any school district.

25 ARTICLE X. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION

26 The commission may:

- 27 1. Provide for dispute resolution among member states;
28 2. Adopt rules that have the force and effect of law and are binding in the compact states
29 to the extent and in the manner provided in this compact and take all necessary
30 actions to effect the goals, purposes, and obligations as enumerated in this compact;

- 1 3. Issue, upon request of a member state, advisory opinions concerning the meaning or
- 2 interpretation of the interstate compact, its bylaws, rules, and actions;
- 3 4. Monitor compliance with the compact provisions, the rules adopted by the
- 4 commission, and the bylaws;
- 5 5. Establish and maintain offices within one or more of the member states;
- 6 6. Purchase and maintain insurance and bonds;
- 7 7. Borrow, accept, hire, or contract for services of personnel;
- 8 8. Establish and appoint committees, including an executive committee as required by
- 9 article IX, which may act on behalf of the commission in carrying out its powers and
- 10 duties;
- 11 9. Elect or appoint officers, attorneys, employees, agents, and consultants and fix their
- 12 compensation; define their duties; determine their qualifications; and establish the
- 13 commission's personnel policies and programs relating to conflicts of interest, rates of
- 14 compensation, and qualifications of personnel;
- 15 10. Accept, receive, use, and dispose of donations and grants of money, equipment,
- 16 supplies, materials, and services;
- 17 11. Lease, purchase, accept contributions or donations of, or otherwise to own, hold,
- 18 improve, or use any property, real, personal, or mixed;
- 19 12. Sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon, or otherwise dispose of
- 20 any property;
- 21 13. Establish a budget and make expenditures;
- 22 14. Adopt a seal and bylaws governing the management and operation of the commission;
- 23 15. Report annually to the legislatures, governors, judiciary, and state councils of the
- 24 member states concerning the activities of the commission during the preceding year
- 25 and include any recommendations that were adopted by the commission;
- 26 16. Coordinate education, training, and public awareness regarding the compact, its
- 27 implementation, and operation for officials and parents involved in such activity;
- 28 17. Establish uniform standards for the reporting, collecting, and exchanging of data;
- 29 18. Maintain corporate books and records in accordance with the bylaws;
- 30 19. Perform such functions as may be necessary or appropriate to achieve the purpose of
- 31 this compact; and

1 20. Provide for the uniform collection and sharing of information between and among
2 member states, schools, and military families under this compact.

3 ARTICLE XI. ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF THE COMMISSION

4 1. The commission, by a majority of the members present and voting, within twelve
5 months after the first commission meeting, shall adopt bylaws to govern its conduct
6 as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of the compact,
7 including:

8 a. Establishing the fiscal year of the commission;

9 b. Establishing an executive committee and such other committees as may be
10 necessary;

11 c. Providing for the establishment of committees and for governing any general or
12 specific delegation of authority or function of the commission;

13 d. Providing reasonable procedures for calling and conducting meetings of the
14 commission and ensuring reasonable notice of each meeting;

15 e. Establishing the titles and responsibilities of the officers and staff of the
16 commission;

17 f. Providing a mechanism for concluding the operations of the commission and the
18 return of surplus funds that may exist upon the termination of the compact after
19 the payment and reserving of all its debts and obligations; and

20 g. Providing startup rules for initial administration of the compact.

21 2. The commission, by a majority of the members, shall elect annually from among its
22 members a chairman, a vice chairman, and a treasurer, each of whom has the
23 authority and duties specified in the bylaws. The chairman or, in the chairman's
24 absence or disability, the vice chairman shall preside at all meetings of the
25 commission. The officers so elected serve without compensation or remuneration from
26 the commission; provided that, subject to the availability of budgeted funds, the
27 officers are entitled to be reimbursed for ordinary and necessary costs and expenses
28 incurred by them in the performance of their responsibilities as officers of the
29 commission.

30 3. a. The executive committee has the authority and duties set forth in the bylaws,
31 including:

- 1 (1) Managing the affairs of the commission in a manner consistent with the
2 bylaws and purposes of the commission;
- 3 (2) Overseeing an organizational structure and appropriate procedures for the
4 commission to provide for the creation of rules, operating procedures, and
5 administrative and technical support functions; and
- 6 (3) Planning, implementing, and coordinating communications and activities
7 with other state, federal, and local government organizations in order to
8 advance the goals of the commission.
- 9 b. The executive committee, subject to the approval of the commission, may
10 appoint or retain an executive director for such period, upon such terms and
11 conditions, and for such compensation as the commission determines
12 appropriate. The executive director shall serve as secretary to the commission
13 but may not be a member of the commission. The executive director shall hire
14 and supervise such other persons as may be authorized by the commission.
- 15 4. The commission's executive director and its employees are immune from suit and
16 liability, either personally or in their official capacity, for a claim for damage to or loss of
17 property or personal injury or other civil liability caused or arising out of or relating to
18 an actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred, or that such person had a
19 reasonable basis for believing occurred, within the scope of commission employment,
20 duties, or responsibilities; provided, those individuals are not protected from suit or
21 liability for damage, loss, injury, or liability caused by their intentional or willful and
22 wanton misconduct.
- 23 a. The liability of the commission's executive director and employees or commission
24 representatives, acting within the scope of that individual's employment or duties
25 for acts, errors, or omissions occurring within that individual's state, may not
26 exceed the limits of liability set forth under the constitution and laws of that state
27 for state officials, employees, and agents. The commission is considered to be an
28 instrumentality of the states for the purposes of any such action. This subsection
29 does not protect an individual from suit or liability for damage, loss, injury, or
30 liability caused by the intentional or willful and wanton misconduct of the
31 individual.

1 b. The commission shall defend the executive director and its employees and,
2 subject to the approval of the attorney general or other appropriate legal counsel
3 of the member state represented by a commission representative, shall defend a
4 commission representative in any civil action seeking to impose liability arising
5 out of an actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred within the scope
6 of commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, or that the defendant had
7 a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of commission
8 employment, duties, or responsibilities, provided that the actual or alleged act,
9 error, or omission did not result from intentional or willful and wanton misconduct
10 on the part of the individual.

11 c. To the extent not covered by the state involved, member state, or the
12 commission, the representatives or employees of the commission must be held
13 harmless in the amount of a settlement or judgment, including attorney's fees and
14 costs, obtained against the individuals arising out of an actual or alleged act,
15 error, or omission that occurred within the scope of commission employment,
16 duties, or responsibilities, or that those individuals had a reasonable basis for
17 believing occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties, or
18 responsibilities, provided that the actual or alleged act, error, or omission did not
19 result from intentional or willful and wanton misconduct on the part of those
20 individuals.

21 ARTICLE XII. RULEMAKING FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

- 22 1. The commission shall adopt reasonable rules in order to effectively and efficiently
23 achieve the purposes of this compact. If the commission exercises its rulemaking
24 authority in a manner that is beyond the scope of the purposes of this compact, or the
25 powers granted by this compact, then such an action by the commission is invalid and
26 has no force or effect.
- 27 2. Rules must be made pursuant to a rulemaking process that substantially conforms to
28 the Model State Administrative Procedure Act of the national conference of
29 commissioners on uniform state laws, as may be appropriate to the operations of the
30 commission.

- 1 3. Within thirty days after a rule is adopted, any person may file a petition for judicial
2 review of the rule; provided, that the filing of the petition does not stay or otherwise
3 prevent the rule from becoming effective unless the court finds that the petitioner has a
4 substantial likelihood of success. The court shall give deference to the actions of the
5 commission consistent with applicable law and shall not find the rule to be unlawful if
6 the rule represents a reasonable exercise of the commission's authority.
- 7 4. If a majority of the legislatures of the compacting states rejects a rule by enactment of
8 a statute or resolution in the same manner used to adopt the compact, then the rule
9 has no further force and effect in any compacting state.

10 ARTICLE XIII. OVERSIGHT, ENFORCEMENT, AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- 11 1. a. Each member state shall enforce this compact to effectuate the compact's
12 purposes and intent. The provisions of this compact and the rules promulgated
13 hereunder have standing as statutory law.
- 14 b. Courts shall take judicial notice of the compact and the rules in any judicial or
15 administrative proceeding in a member state pertaining to the subject matter of
16 this compact which may affect the powers, responsibilities, or actions of the
17 commission.
- 18 c. The commission is entitled to receive all service of process in any proceeding
19 and has standing to intervene in the proceeding for all purposes. Failure to
20 provide service of process to the commission renders a judgment or order void
21 as to the commission, this compact, or adopted rules.
- 22 2. If the commission determines that a member state has defaulted in the performance of
23 its obligations or responsibilities under this compact, or the bylaws or adopted rules,
24 the commission shall:
- 25 a. Provide written notice to the defaulting state and other member states of the
26 nature of the default, the means of curing the default, and any action taken by
27 the commission, and specify the conditions by which the defaulting state must
28 cure its default; and
- 29 b. Offer technical assistance to the member state.
- 30 3. If the defaulting state fails to cure the default, the defaulting state shall terminate from
31 the compact upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the member states and all rights,

1 privileges, and benefits conferred by this compact are terminated from the effective
2 date of termination. A cure of the default does not relieve the offending state of
3 obligations or liabilities incurred during the period of the default, except that in the
4 event of a default by this state, its total financial responsibility is limited to the amount
5 of its most recent annual assessment.

6 4. Suspension or termination of membership in the compact may be imposed only after
7 all other means of securing compliance have been exhausted. Notice of intent to
8 suspend or terminate must be given by the commission to the governor, the majority
9 and minority leaders of the defaulting state's legislature, and each member state.

10 5. The state that has been suspended or terminated is responsible for all assessments,
11 obligations, and liabilities incurred through the effective date of suspension or
12 termination, to a maximum of five thousand dollars multiplied by the number of years
13 that the state has been a member of the compact. In the event that this state is
14 suspended or terminated, its total financial responsibility is limited to the amount of its
15 most recent annual assessment.

16 6. The commission may not bear any costs relating to any state that has been found to
17 be in default or which has been suspended or terminated from the compact, unless
18 otherwise mutually agreed upon in writing between the commission and the defaulting
19 state.

20 7. The defaulting state may appeal the action of the commission by petitioning the United
21 States district court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where the
22 commission has its principal offices. The prevailing party must be awarded all costs of
23 such litigation, including reasonable attorney's fees.

24 8. The commission shall attempt, upon the request of a member state, to resolve
25 disputes that are subject to the compact and which may arise among member states
26 and between member and nonmember states. The commission shall adopt a rule
27 providing for mediation and binding dispute resolution for disputes as appropriate.

ARTICLE XIV. FINANCING OF THE COMMISSION

28
29 1. The commission shall pay, or provide for the payment of, the reasonable expenses of
30 its establishment, organization, and ongoing activities.

- 1 2. a. The commission may levy on and collect an annual assessment from each
2 member state to cover the cost of the operations and activities of the commission
3 and its staff which must be in a total amount sufficient to cover the commission's
4 annual budget as approved each year.
- 5 b. The aggregate annual assessment amount must be allocated based upon a
6 formula to be determined by the commission, which shall adopt a rule binding
7 upon all member states.
- 8 c. The annual assessment applicable to this state may not exceed an amount equal
9 to two dollars multiplied by the latest available number of children of military
10 families in this state.
- 11 d. This state may not be held liable for the payment of any special assessment or
12 any assessment other than the annual assessment in the amount established by
13 this subsection.
- 14 3. The commission may not incur obligations of any kind prior to securing the funds
15 adequate to meet the same; nor may the commission pledge the credit of any of the
16 member states, except by and with the authority of the member state.
- 17 4. The commission shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements. The
18 receipts and disbursements of the commission are subject to the audit and accounting
19 procedures established under its bylaws. However, all receipts and disbursements of
20 funds handled by the commission must be audited yearly by a certified or licensed
21 public accountant and the report of the audit must be included in and become part of
22 the annual report of the commission.

23 ARTICLE XV. MEMBER STATES, EFFECTIVE DATE, AND AMENDMENT

- 24 1. Any state is eligible to become a member state.
- 25 2. The compact becomes effective and binding upon legislative enactment of the
26 compact into law by no less than ten states. The effective date may not be earlier than
27 December 1, 2007. Thereafter, the compact becomes effective and binding as to any
28 other member state upon enactment of the compact into law by that state. The
29 governors of nonmember states or their designees must be invited to participate in the
30 activities of the commission on a nonvoting basis prior to adoption of the compact by
31 all states.

1 3. The commission may propose amendments to the compact for enactment by the
2 member states. No amendment may become effective and binding upon the
3 commission and the member states until the amendment is enacted into law by
4 unanimous consent of the member states.

5 ARTICLE XVI. WITHDRAWAL AND DISSOLUTION

6 1. a. Once effective, the compact continues in force and remains binding upon each
7 member state, provided that a member state may withdraw from the compact by
8 specifically repealing the statute that enacted the compact into law, except that in
9 the case of this state, withdrawal from the compact may also be accomplished by
10 statutorily allowing for the expiration of this Act.

11 b. Withdrawal from this compact must be by the enactment of a statute repealing
12 the compact, except that in the case of this state, withdrawal from the compact
13 may also be accomplished by statutorily allowing for the expiration of this Act.

14 c. The withdrawing state immediately shall notify the chairman of the commission in
15 writing upon the introduction of legislation repealing this compact in the
16 withdrawing state, except that if this state elects to withdraw from the compact by
17 statutorily allowing for the expiration of this Act, this state shall notify the
18 chairman of the commission when it becomes evident that the expiration will take
19 effect. The commission shall notify the other member states of the withdrawing
20 state's intent to withdraw within sixty days of receiving the notice.

21 d. The withdrawing state is responsible for all assessments, obligations, and
22 liabilities incurred through the effective date of withdrawal, to a maximum amount
23 equal to two dollars multiplied by the latest available number of children of
24 military families in this state.

25 e. Reinstatement following withdrawal of a member state occurs upon the
26 withdrawing state reenacting the compact or upon such later date as determined
27 by the commission.

28 2. This compact dissolves effective upon the date of the withdrawal or default of the
29 member state which reduces the membership in the compact to one member state.
30 Upon the dissolution of this compact, the compact becomes null and void and is of no

1 further force or effect, and the business and affairs of the commission must be
2 concluded and surplus funds must be distributed in accordance with the bylaws.

3 ARTICLE XVII. SEVERABILITY AND CONSTRUCTION

- 4 1. The provisions of this compact are severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence, or
5 provision is determined unenforceable, the remaining provisions of the compact are
6 enforceable.
- 7 2. This compact must be liberally construed to effectuate its purposes.
- 8 3. Nothing in this compact prohibits the applicability of other interstate compacts to which
9 the states are members.

10 ARTICLE XVIII. BINDING EFFECT OF COMPACT AND OTHER LAWS

- 11 1. Nothing in this compact prevents the enforcement of any other law of a member state
12 that is not inconsistent with this compact. All member states' laws conflicting with this
13 compact are superseded to the extent of the conflict.
- 14 2. a. All lawful actions of the commission, including all rules and bylaws promulgated
15 by the commission, are binding upon the member states.
- 16 b. All agreements between the commission and the member states are binding in
17 accordance with their terms.
- 18 c. If any provision of this compact exceeds the constitutional limits imposed on the
19 legislature of any member state, the provision is ineffective to the extent of the
20 conflict with the constitutional provision in question in that member state.

21 **15.1-04.1-02. Compact on educational opportunity for military children - State council**

22 **- Appointment.**

23 The state council on educational opportunity for military children consists of:

- 24 1. The following voting members:
- 25 a. The superintendent of public instruction, who shall serve as the chairman;
- 26 b. The superintendent of a school district that includes a high concentration of
27 military children, appointed by the governor;
- 28 c. A representative of a military installation, appointed by the governor;
- 29 d. One legislator, appointed by the chairman of the legislative management;
- 30 e. One representative of the executive branch of government, appointed by the
31 governor; and

1 f. Any other individuals recommended by the members of the state council listed in
2 subdivisions a through e; and

3 2. The following nonvoting members:

4 a. The compact commissioner appointed under section 15.1-04.1-03; and

5 b. The military family education liaison, appointed under section 15.1-04.1-04.

6 **15.1-04.1-03. Compact commissioner - Appointment - Duties.**

7 The governor shall appoint a compact commissioner who shall be responsible for the
8 administration and management of the state's participation in the compact on educational
9 opportunity for military children.

10 **15.1-04.1-04. Military family education liaison - Appointment - Duties.**

11 The state council on educational opportunity for military children shall appoint a military
12 family education liaison to assist military families and the state in facilitating the implementation
13 of the compact on educational opportunity for military children.

14 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-06-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is
15 amended and reenacted as follows:

16 **15.1-06-01. Schools free and accessible - School ages.**

17 1. Each public school must be free, open, and accessible at all times to any child
18 provided:

19 a. The child may not enroll in grade one unless the child reaches the age of six
20 before August first of the year of enrollment;

21 b. The child may not enroll in kindergarten unless the child reaches the age of five
22 before August first of the year of enrollment; and

23 c. The child has not reached the age of twenty-one before August first of the year of
24 enrollment.

25 2. Notwithstanding subsection 1, a school district may not enroll in grade one a child who
26 is not six years old before August first, unless the child will be six years old before
27 December first and:

28 a. The child, by means of developmental and readiness screening instruments
29 approved by the superintendent of public instruction and administered by the
30 school district, can demonstrate academic, social, and emotional readiness; or

31 b. The child has completed an approved kindergarten program.

1 3. Notwithstanding subsection 1, a school district may not enroll in kindergarten a child
2 who is not five years old before August first unless the child will be five years old
3 before December first and the child, by means of developmental and readiness
4 screening instruments approved by the superintendent of public instruction and
5 administered by the school district, can demonstrate academic, social, and emotional
6 readiness.

7 4. The requirements of this section are not applicable to the children of military families,
8 to the extent that the requirements conflict with enrollment provisions otherwise
9 agreed to by the state in the compact on educational opportunity for military children.

10 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-21-02.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
11 amended and reenacted as follows:

12 **15.1-21-02.1. High school graduation - Diploma requirements.**

13 Except as provided in section 15.1-21-02.3 or as otherwise agreed to in the compact on
14 educational opportunity for military children, before a school district, a nonpublic high school, or
15 the center for distance education issues a high school diploma to a student, the student must
16 have successfully completed the following twenty-two units of high school coursework:

- 17 1. Four units of English language arts from a sequence that includes literature,
18 composition, and speech;
- 19 2. Three units of mathematics;
- 20 3. Three units of science, including:
- 21 a. One unit of physical science;
- 22 b. One unit of biology; and
- 23 c. (1) One unit of any other science; or
- 24 (2) Two one-half units of any other science;
- 25 4. Three units of social studies, including:
- 26 a. One unit of United States history;
- 27 b. (1) One-half unit of United States government and one-half unit of economics;
- 28 or
- 29 (2) One unit of problems of democracy; and

- 1 c. One unit or two one-half units of any other social studies, which may include
- 2 civics, civilization, geography and history, multicultural studies, North Dakota
- 3 studies, psychology, sociology, and world history;
- 4 5. a. One unit of physical education; or
- 5 b. One-half unit of physical education and one-half unit of health;
- 6 6. Three units of:
- 7 a. Foreign languages;
- 8 b. Native American languages;
- 9 c. Fine arts; or
- 10 d. Career and technical education courses; and
- 11 7. Any five additional units.

12 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 15.1-29-13 of the North Dakota
13 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 14 1. a. Except as provided in this subsection or as otherwise agreed to in the compact
15 on educational opportunity for military children, the board of a school district that
16 admits a nonresident student shall charge and collect tuition for the student.
17 Either the student's district of residence shall pay the tuition to the admitting
18 district in accordance with section 15.1-29-12 or the student's parent shall pay
19 the tuition to the admitting district in accordance with section 15.1-29-07.
- 20 b. A board may charge tuition for nonresident students enrolled in an approved
21 alternative education program.
- 22 c. Except as otherwise provided, if a school district fails to charge and collect tuition
23 for a nonresident student, the districts shall forfeit any state aid otherwise
24 payable for the nonresident student.

25 **SECTION 5.**

26 **Adjutant general - Provision of funding - Source.**

27 The adjutant general shall pay all expenses incurred by the state to participate in the
28 compact on educational opportunity for military children, including the reimbursement of actual
29 and necessary expenses incurred by members of the state council, from the operating
30 expenses line item in the appropriation bill for the adjutant general, as approved by the
31 legislative assembly.

1 **SECTION 6. REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.** Before July 1, 2012,
2 representatives of the Grand Forks school district, the Minot school district, the Grand Forks air
3 force base school district, and the Minot air force base school district shall provide, singly or
4 jointly, a report to the legislative management regarding the state's participation in the compact
5 on educational opportunity for military children.

6 **SECTION 7. EXPIRATION DATE.** This Act is effective through July 31, 2013, and after that
7 date is ineffective.