

Introduced by

Senators Davison, Bakke, Oban

Representative Pyle

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15-10 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to a student teacher scholarship program; and to provide an
3 appropriation.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
6 and enacted as follows:

7 **Student teacher scholarship program - Administered by the board.**

8 1. For purposes of this section:

9 a. "Rural school district" has the same meaning as the term is defined in the 2006
10 national center for education statistics locale codes.

11 b. "Student teacher" means an individual enrolled at an institution under the control
12 of the state board of higher education, a private institution of higher education
13 located in this state, or a tribal college located in this state who is completing an
14 education degree to become a licensed teacher, and who has signed a contract
15 to teach at a rural school district under the supervision of a licensed teacher.

16 2. The state board of higher education shall administer a student teacher scholarship
17 program. The board shall adopt rules to administer the program including rules
18 establishing an application process, eligibility criteria, and distribution of program
19 scholarships. An eligible student teacher may apply to the board to receive a
20 scholarship under the program.

21 3. To be eligible to receive a scholarship under this section, an individual:

22 a. Must be enrolled at an institution under the control of the state board of higher
23 education, a private institution of higher education located in this state, or a tribal
24 college located in this state;

- 1 b. Must be completing a degree to become a licensed teacher in compliance with
2 chapter 15.1-18;
- 3 c. Must be enrolled in a teacher preparation program, accredited by the education
4 standards and practices board, at an institution under the control of the state
5 board of higher education, a private institution of higher education located in this
6 state, or a tribal college located in this state; and
- 7 d. Must have signed a contract to student teach at a grade level or in a content area
8 and in a geographical location in the state identified by the board as having an
9 existing teacher shortage or critical need.
- 10 4. To be eligible to hire a student teacher awarded a scholarship under this section, a
11 school district:
- 12 a. Must be a rural school district;
- 13 b. Must demonstrate a teacher shortage, as determined by the board;
- 14 c. Must be willing to supervise, mentor, and train a student teacher; and
- 15 d. Must be able to provide the student teacher lodging accommodations within a
16 reasonable distance from the school of placement and at a reasonable rental
17 rate, as determined by the board.
- 18 5. Subject to legislative appropriation:
- 19 a. The board may award and distribute up to thirty-three scholarships during each
20 year of the biennium; and
- 21 b. The board shall distribute fifteen thousand dollars to an eligible individual
22 awarded a scholarship under the program. A scholarship may be used to pay:
- 23 (1) The cost of tuition at the institution under the control of the state board of
24 higher education, private institution of higher education located in this state,
25 or tribal college located in this state at which the student teacher is enrolled;
26 and
- 27 (2) Living expenses while student teaching, including rent, food, clothing, and
28 travel to the school and district of placement.
- 29 6. The board may contract with a third-party organization to administer the program and
30 supervise the student teachers participating in the program.

1 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general
2 fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$1,000,000, or so much of the
3 sum as may be necessary, to the state board of higher education for the purpose of providing
4 scholarships to eligible student teachers under the student teacher scholarship program, for the
5 biennium beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2023.