

SENATE BILL NO. 2177

Introduced by

Senators Lee, Dever, Poolman

Representatives Sanford, Schreiber-Beck, Weisz

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 43-12.3-06 of the North Dakota Century Code,
2 relating to school counselors' eligibility for a student loan repayment program.

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

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-12.3-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **43-12.3-06. Student loan repayment program - Contract.**

7 1. The health council shall enter a contract with a selected health care professional. The
8 health council shall agree to provide student loan repayments on behalf of the
9 selected health care professional subject to the requirements and limitations of this
10 section.

11 a. For a physician:

12 (1) The loan repayment may not exceed twenty thousand dollars per year, and
13 may not exceed one hundred thousand dollars over five years; and

14 (2) The matching funds must equal fifty percent of the amount required in
15 paragraph 1.

16 b. For a clinical psychologist:

17 (1) The loan repayment may not exceed twelve thousand dollars per year, and
18 may not exceed sixty thousand dollars over five years; and

19 (2) The matching funds must equal twenty-five percent of the amount required
20 in paragraph 1.

21 c. For an advanced practice registered nurse or a physician assistant:

22 (1) The loan repayment may not exceed four thousand dollars per year, and
23 may not exceed twenty thousand dollars over five years; and

- 1 (2) The matching funds must equal ten percent of the amount required in
2 paragraph 1.
- 3 d. For a behavioral health professional:
- 4 (1) The loan repayment may not exceed four thousand dollars per year, and
5 may not exceed twenty thousand dollars over five years; and
6 (2) The matching funds must equal ten percent of the amount required in
7 paragraph 1.
- 8 e. For purposes of this section, a behavioral health professional means an
9 individual who practices in the behavioral health field and is:
- 10 (1) A licensed addiction counselor;
11 (2) A licensed professional counselor;
12 (3) A licensed social worker;
13 (4) A registered nurse; or
14 (5) A school counselor; or
15 (6) A specialty practice registered nurse.
- 16 2. a. Payments under this section must be made on behalf of the health care
17 professional directly to the Bank of North Dakota or to another participating
18 lending institution.
- 19 b. Except as otherwise provided, payments under this section may be made only at
20 the conclusion of each twelve month period of service.
- 21 c. Prorated payments may be made only if:
- 22 (1) The repayment of the loan requires less than a full annual payment;
23 (2) The health care professional is terminated or resigns from his or her
24 position; or
25 (3) The health care professional is unable to complete a twelve-month period of
26 service due to the individual's death, a certifiable medical condition or
27 disability, or a call to military service.
- 28 3. Payments under this section terminate upon the earlier of:
- 29 a. The full repayment of the health care professional's student loan; or
30 b. The completion of five years as a participant in the student loan repayment
31 program.

- 1 4. The health council shall waive the requirements of this section that pertain to matching
- 2 funds if the health care professional opens a new practice as a solo practitioner in a
- 3 city that has fewer than fifteen thousand residents.