

**SENATE BILL NO. 2272**

Introduced by

Senators Schaible, Wanzek

Representatives Dockter, Headland, Nathe

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact section 15-10-38.3 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
2 relating to administrative fees retained by the state board of higher education; to amend and  
3 reenact sections 15-10-38.1 and 15-10-38.2 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the  
4 skilled workforce student loan repayment program and skilled workforce scholarship program;  
5 to provide a continuing appropriation; to provide an effective date; and to provide an expiration  
6 date.

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

8 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-10-38.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
9 amended and reenacted as follows:

10 **15-10-38.1. Skilled workforce student loan repayment program - Skilled workforce**  
11 **student loan repayment program fund - Continuing appropriation - Report.**

12 1. There is created in the state treasury the skilled workforce student loan repayment  
13 program fund. The fund consists of moneys transferred into the fund by the legislative  
14 assembly, matching funds received, and loan repayments. Moneys in the fund are  
15 appropriated to the state board of higher education on a continuing basis for the  
16 purpose of distributing student loan repayment grants directly to the Bank of North  
17 Dakota or other participating lender to repay outstanding student loan principal  
18 balances for eligible applicants.

19 2. The state board of higher education shall adopt policies and procedures to develop,  
20 implement, promote, and administer a skilled workforce student loan repayment  
21 program in cooperation with the Bank of North Dakota and the North Dakota workforce  
22 development council with the intent of attracting and retaining individuals for  
23 professional or technical skills in high demand in this state.

- 1           3.    The North Dakota workforce development council in cooperation with job service North  
2           Dakota shall use available labor market information to determine annually the eligible  
3           high-demand professional and technical skills and emerging occupations in this state.
- 4           4.    ~~The state board of higher education and the North Dakota workforce development~~  
5           ~~council shall compile a list of qualifying educational programs annually. Qualifying~~  
6           ~~educational programs must pertain to the professional and technical skills and~~  
7           ~~emerging occupations in high demand in this state, as determined under subsection 3.~~  
8           ~~Qualifying educational programs may include degree or certificate programs.~~
- 9           5.    Graduates of ~~qualifying educational~~ degree or certificate programs from institutions or  
10          entities in this state may apply for the skilled workforce student loan repayment  
11          program. To be eligible to receive student loan repayment grants under the program,  
12          the applicant:
- 13          a.    Must have successfully completed a qualifying educational program from an  
14          eligible institution of higher education;
- 15          b.    Must have a student loan with the Bank of North Dakota or other participating  
16          lender;
- 17          c.    Following completion of a qualifying educational program, must reside and  
18          work in this state in an eligible high-demand or emerging occupation; and
- 19          d.    Must have met and shall continue to meet any requirements established by rule in  
20          applicable state board of higher education procedures.
- 21          ~~6.5.~~   The state board of higher education shall adopt ~~rules~~ procedures to ensure compliance  
22          with residency and occupation requirements after completion of the ~~qualifying~~  
23          educational program.
- 24          ~~7.6.~~   The state board of higher education shall distribute student loan repayment grants  
25          from the skilled workforce student loan repayment program fund directly to the Bank of  
26          North Dakota or other participating lender to repay outstanding student loan principal  
27          balances for eligible applicants. The maximum annual student loan repayment grant  
28          amount for which an applicant may qualify is five thousand six hundred sixty-seven  
29          dollars, or one-third of the applicant's outstanding student loan principal balance upon  
30          initial application for the program, whichever is less. The maximum total student loan

1 repayment grant amount for which any applicant may qualify is seventeen thousand  
2 dollars.

3 ~~8-7.~~ If an individual is receiving loan forgiveness under any other ~~provision~~state program,  
4 the individual may not receive a student loan repayment grant under this section  
5 during the same application year. An individual who received a skilled workforce  
6 scholarship under section 15-10-38.2 is not eligible for loan forgiveness under this  
7 section.

8 8. An individual may receive a combined total of no more than seventeen thousand  
9 dollars under this section and the skilled workforce scholarship program under section  
10 15-10-38.2.

11 9. The skilled workforce student loan repayment program must be a joint public and  
12 private effort. The state board of higher education shall provide one dollar of funding  
13 for each one dollar of funding raised from the private sector. Any matching funds  
14 received must be deposited in the skilled workforce student loan repayment program  
15 fund.

16 10. The state board of higher education shall provide a biennial program report to the  
17 legislative management by September first of each even-numbered year. The report  
18 must include information regarding:

19 a. The eligible high-demand professional and technical skills and emerging  
20 occupations;

21 b. ~~The qualifying educational programs;~~

22 e. The number of applicants, eligible applicants, and applicants receiving awards;

23 ~~d.c.~~ The amount of private funding raised; and

24 e.d. The average and total amounts awarded under the program.

25 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-10-38.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
26 amended and reenacted as follows:

27 **15-10-38.2. Skilled workforce scholarship program - Skilled workforce scholarship**  
28 **fund - Continuing appropriation - Report.**

29 1. There is created in the state treasury the skilled workforce scholarship fund. The fund  
30 consists of moneys transferred into the fund by the legislative assembly, matching  
31 funds received, and scholarship repayments. Moneys in the fund are appropriated to

1 the state board of higher education on a continuing basis for the purpose of providing  
2 grants to institutions of higher education related to skilled workforce scholarships.  
3 Institutions of higher education include institutions under the control of the state board  
4 of higher education, North Dakota nonpublic accredited institutions of higher  
5 education, ~~and tribally controlled community colleges, and North Dakota institutions~~  
6 licensed by the North Dakota department of career and technical education.

7 2. The state board of higher education shall adopt policies and procedures to develop,  
8 implement, promote, and administer a skilled workforce scholarship program in  
9 cooperation with the Bank of North Dakota and the North Dakota workforce  
10 development council with the intent of attracting and retaining individuals for  
11 professional or technical skills in high demand in this state.

12 3. The North Dakota workforce development council in cooperation with job service North  
13 Dakota shall use available labor market information to determine annually the eligible  
14 high-demand professional and technical skills and emerging occupations in this state.

15 4. The state board of higher education and the workforce development council shall  
16 compile a list of qualifying educational programs annually. ~~Qualifying~~ A qualifying  
17 ~~educational program must be able to~~ program is a program resulting in attainment of  
18 an associate's degree or lower credential upon successful completion or a program  
19 that may be completed within four semesters or six quarters and must. A qualifying  
20 educational program also must pertain to the professional and technical skills and  
21 emerging occupations in high demand in this state, as determined under subsection 3.  
22 Qualifying educational programs may include degree or certificate programs.

23 5. Individuals enrolled in a qualifying educational program in this state may apply for a  
24 scholarship under this section. Scholarships are limited to the amount charged each  
25 quarter, semester, or term by the educational institution for the tuition, fees, books, and  
26 supplies required for the qualifying educational program. The scholarships are  
27 intended to supplement any other scholarship or financial aid grant received by a  
28 student to assist the student with the costs of the qualifying educational program. An  
29 individual may not receive ~~more than a~~ combined total exceeding seventeen thousand  
30 ~~dollars in total~~ dollars in total under this section and the skilled workforce loan repayment program  
31 under section 15-10-38.1.

- 1           6. To be eligible for a scholarship and payment under this section, a student must be  
2           enrolled full time in an eligible program and ~~maintain~~have at least a 2.5 cumulative  
3           grade point average, based on a 4.0 grading system, or maintain academic progress  
4           in the program according to program requirements. A student may not receive  
5           scholarships under this section for more than the equivalent of four semesters of  
6           full-time enrollment or six quarters of full-time enrollment.
- 7           7. Upon completion of a qualifying educational program, a student who received a  
8           scholarship under this section must reside and work in this state in an eligible  
9           high-demand or emerging occupation for a minimum of three years.
- 10          8. An individual shall repay the scholarship pursuant to the terms in the individual's  
11          scholarship award agreement if the individual fails to maintain either a 2.5 cumulative  
12          grade point average or academic progress according to program requirements while  
13          enrolled, ~~discontinues attendance~~withdraws voluntarily or involuntarily before the  
14          completion of ~~any semester or quarter~~the program for which a scholarship has been  
15          received, or fails to reside and work in this state in an eligible high-demand or  
16          emerging occupation for at least three years following degree or certificate completion.
- 17          9. The state board of higher education may allow an individual who received payment  
18          under this section to delay or cancel repayment under this section due to financial  
19          difficulty, military service, death, or total disability.
- 20          10. Each quarter, semester, or term, the state board of higher education shall distribute  
21          grants to institutions of higher education to provide the amounts necessary for the  
22          scholarships awarded to the students enrolled in each institution.
- 23          ~~10-11.~~ The skilled workforce scholarship program must be a joint public and private effort.  
24          The state board of higher education may distribute grants only to the extent that the  
25          private sector has provided one dollar of matching funds for each dollar of funding  
26          provided by the state. Any matching funds received must be deposited in the skilled  
27          workforce scholarship fund.
- 28          ~~11-12.~~ The state board of higher education shall provide a biennial program report to the  
29          legislative management by September first of each even-numbered year. The report  
30          must include information regarding:

- 1 a. The eligible high-demand professional and technical skills and emerging
- 2 occupations;
- 3 b. The qualifying educational programs;
- 4 c. The number of applicants, eligible applicants, and applicants receiving awards;
- 5 d. The amount of private funding raised; and
- 6 e. The average and total amounts awarded under the program.

7 **SECTION 3.** Section 15-10-38.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted  
8 as follows:

9 **15-10-38.3. Scholarship and loan forgiveness administrative costs - Continuing**  
10 **appropriation.**

11 The state board of higher education shall retain up to one and one-half percent of any funds  
12 appropriated to the board under subsection 1 of section 15-10-38.1 and subsection 1 of section  
13 15-10-38.2. The retained funds must be used for promotion and administration of the programs  
14 under those sections.

15 **SECTION 4.** Section 15-10-38.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted  
16 as follows:

17 **15-10-38.3. Scholarship and loan forgiveness administrative costs - Continuing**  
18 **appropriation.**

19 The state board of higher education shall retain up to one-half of one percent of any funds  
20 appropriated to the board under subsection 1 of section 15-10-38.1 and subsection 1 of section  
21 15-10-38.2. The retained funds must be used for administration of the programs under those  
22 sections.

23 **SECTION 5. EXPIRATION DATE.** Section 3 of this Act is effective through July 31, 2023,  
24 and after that date is ineffective.

25 **SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.** Section 4 of this Act becomes effective on August 1, 2023.