

Sixty-eighth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2145

Introduced by

Senators Davison, Sorvaag

Representatives Bosch, Strinden, Swiontek, Wagner

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 15-20.4-04 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
2 relating to exceptions for postsecondary career school accreditation; to provide for a legislative  
3 management study; to provide an expiration date; and to declare an emergency.

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

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-20.4-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **15-20.4-04. Minimum standards - Exceptions.**

8 1. ~~All~~ A postsecondary career ~~school~~ school must be accredited by national or regional  
9 accrediting agencies recognized by the United States department of education. The  
10 board ~~may~~ additionally may require ~~such~~ further evidence and ~~make such~~ further  
11 ~~investigation~~ investigate as in ~~its~~ the board's judgment may be necessary. ~~Any~~ A  
12 postsecondary career school operating in this state seeking ~~its~~ the school's first  
13 authorization to operate may be issued a provisional authorization to operate on an  
14 annual basis until the school becomes eligible for accreditation by a recognized  
15 accrediting agency. ~~Schools~~ A school issued a provisional authorization to operate  
16 must demonstrate a substantial good-faith showing of progress toward  
17 ~~such~~ accreditation status. Only upon accreditation ~~shall~~ may a school become eligible  
18 for a regular authorization to operate. A school shall give written notification to the  
19 board within thirty days of any change to the school's accreditation status.

20 2. This section does not apply to a postsecondary career ~~school~~ school operating in this  
21 state that ~~do~~:

22 a. Does not grant ~~degrees~~ a degree and that ~~offer~~ offers mainly hands-on training in  
23 low census occupations, as determined by the board. "Degree" as used in this  
24 ~~subsection~~ subdivision means a document that provides evidence or

1 demonstrates completion of a course of instruction that results in the attainment  
2 of a rank or level of associate or higher.

3 b. Offers a full-stack software engineering course ~~that was in operation before 2020.~~

4 **SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - POSTSECONDARY CAREER**

5 **SCHOOL AUTHORIZATION.** During the 2023-24 interim, the legislative management shall  
6 consider studying the statute for the authorization to operate postsecondary career schools. The  
7 legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any  
8 legislation necessary to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-ninth legislative assembly.

9 **SECTION 3. EXPIRATION DATE.** This Act is effective through ~~January 1, 2026~~August 1,  
10 2025, and after that date is ineffective.

11 **SECTION 4. EMERGENCY.** Section 1 of this Act is declared to be an emergency measure.