

Sixty-sixth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2039

Introduced by

Legislative Management

(Taxation Committee)

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 the development and implementation of a skilled workforce
3 scholarship program; to provide a continuing appropriation; and to provide for a transfer.

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 **Skilled workforce scholarship program - Skilled workforce scholarship fund - State**
8 **board of higher education - Continuing appropriation.**

- 9 1. There is created in the state treasury the skilled workforce scholarship fund. The fund
10 consists of moneys transferred into the fund by the legislative assembly, matching
11 funds received, and scholarship repayments. Moneys in the fund are appropriated to
12 the state board of higher education on a continuing basis for the purpose of providing
13 grants to institutions of higher education related to skilled workforce scholarships.
14 Institutions of higher education include institutions under the control of the state board
15 of higher education, North Dakota nonpublic accredited institutions of higher
16 education, and tribally controlled community colleges.
- 17 2. The state board of higher education shall develop policies to administer a skilled
18 workforce scholarship program in cooperation with the Bank of North Dakota and the
19 workforce education advisory council. The purpose of the skilled workforce scholarship
20 program is to attract and retain students for professional or technical skills in high
21 demand in this state.
- 22 3. The state board of higher education and the workforce education advisory council
23 shall compile a list of qualifying educational programs by August first of each year.

- 1 Qualifying educational programs must be able to be completed within four semesters
2 or eight quarters and pertain to the technical skills in high demand in this state.
- 3 4. Individuals enrolled in a qualifying educational program in this state may apply for a
4 scholarship under this section. Scholarships are limited to the amount charged each
5 quarter or semester by the educational institution for the tuition, fees, books, and
6 supplies required for the qualifying educational program. The scholarships may
7 supplement any other scholarship or grant financial aid received by a student to assist
8 the student with the costs of the qualifying educational program.
- 9 5. To be eligible for a scholarship under this section, a student shall maintain a 2.5
10 cumulative grade point average, based on a 4.0 grading system. A student may not
11 receive scholarships under this section for more than the equivalent of four semesters
12 of full-time enrollment or eight quarters of full-time enrollment. Upon completion of a
13 qualifying educational program, a student who received a scholarship under this
14 section shall remain and work in this state for a minimum of three years.
- 15 6. An individual shall repay the scholarship pursuant to the terms in the individual's
16 scholarship award agreement if the individual fails to maintain a 2.5 cumulative grade
17 point average while enrolled, discontinues attendance before the completion of any
18 semester or quarter for which a scholarship has been received, or fails to remain and
19 work in this state for at least three years following degree or certificate completion.
- 20 7. Each quarter or semester, the state board of higher education shall distribute grants to
21 institutions of higher education to provide the amounts necessary for the scholarships
22 awarded to the students enrolled in each institution. The state board of higher
23 education may distribute grants only to the extent that the private sector has provided
24 one dollar of matching funds for each dollar of funding provided by the state.

25 **SECTION 2. TRANSFER - BANK OF NORTH DAKOTA - SKILLED WORKFORCE**

26 **SCHOLARSHIP FUND.** The Bank of North Dakota shall transfer the sum of \$10,000,000, or so
27 much of the sum as may be necessary, from the Bank's current earnings and undivided profits
28 to the skilled workforce scholarship fund during the biennium beginning July 1, 2019, and
29 ending June 30, 2021.