

**Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 3, 2023**

SENATE BILL NO. 2145
(Senators Davison, Sorvaag)
(Representatives Bosch, Strinden, Swiontek, Wagner)

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

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

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

15-20.4-04. Minimum standards - Exceptions.

1. ~~All~~ A postsecondary career ~~school~~school must be accredited by national or regional accrediting agencies recognized by the United States department of education. The board ~~may~~ additionally may require ~~such~~ further evidence and ~~make~~ such further ~~investigation~~investigate as in ~~its~~the board's judgment may be necessary. ~~Any~~A postsecondary career school operating in this state seeking ~~its~~the school's first authorization to operate may be issued a provisional authorization to operate on an annual basis until the school becomes eligible for accreditation by a recognized accrediting agency. ~~Schools~~A school issued a provisional authorization to operate must demonstrate a substantial good-faith showing of progress toward ~~such~~accreditation status. Only upon accreditation ~~shall~~may a school become eligible for a regular authorization to operate. A school shall give written notification to the board within thirty days of any change to the school's accreditation status.
2. This section does not apply to a postsecondary career ~~school~~school operating in this state that ~~do~~s:
 - a. Does not grant ~~degrees~~a degree and that ~~offer~~offers mainly hands-on training in low census occupations, as determined by the board. "Degree" as used in this ~~subsection~~subdivision means a document that provides evidence or demonstrates completion of a course of instruction that results in the attainment of a rank or level of associate or higher.
 - b. Offers a full-stack software engineering course.

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - POSTSECONDARY CAREER SCHOOL AUTHORIZATION. During the 2023-24 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying the statute for the authorization to operate postsecondary career schools. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation necessary to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-ninth legislative assembly.

SECTION 3. EXPIRATION DATE. This Act is effective through August 1, 2025, and after that date is ineffective.

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

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2145 and that two-thirds of the members-elect of the Senate voted in favor of said law.

Vote: Yeas 47 Nays 0 Absent 0

President of the Senate

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that two-thirds of the members-elect of the House of Representatives voted in favor of said law.

Vote: Yeas 79 Nays 10 Absent 5

Speaker of the House

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2023.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2023.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2023,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State