

Introduced by

Senators Kreun, Bekkedahl, Meyer

Representatives Beadle, Blum, Schreiber-Beck

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 15 of the North Dakota Century
2 Code, relating to the creation of a senior year tuition waiver program for students attending
3 North Dakota university system institutions.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** A new chapter to title 15 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and
6 enacted as follows:

7 **Senior year tuition waiver program - Administration.**

8 The state board of higher education shall administer a senior year tuition waiver program for
9 the purpose of waiving specified tuition expenses at institutions under the control of the state
10 board of higher education for eligible students. The state board of higher education shall adopt
11 procedures to implement this chapter and provide fiscal control and accounting for the program.

12 **Senior year tuition waiver program - Eligibility.**

- 13 1. A student enrolled in a four-year institution under the control of the state board of
14 higher education is eligible for a tuition waiver under this chapter if the student is
15 pursuing a major in a field of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics.
16 2. A student enrolled in a two-year institution under the control of the state board of
17 higher education is eligible for a tuition waiver under this chapter if the student is
18 pursuing a degree or certificate in a field of technology or a skilled trade.

19 **Senior year tuition waiver program - Waiver amounts - Application.**

- 20 1. Each institution under the control of the state board of higher education shall waive
21 tuition under the senior year tuition waiver program as follows:
22 a. An eligible student enrolled at a four-year institution is entitled to receive a tuition
23 waiver for not more than two semesters during which the individual is designated
24 a senior by the institution.

- 1 b. An eligible student enrolled in a degree program at a two-year institution is
2 entitled to receive a tuition waiver for the individual's final semester before
3 graduating from the institution.
- 4 c. An eligible student enrolled in a certificate program is entitled to receive a tuition
5 waiver for twenty-five percent of the tuition costs of the program.
- 6 2. The amount of each waiver under subdivisions a and b of subsection 1 must equal the
7 tuition the student otherwise would pay for the courses in which the student is enrolled
8 minus the amount of any scholarships, grants, or other waivers to which the student is
9 entitled. The amount of each waiver under subdivision c of subsection 1 must equal
10 twenty-five percent of the tuition the student otherwise would pay for the certificate
11 program in which the student is enrolled minus the amount of any scholarships,
12 grants, or other waivers to which the student is entitled.
- 13 3. The board shall develop an application for the senior year tuition waiver program and
14 make the application available to students at each institution under the control of the
15 board. An institution may not require an eligible student to apply more than once to
16 receive the student's full tuition waiver under subsection 1.
- 17 4. A student may not receive more than one tuition waiver under the program.
- 18 5. The tuition waiver may not be applied to any coursework from which the student
19 withdraws or receives a failing grade.

20 **Senior year tuition waiver program - Requirements - Repayment.**

21 A student who received a senior year tuition waiver under this chapter shall maintain
22 employment in North Dakota for at least three years after graduating from the institution under
23 the control of the state board of higher education which waived the student's senior year tuition.
24 If the student does not fulfill this requirement, the student shall repay the full amount of tuition
25 waived for the student.

26 **Senior year tuition waiver program - Funding.**

27 The Bank of North Dakota shall transfer from its undivided profits a sum equal to the total
28 tuition waived for all students receiving waivers under the senior year tuition waiver program to
29 the state board of higher education each semester upon request by the commissioner of higher
30 education. The state board of higher education shall use the sum to reimburse each institution
31 under its control for the cost of the waivers the institution provides under the program.