

Introduced by

Representatives Schreiber-Beck, D. Johnson, Pyle, Sanford

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 15-10-38 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
2 relating to the administrative authority for the teacher shortage loan forgiveness program; and to  
3 provide an exemption.

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

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-10-38 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **15-10-38. Loans - Teacher shortages - Loan forgiveness.**

- 8 1. The ~~state board of higher education's~~ superintendent of public instruction shall  
9 administer a student loan forgiveness program for individuals teaching at grade levels,  
10 in content areas, and in geographical locations identified as having a teacher shortage  
11 or critical need. The ~~board's~~ superintendent may approve loan forgiveness for no more  
12 than two teachers per year in a school district. The ~~board's~~ superintendent shall adopt  
13 rules to implement the program.
- 14 2. The superintendent of ~~public instruction~~ annually shall identify grade levels, content  
15 areas, and geographical locations in which a teacher shortage or critical need exists.
- 16 3. To be eligible for loan forgiveness under this section, an individual:
- 17 a. Must have graduated from an accredited teacher preparation program and  
18 signed a contract to teach at a grade level or in a content area and in a  
19 geographical location identified by the superintendent of ~~public instruction~~ as  
20 having an existing teacher shortage or critical need; and
- 21 b. Must have an existing student loan.
- 22 4. For purposes of this section, the definitions of rural school district and remote town  
23 school district have the same meaning as the definitions under the national center for  
24 education statistics locale codes.

- 1           5. If an individual is receiving loan forgiveness under any other provision, the individual  
2           may not receive loan forgiveness under this section during the same application year.
- 3           6. ~~An~~Subject to appropriation, an eligible individual may receive loan forgiveness under  
4           the program as follows:
- 5           a. If the individual accepts one of up to five positions of critical need in a nonrural  
6           school district or nonremote town school district, the individual may receive up to  
7           three thousand dollars per year for a maximum of four consecutive years.
- 8           b. If the individual accepts a position in a rural school district or remote town school  
9           district with an enrollment of fewer than one thousand students, the individual  
10          may receive up to four thousand five hundred dollars per year for a maximum of  
11          four consecutive years.
- 12          c. If the individual accepts one of up to five positions of critical need in a rural  
13          school district or remote town school district with an enrollment of fewer than one  
14          thousand students, the individual may receive up to six thousand five hundred  
15          dollars per year for a maximum of four consecutive years.
- 16          7. The superintendent ~~of public instruction~~ shall consider all applications under this  
17          section based on the number of unfilled school vacancies, prioritized by critical need  
18          and geographic location.
- 19          8. Upon notification the individual has completed a full year of teaching in a school  
20          district, state-supported school, or nonpublic school in this state at a grade level or in a  
21          content area and in a geographical location identified by the superintendent ~~of public~~  
22          ~~instruction~~ as one in which a teacher shortage or critical need exists, the  
23          ~~board~~superintendent shall distribute funds directly to the lending institution of the  
24          individual to repay outstanding loan principal balances on behalf of eligible applicants.  
25          The ~~board~~superintendent shall terminate loan forgiveness payments to eligible  
26          individuals when the loan principal balance of the eligible individual is paid in full.

27           **SECTION 2. EXEMPTION - TEACHER LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM FUNDING.** The  
28           unexpended amount remaining from the appropriation for the teacher loan forgiveness program,  
29           as authorized in section 1 of chapter 28 of the 2017 Session Laws, is not subject to the  
30           provisions of section 54-44.1-11 at the end of the 2017-19 biennium, and may be continued into  
31           the 2019-21 biennium for the purpose of providing teacher loan forgiveness.