



2023 South Dakota Legislature

Senate Bill 118

SENATE ENGROSSED

Introduced by: **Senator Tobin**

1 **An Act to expand eligibility for certain teachers who receive reduced tuition at Board**
 2 **of Regents institutions.**

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 **Section 1. That § 13-55-24 be AMENDED:**

5 **13-55-24.** Any ~~elementary or secondary~~A teacher or vocational instructor who is
 6 required to take college courses as a condition of employment, or to maintain a certificate
 7 to teach, may, upon compliance with § 13-55-27 and all of the requirements for
 8 admission, attend and pursue any undergraduate or graduate course in any ~~state~~
 9 ~~educational~~ institution under the control and management of the Board of Regents upon
 10 the payment of fifty percent of tuition and one hundred percent of required fees. If the
 11 teacher enrolls in a distance education course under the control and management of the
 12 Board of Regents or other course under the control and management of the Board of
 13 Regents that is not subsidized by the general fund, the teacher is entitled to a benefit of
 14 fifty percent of the tuition to be paid to the institution by the Board of Regents based on
 15 the in-state resident tuition rate. The Board of Regents shall maintain an annual record of
 16 the number of participants and the tuition dollar value of such participation.

17 **Section 2. That § 13-55-25 be AMENDED:**

18 **13-55-25.** Any ~~elementary or secondary~~A teacher or vocational instructor is
 19 eligible for the reduced tuition amount provided for in § 13-55-26 for a maximum of six
 20 credit hours per year.

21 **Section 3. That § 13-55-26 be AMENDED:**

22 **13-55-26.** The right of any ~~elementary or secondary~~ teacher or vocational
 23 instructor to participate in the reduced tuition program is limited to the space available,

1 as determined by the course instructor, in any course, after all of the full-time or full
 2 tuition paying students have registered, and the limit set forth in section 6 of this Act.

3 **Section 4. That § 13-55-27 be AMENDED:**

4 **13-55-27.** To be eligible for the reduced tuition benefit, ~~any elementary or~~
 5 ~~secondary~~ a teacher or vocational instructor ~~shall~~ must:

- 6 (1) Be a bona fide resident of the state and employed as a teacher by an accredited a:
 7 (a) School district;
 8 (b) Accredited school as a teacher as that term is defined in this title; or
 9 (c) Head start program;
 10 (2) Maintain an average academic grade of 3.0 or better;
 11 (3) Be required by state law, administrative rules, or an employment contract to attend
 12 college as a condition of employment or to maintain a certificate to teach; and
 13 (4) Present certification to the Board of Regents from the ~~school district by which the~~
 14 ~~teacher is employed~~ teacher's employer that the teacher meets the requirements
 15 of this section.

16 **Section 5. That § 13-55-28 be AMENDED:**

17 **13-55-28.** No benefits may accrue under §§ 13-55-24 to 13-55-27, inclusive, if
 18 ~~an elementary or secondary~~ a teacher or vocational instructor is entitled to other reduced
 19 tuition benefits by law.

20 **Section 6. That chapter 13-55 be amended with a NEW SECTION:**

21 The total amount of the reduced tuition benefit, provided under §§ 13-55-24 to
 22 13-55-27, inclusive, for all teachers who are not employed as elementary or secondary
 23 teachers or vocational instructors, may not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars per year.
 24 The total amount of the reduced tuition benefit prescribed by this section must be
 25 appropriated in the General Appropriations Act.