



2024 South Dakota Legislature

Senate Bill 1

Introduced by: **Senator Rohl**

1 **An Act to expand eligibility for the reduced tuition benefit for certain school district**
 2 **and Head Start employees at Board of Regents institutions to school**
 3 **counselors.**

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

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

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

18 The Board of Regents shall maintain an annual record of the number of participants
 19 and the tuition dollar value of such participation.

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

21 **13-55-25.** A teacher ~~or~~, vocational instructor, or school counselor is eligible for
 22 the reduced tuition amount provided for in ~~§ 13-55-26~~ § 13-55-24 for a maximum of six
 23 credit hours per year.

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

1 **13-55-26.** The right of any teacher ~~or~~, vocational instructor, or school counselor
 2 to participate in the reduced tuition program under §§ 13-55-24 to 13-5-28, inclusive, is
 3 limited to the space available, as determined by the course instructor, in any course, after
 4 all of the full-time or full tuition paying students have registered.

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

6 **13-55-27.** To be eligible for the reduced tuition benefit under §§ 13-55-24 to 13-
 7 55-28, inclusive, a teacher or vocational instructor an individual must:

- 8 (1) Be a bona fide resident of the state ~~and employed as a teacher by a~~;
- 9 (2) Be employed or contracted by a school district or Head Start program in this state
 10 as a:
 11 (a) ~~School district~~Teacher;
- 12 (b) ~~Accredited school~~Vocational instructor; or
- 13 (c) ~~Head start program~~School counselor; and
- 14 ~~(2) Maintain an average academic grade of 3.0 or better;~~
- 15 (3) Be required by state law, administrative rules, or an employment contract to attend
 16 college ~~as a~~;
- 17 (a) As a condition of employment or to maintain;
- 18 (b) To maintain a certificate to teach; ~~and or~~
- 19 (c) To maintain certification as a school counselor
- 20 ~~(4) Present certification to the Board of Regents from the teacher's employer that the~~
 21 ~~teacher meets the requirements of this section.~~
- 22 To remain eligible, an individual must earn an average academic grade of 3.0 or
 23 better in any course the tuition benefit is used for.

24 **Section 5. That chapter 13-55 be amended with a NEW SECTION:**

25 To apply for the reduced tuition benefit, a teacher, vocational instructor, or school
 26 counselor shall:

- 27 (1) Submit an application, developed by the Board of Regents, to the institution at
 28 which the individual intends to register for the course; and
- 29 (2) Present certification, with the application, from the individual's employer that the
 30 individual meets the eligibility requirements of § 13-55-27.

31 **Section 6. That § 13-55-28 be AMENDED:**

1 **13-55-28.** No benefits may accrue under §§ 13-55-24 to 13-55-27, inclusive, and section
2 5 of this Act, if a teacher ~~or~~, vocational instructor, or school counselor is entitled
3 to other reduced tuition benefits by law.