

HOUSE BILL NO. 1418

Introduced by

Representatives Hawken, Martinson, Mueller

Senators Fiebiger, Krebsbach, Wardner

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 50-11.1 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to early childhood care workforce development, child care capacity, and
3 department of human services establishment of a quality improvement rating system for early
4 childhood care facilities.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 50-11.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
7 created and enacted as follows:

8 **Workforce development - Quality improvement and rating system - Technical**
9 **assistance - Capacity building.**

- 10 1. The department shall provide opportunities and supports for the early childhood
11 care and education workforce voluntarily and systematically to attain focused
12 training resulting in certificates, specializations, licensure, and degrees in early
13 childhood development and education, including:
- 14 a. Provision of scholarships for activities leading toward completion of
15 certificates and degrees needed for early childhood care jobs; and
 - 16 b. Provision of financial incentives, including loan forgiveness, for incumbent
17 workers upon completion of certificates, degrees, and specializations.
- 18 2. The department shall implement a voluntary quality rating system for licensed early
19 childhood facilities which may be used as a tool to inform parents, public officials,
20 and other purchasers of child care regarding the level of quality at a facility. The
21 system may include staff training, licensure, and experience documentation;
22 program curriculum assessments; regulatory compliance measurements and
23 online postings; and assistance in obtaining national accreditation. As part of the
24 rating system, the department may provide a quality incentive payment and a

1 higher reimbursement rate for child care assistance program payments to a
2 participating early childhood care facility. The department shall provide technical
3 assistance and support to an early childhood facility that applies to meet quality
4 improvement and rating system criteria and may provide financial incentives to an
5 early childhood facility that sustains and increases program quality as defined by
6 the rating system. The department may contract with a private, nonprofit agency to
7 provide technical assistance under this subsection.

8 3. The department shall provide supports and incentives to build child care capacity,
9 including:

10 a. Technical assistance and support to individuals who want to establish a new
11 program or expand existing capacity to include information on needs
12 assessments, regulatory processes, facility design and furnishings, startup
13 and operating budgets, staffing patterns, curriculum evaluation, and
14 development of business plans.

15 b. Grants to programs with a viable business plan to support early childhood
16 facility development and expansion in areas with a demonstrated need.