

**Sixty-first Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 6, 2009**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1418
(Representatives Hawken, Martinson, Mueller)
(Senators Fiebiger, Krebsbach, Wardner)

AN ACT to create and enact a new section to chapter 50-11.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to early childhood care workforce development, child care capacity, and quality improvement for early childhood facilities; and to provide an appropriation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

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

Workforce development - Quality improvement - Technical assistance - Capacity building.

1. The department shall provide voluntary, progressive training opportunities leading to credentials and shall provide supports for the early childhood care and education workforce. The department shall implement a registry to track workforce participation.
2. The department shall implement a voluntary quality improvement process for licensed early childhood facilities. The department may provide a quality incentive payment and a higher reimbursement rate for child care assistance program payments to a participating early childhood facility. The department may provide technical assistance and support to an early childhood facility that applies for quality improvement and may provide financial incentives to an early childhood facility that sustains and increases program quality. The department may contract with a private, nonprofit agency to provide technical assistance under this subsection.
3. The department may provide supports and incentives to build child care capacity, including:
 - a. Technical assistance and support to individuals who want to establish a new program or expand existing capacity to include information on needs assessments, regulatory processes, facility design and furnishings, startup and operating budgets, staffing patterns, curriculum evaluation, and development of business plans.
 - b. Grants to programs with a viable business plan to support early childhood facility development and expansion in areas with a demonstrated need.
4. The department shall coordinate with other state agencies as necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated out of any moneys from federal funds made available to the state from federal action to provide funding to the states to stimulate the national economy or to address state fiscal recovery and other income, the sum of \$3,644,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of human services for the purpose of implementing programs associated with early childhood care services under section 1 of this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2009, and ending June 30, 2011.

SECTION 3. ADDITIONAL FUNDS. Subject to approval by the emergency commission and budget section, the department of human services may accept and spend federal or other funds in

excess of those funds appropriated in section 2 of this Act for early childhood care programs, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2009, and ending June 30, 2011.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-first Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1418.

House Vote: Yeas 77 Nays 15 Absent 2

Senate Vote: Yeas 41 Nays 5 Absent 1

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2009.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2009.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2009,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State