

HOUSE BILL NO. 1429

Introduced by

Representatives Heilman, Hawken, D. Johnson, N. Johnson, J. Nelson

Senators Berry, J. Lee, Murphy, Nelson, Poolman, Sorvaag

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 15.1-09-58 of the North Dakota Century Code,
2 relating to early childhood education; and to provide an appropriation for early childhood
3 education grants.

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

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-09-58 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **15.1-09-58. ~~Prekindergarten program~~Early childhood education - Authorization -**
8 **Support.**

9 The board of a school district may establish a ~~prekindergarten~~an early childhood education
10 program and may ~~receive and expend any state~~support that program with:

- 11 1. Local tax revenues, other than those necessary to support the district's kindergarten
12 program and the provision of elementary and high school educational services;
- 13 2. State moneys specifically appropriated for the program, ~~any federal;~~
- 14 3. Federal funds specifically appropriated or approved for the program, ~~and any gifts; and~~
- 15 4. Gifts, grants, and donations specifically given for the program.

16 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general
17 fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$5,000,000, or so much of the
18 sum as may be necessary, to the superintendent of public instruction for the purpose of
19 providing annual early childhood education grants to eligible school districts, for the biennium
20 beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2015.

- 21 1. Any school district offering a program of early childhood education, approved in
22 accordance with section 15.1-37-01, is eligible to receive a grant under this section.
- 23 2. The superintendent of public instruction shall provide for an annual application process
24 and shall select award recipients. The selection process must take into account the

- 1 geographic distribution of recipients, the district's service area, the general economic
2 circumstances within the service area, and the district's current or anticipated financial
3 commitment to providing early childhood education.
- 4 3. A school district may not receive more than \$100,000 annually under this section.
- 5 4. As a condition of receiving an early childhood education grant, a school district shall
6 commit to maintaining a full-time equivalent student-teacher ratio of ten-to-one or
7 sixteen-to-one if the teacher is assisted by a full-time classroom aid.
- 8 5. As a condition of receiving an early childhood education grant, a school district shall
9 commit to utilizing the PowerSchool information system and to providing data to the
10 superintendent of public instruction at the time and in the manner requested by the
11 superintendent.
- 12 6. The superintendent of public instruction shall monitor the grant recipients, compile
13 data regarding the recipients' provision of early childhood education, and report any
14 findings and recommendations to the legislative management.