

Introduced by

Senators Flakoll, Heckaman, Poolman

Representatives Dosch, Nathe, Vigesaa

1 | A BILL for an Act to create and enact ~~three~~four new sections to chapter 15.1-37 of the North
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to early childhood education provider grants; to amend and
3 reenact section 15.1-37-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to early childhood
4 education program approval; to provide an appropriation; and to provide an effective date.

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

6 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-37-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is
7 amended and reenacted as follows:

8 **15.1-37-01. Early childhood education program - Approval.**

- 9 1. Any person or school district operating an early childhood education program may
10 request approval of the program from the superintendent of public instruction. The
11 superintendent shall approve an early childhood education program if the program:
- 12 a. Is taught by individuals who are licensed to teach in early childhood education by
13 the education standards and practices board or approved to teach in early
14 childhood education by the education standards and practices board;
 - 15 b. ~~Follows a developmentally appropriate curriculum~~educational standards
16 approved by the superintendent of public instruction;
 - 17 c. Is in compliance with all municipal and state health, fire, and safety requirements;
18 and
 - 19 d. Limits its enrollment to children who have reached the age of four before August
20 first in the year of enrollment.
- 21 2. In determining the state aid payments to which a school district is entitled, the
22 superintendent of public instruction may not count any student enrolled in a regular
23 early childhood education program.

1 **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 15.1-37 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
2 and enacted as follows:

3 **Early childhood education providers - Coalition - Eligibility.**

- 4 1. The superintendent of a school district shall invite all public and private providers of
5 early childhood education services within the district to meet, in order to:
6 a. Initiate the identification of all available options for cost-effectively maximizing the
7 provision of early childhood education services within the district;
8 b. Address the coordinated utilization of facilities, personnel, and transportation, for
9 the provision of early childhood education services within the district; and
10 c. (1) Form a coalition of early childhood education service providers; and
11 (2) Provide for the selection of a coalition governing board.
12 2. The board of the school district in which the coalition of service providers is located
13 shall provide advice and guidance to the coalition in all matters pertaining to this Act.
14 3. Any early childhood service provider who agrees to participate in the coalition or on its
15 governing board may submit an application to the department of commerce for a grant
16 under this section, provided the governing board certifies to the department that the
17 provider:
18 a. Is a participating member in the coalition or on the governing board;~~and.~~
19 b. Operates an early childhood education program that:
20 (1) Is approved in accordance with section 15.1-37-01; and
21 (2) Incorporates within its curriculum at least ten hours of research-based
22 parental involvement.
23 c. Has documented the provider's willingness to admit children of all learning
24 abilities into the early childhood education program.

25 **SECTION 3.** A new section to chapter 15.1-37 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
26 and enacted as follows:

27 **Receipt and distribution of grants - Notification.**

- 28 1. The department of commerce shall receive applications for and distribute grants under
29 this section to eligible members, including governing board members, of a consortium
30 formed in accordance with section 2 of this Act, in the amount of one thousand five
31 hundred dollars for each child enrolled in a program of early childhood education, if the

1 child is eligible for free or reduced lunches under the Richard B. Russell National
2 School Lunch Act [42 U.S.C. 1751, et seq.] and one thousand dollars for each child so
3 enrolled who is not eligible for free or reduced lunches, provided:

4 a. The child is a resident of this state; and
5 b. The program has a duration of at least four hundred hours over a period of
6 thirty-two consecutive weeks.

7 2. a. Once each calendar quarter, at the time and in the manner required by the
8 department of commerce, any provider receiving a grant under this section shall
9 forward to the parent of each child receiving services a notice indicating the total
10 amount of the grant that was awarded to the provider for the quarter, the pro rata
11 amount attributable to the parent's child, and the source of the grant. The
12 department of commerce shall standardize the notification required by this
13 subdivision.

14 b. If a provider fails to meet the notification requirements of this subsection, the
15 department of commerce shall reduce the amount of the provider's next grant
16 payment by fifty percent. If a provider fails to meet the notification requirements
17 of this section a second time, the department of commerce shall determine that
18 the provider is ineligible to participate in the grant program for a period of one
19 year.

20 **SECTION 4.** A new section to chapter 15.1-37 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
21 and enacted as follows:

22 **Acceptance of children into program - Requirements - Limitations.**

23 1. If a provider is unable to accommodate all children seeking placement in the provider's
24 program, the provider shall accept children in accordance with a chronologically-based
25 application process or a lottery-based application process, under which children of all
26 learning abilities are equally eligible.

27 2. The number of children accepted into a program may be limited by considerations
28 regarding space, safety, and availability of personnel.

29 **SECTION 5.** A new section to chapter 15.1-37 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
30 and enacted as follows:

1 **Data collection - Requirements.**

2 The superintendent of public instruction, with the advice and consent of the department of
3 commerce, shall implement a uniform system for the accounting, budgeting, and reporting of
4 data by any early childhood education provider to whom or to which grants are distributed in
5 accordance with section 3 of this Act. Grants may be withheld or forfeited, in whole or in part, if
6 information required in accordance with this section is not submitted at the time or in the
7 manner requested by the superintendent.

8 **SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION.**

- 9 1. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not
10 otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$6,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be
11 necessary, to the department of commerce for the purpose of providing early
12 childhood education grants, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015, and ending
13 June 30, 2017.
- 14 2. If the amount appropriated in this section is insufficient to provide grants to all eligible
15 providers, the department of commerce shall award the grants on a chronological
16 basis in accordance with the date on which a completed application is received.

17 **SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.** Sections 3 ~~and 4~~ through 5 of this Act become effective on
18 July 1, 2016.