

HOUSE BILL NO. 1317

Introduced by

Representatives Strinden, Delmore, Hawken, Heller, D. Johnson, Mooney, Rohr

Senators Flakoll, J. Lee, Sinner, Unruh, Heckaman

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15-10 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to a student loan paydown program for early childhood education and
3 care providers; and to provide an appropriation.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
6 and enacted as follows:

7 **Loan paydown program - Early childhood education provider - Early childhood care**
8 **provider.**

9 1. The state board of higher education shall administer a student loan paydown program
10 for individuals providing early childhood education or early childhood care in this state.

11 2. To be eligible under this section, an individual:

12 a. Must have obtained an associate's degree or a baccalaureate degree in a
13 program of early childhood education after July 1, 2013;

14 b. Must have at least one thousand dollars in outstanding student loans; and

15 c. Must have submitted an annual application at the time and in the manner
16 directed by the board.

17 3. The board shall consider all applications under this section in chronological order.

18 4. Upon verification that the individual has been employed full time during the
19 immediately preceding twelve-month period as an early childhood education provider
20 or as an early childhood care provider, at a licensed facility or in an approved program
21 in this state, the board shall arrange to pay down the individual's outstanding student
22 loan principal balance by one thousand dollars.

23 5. An individual may participate in this program for no more than five consecutive years.

1 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general
2 fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$100,000, or so much of the
3 sum as may be necessary, to the state board of higher education for the purpose of providing a
4 student loan paydown program for early childhood education and care providers, for the
5 biennium beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2015. The board may expend no more
6 than half the amount appropriated under this section during the first year of the biennium.