

Introduced by

Senators Poolman, Campbell, Heckaman

Representatives Schreiber-Beck, Delmore

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 15.1-37-01 and 15.1-37-06 of the North
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to early childhood education programs.

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

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

6 **15.1-37-01. Early childhood education program - Approval.**

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

1 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-37-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3 **15.1-37-06. Receipt and distribution of grants - Notification.**

4 1. The department of commerce shall receive applications for and distribute grants under
5 this section to eligible members, including governing board members, of a consortium
6 formed in accordance with section 15.1-37-05, in the amount of ~~two~~one thousand
7 dollars for ~~each~~any child four years of age enrolled in a program of early childhood
8 education, two thousand dollars if the child is eligible for ~~free~~reduced lunches under
9 the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act [42 U.S.C. 1751, et seq.], and
10 ~~one~~four thousand dollars for ~~each child enrolled in a program of early childhood~~
11 ~~education~~, if the child is eligible for ~~reduced~~free lunches under the Richard B. Russell
12 National School Lunch Act [42 U.S.C. 1751, et seq.], provided:

13 a. The child is a resident of this state; and

14 b. The program has a duration of at least four hundred hours over a period of at
15 least thirty-two consecutive weeks.

16 2. a. Once each calendar quarter, at the time and in the manner required by the
17 department of commerce, any provider receiving a grant under this section shall
18 forward to the parent of each child receiving services a notice indicating the total
19 amount of the grant that was awarded to the provider for the quarter, the pro rata
20 amount attributable to the parent's child, and the source of the grant. The
21 department of commerce shall standardize the notification required by this
22 subdivision.

23 b. If a provider fails to meet the notification requirements of this subsection, the
24 department of commerce shall reduce the amount of the provider's next grant
25 payment by fifty percent. If a provider fails to meet the notification requirements
26 of this section a second time, the department of commerce shall determine that
27 the provider is ineligible to participate in the grant program for a period of one
28 year.