

**SENATE BILL NO. 2417**

Introduced by

Senators D. Mathern, Fischer, Lee

Representatives Hawken, Winrich

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-56 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to a community child care grant program; and to provide an  
3 appropriation.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 54-56 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 created and enacted as follows:

7 **Community child care grant program.** The children's services coordinating  
8 committee, through the regional and tribal children's services coordinating committees and in  
9 collaboration with the state's child care resource and referral agencies, shall establish a  
10 community child care grant program. The committee shall appoint a ten-member statewide  
11 community child care review committee to determine the criteria for awarding grants under the  
12 program. The community child care review committee must be composed of three  
13 representatives of child care resource and referral agencies; three representatives of the  
14 regional and tribal children's services coordinating committees; the administrators of the early  
15 childhood services and the head start collaboration programs of the children and family services  
16 division of the department of human services; and two individuals selected by the children's  
17 services coordinating committee who represent the early childhood professional community.  
18 The administration costs of the program may not exceed five percent of the total allocations to  
19 the state. A grant application process must be used for awarding grants and an individual grant  
20 may not exceed five thousand dollars. The following criteria must be met to be eligible for a  
21 grant under the program:

22 1. A one hundred percent match from a local funding source. Public funds, excluding  
23 state funds, private funds, and in-kind donations may be used to meet the  
24 matching requirement.

2. The grant must be used to address one or more of the following needs:

- a. Increased availability and accessibility of licensed child care, including rural, school age, summer, weekend, evening, night, infant-toddler, and other underserved markets;
- b. Retention of qualified child care providers with training, education, and compensation; or
- c. Provide licensed child care services in the state.

**SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated from special funds derived from federal funds and other income, the sum of \$500,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the children's services coordinating committee for the purpose of establishing a community child care grant program and for providing grants under the program, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2003.