

Fifty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

Introduced by

Legislative Council

(Education Committee)

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15.1-29 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to the enrollment and provision of services to elementary and high
3 school students placed by out-of-state agencies or entities; and to amend and reenact section
4 15.1-29-14 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to elementary and high school student
5 residency determinations.

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

7 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-29-14 of the North Dakota Century Code is
8 amended and reenacted as follows:

9 **15.1-29-14. Student placement for noneducational purposes - Residency**
10 **determination - Payment of tuition.**

- 11 1. a. ~~For~~ Except as provided in subdivision b, for purposes of applying this chapter,
12 a student's school district of residence is the district in which the ~~student~~
13 student's custodial parent or legal guardian resides:
- 14 ~~a.~~ (1) At the time that a state court, tribal court, juvenile supervisor, or the
15 division of juvenile services issues an order requiring the student to stay
16 for a prescribed period at a state-licensed foster home or at a
17 state-licensed child care home or facility;
- 18 ~~b.~~ (2) At the time a county or state social service agency places the student,
19 with the consent of the student's parent or legal guardian, at a
20 state-licensed foster home or at a state-licensed child care home or
21 facility;
- 22 ~~c.~~ (3) At the time the student is initially placed in a state-operated institution,
23 even if the student is later placed at a state-licensed foster home or at a
24 state-licensed child care home or facility; or

1 ~~e.~~ (4) At the time the student is placed voluntarily ~~admitted to~~ by a parent or
2 legal guardian in a state-operated institution or to in a state-licensed
3 child care home or, facility, or program, including those defined in
4 section 50-11-00.1.

5 b. A determination regarding the student's school district of residence made
6 under subdivision a is valid until the September first following the
7 determination. On that date and each September first thereafter, the placing
8 agency or the entity funding the student's placement shall determine the
9 district in which the student's custodial parent or legal guardian resides and
10 shall notify the district that it is deemed to be the student's district of residence
11 for purposes of this chapter. If, however, the student is placed in accordance
12 with paragraph 4 of subdivision a and the placement is privately funded, the
13 administrator of the facility or program in which the student is placed shall
14 determine the student's school district of residence and provide the
15 notification required by this subdivision.

16 2. The student's school district of residence is obligated to pay:

- 17 a. All charges for tuition upon claim of the admitting district; and
18 b. All charges for tutoring services upon claim of an admitting facility, provided
19 that the tutoring services are delivered by an individual who is licensed to
20 teach by the education standards and practices board or approved to teach by
21 the education standards and practices board.

22 3. ~~a. If, after a student placement is made as provided for under subsection 1, the~~
23 ~~student's custodial parent establishes residency in another school district in~~
24 ~~this state, the school district in which the custodial parent has established~~
25 ~~residency becomes the student's school district of residence for purposes of~~
26 ~~paying tuition and tutoring charges under subsection 2.~~

27 ~~b.~~ The state shall pay the tuition and tutoring charges under subsection 2 from
28 funds appropriated by the legislative assembly for state aid to schools:

29 ~~(4)~~ If if, on the September first after a student placement is made as
30 provided for under subsection 1, the:

- 1 a. The student's custodial parent or legal guardian establishes residency outside
2 this state; ~~or~~
3 ~~(2) If a~~
4 b. A court orders a termination of parental rights with respect to the student's
5 parents;
6 c. The student no longer has a custodial parent; or
7 d. The superintendent of public instruction has determined that all reasonable
8 efforts to locate a parent or legal guardian have been unsuccessful.

9 4. If the student is voluntarily admitted to a state-licensed child care home or facility,
10 or to a state-operated institution, the student's parent or, if one has been
11 appointed, the student's legal guardian may appeal a determination under section
12 15.1-29-05 regarding the payment of tuition by filing a petition with the county
13 superintendent of schools. Within fifteen days of receiving the petition, the
14 three-member committee established under section 15.1-29-06 shall consult with
15 the boards of the affected school districts and with the student's parent or legal
16 guardian and render a decision regarding responsibility for the payment of tuition
17 charges.

18 5. If the student's district of residence does not pay the required tuition, the admitting
19 district or facility shall notify the superintendent of public instruction. Upon
20 verification that tuition payments are due and unpaid, the superintendent shall
21 withhold an amount equal to the unpaid tuition from state aid otherwise payable to
22 the student's school district of residence until the tuition due has been fully paid.

23 6. An amount equal to the state average per student elementary or high school cost,
24 depending on the student's grade of enrollment, is payable to the admitting district
25 or facility as part of the cost of educating the student for the school year. The
26 payment may not exceed the actual per student cost incurred by the admitting
27 district or facility. The remainder of the actual cost of educating the student not
28 covered by other payments or credits must be paid by the state, within the limits of
29 legislative appropriations, from funds appropriated for special education in the case
30 of a student with disabilities or from state aid payments to schools in all other
31 cases.

- 1 7. If a student with disabilities placed in accordance with this section reaches age
2 eighteen and continues to receive special education and related services, the
3 student's school district of residence is deemed to be the same as that of the
4 student's custodial parent until the special education services are concluded. ~~If the~~
5 ~~student's custodial parent establishes residency outside this state, or if a court~~
6 ~~orders a termination of parental rights with respect to the student's parents, the~~
7 ~~state shall pay the tuition and tutoring charges under subsection 2 from funds~~
8 ~~appropriated by the legislative assembly for state aid to schools. The obligations~~
9 ~~of the student's school district of residence as provided in subsection 2 and the~~
10 ~~obligations of the state as provided in subsection 3 are applicable to all students~~
11 ~~described in this subsection.~~
- 12 8. a. The placing agency or entity funding the student's placement shall provide
13 written or electronic notice regarding an initial placement and all subsequent
14 placements of a student, ~~by registered mail,~~ to the superintendent of the
15 student's school district of residence and to the superintendent of the
16 admitting district:
- 17 (1) Within five working days after a placement is made under court order;
18 (2) Within five working days after an emergency placement is made; or
19 (3) At least ten working days prior to any other placement.
- 20 b. If, however, the student's parent or legal guardian voluntarily places the
21 student in a state-operated institution or in a state-licensed child care home,
22 facility, or program, including those defined in section 50-11-00.1, and if the
23 placement is privately funded, the administrator of the facility or program in
24 which the student is placed shall determine the student's school district of
25 residence and provide the notification required by this section.
- 26 c. The ~~written~~ notice must include any information requested by the
27 superintendent of public instruction for purposes of determining payment
28 responsibility.
- 29 e. d. The placing agency shall afford the student's school district of residence
30 reasonable opportunity to participate in permanency planning for the student.

9. Notwithstanding this section, educational services provided to a student by the youth correctional center are not subject to the payment of tuition by either the student's school district of residence or the superintendent of public instruction.

10. For purposes of this section, "custodial parent" means the parent who has been awarded sole legal and physical custody of the student in a legal proceeding or, if there is currently no operative custody order, the parent with whom the student resides. If the student resides with both parents, then both are custodial parents.

SECTION 2. A new section to chapter 15.1-29 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Placement of student by out-of-state agency or entity - Provision of services -

Contract - Responsibility for tuition and charges. A school district in this state may not enroll a student who is placed in the district for purposes other than education by an out-of-state agency or entity and whose school district of residence is located in another state, unless:

1. This state and the student's state or school district of residence have entered a contract that addresses responsibility for the payment of all tuition and tutoring charges; or

2. Other contractual arrangements exist governing responsibility for the payment of all tuition and tutoring charges.