

Sixty-first  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**SENATE BILL NO.**

Introduced by

Senator Bakke

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 15.1-20-01, 15.1-20-02, and 15.1-22-01, and  
2 subsection 1 of section 57-15-14.2 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to compulsory  
3 kindergarten attendance.

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

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-20-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **15.1-20-01. Compulsory attendance.**

- 8 1. a. Each child who resides in this state and who has reached the age of  
9 compulsory attendance, as set forth in this section, shall enroll in and attend  
10 for the duration of the program, a full-day or a half-day public school  
11 kindergarten program, approved by the superintendent of public instruction.  
12 b. Nothing in this subsection prevents a younger child from enrolling in and  
13 attending a public school kindergarten program, approved by the  
14 superintendent of public instruction, provided the child meets the  
15 requirements of section 15.1-06-01.  
16 c. Upon successful completion of a full-day or a half-day public school  
17 kindergarten program, approved by the superintendent of public instruction,  
18 the child shall enroll in and attend the remainder of the public school grades,  
19 beginning with grade one.  
20 2. Any person having responsibility for a child between the ages of seven and sixteen  
21 years shall ensure that the child is in attendance at a public school for the duration  
22 of each school year.  
23 ~~2.~~ 3. If a person enrolls a child of age ~~six~~ five in a public school, the person shall ensure  
24 that the child is in attendance at the public school for the duration of each school

year. The person may withdraw a child of age ~~six~~ five from the public school.

However, once the child is withdrawn, the person may not reenroll the child until the following school year. This subsection does not apply if the reason for the withdrawal is the child's relocation to another school district.

~~3.~~ 4. This section does not apply if a child is exempted under the provisions of section 15.1-20-02.

**SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-20-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**15.1-20-02. Compulsory attendance - Exceptions.**

1. The provisions of section 15.1-20-01 do not apply if the person having responsibility for the child demonstrates to the satisfaction of the school board that:

a. ~~(1) The A child is in attendance, who is required under section 15.1-20-01 to enroll in and attend a public school kindergarten program approved by the superintendent of public instruction, is enrolled in and attending a nonpublic kindergarten program, approved by the superintendent of public instruction, for the duration of the program; and~~

(2) A child who is required under section 15.1-20-01 to enroll in and attend the remainder of the public school grades is enrolled in and attending, for the same length of time at an approved nonpublic school;

b. The child has completed high school;

c. The child is necessary to the support of the child's family;

d. A multidisciplinary team that includes the child's school district superintendent, the director of the child's special education unit, the child's classroom teacher, the child's physician, and the child's parent has determined that the child has a disability that renders attendance or participation in a regular or special education program inexpedient or impracticable; or

e. The child is receiving home education.

2. A decision by the board of a school district under subsection 1 is appealable to the district court.

1           **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-22-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3           **15.1-22-01. Kindergarten - ~~Establishment by board~~ Request by parent Levy.**

- 4           1. ~~Upon its own motion, the~~ The board of a school district ~~may establish a free public~~  
5           ~~kindergarten.~~
- 6           2. ~~If the board receives a written request to provide kindergarten from the parent of a~~  
7           ~~student who will be enrolled in the kindergarten, the board~~ shall either provide at  
8           least a half-day free public kindergarten program for ~~the~~ an eligible student or pay  
9           the tuition required for the student to attend at least a half-day kindergarten  
10          program in another school district.
- 11          3. The board of a school district that establishes a kindergarten under this section  
12          may levy a tax pursuant to subdivision p of subsection 1 of section 57-15-14.2.

13           **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 57-15-14.2 of the North Dakota  
14 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 15          1. A school board of any school district may levy an amount sufficient to cover  
16          general expenses, including the costs of the following:
- 17           a. Board and lodging for high school students as provided in section 15.1-30-04.  
18           b. The teachers' retirement fund as provided in section 15-39.1-28.  
19           c. Tuition for students in grades seven through twelve as provided in section  
20           15.1-29-15.  
21           d. Special education program as provided in section 15.1-32-20.  
22           e. The establishment and maintenance of an insurance reserve fund for  
23           insurance purposes as provided in section 32-12.1-08.  
24           f. A final judgment obtained against a school district.  
25           g. The district's share of contribution to the old-age survivors' fund and matching  
26           contribution for the social security fund as provided by chapter 52-09 and to  
27           provide the district's share of contribution to the old-age survivors' fund and  
28           matching contribution for the social security fund for contracted employees of  
29           a multidistrict special education board.  
30           h. The rental or leasing of buildings, property, or classroom space. Minimum  
31           state standards for health and safety applicable to school building

- 1 construction shall apply to any rented or leased buildings, property, or  
2 classroom space.
- 3 i. Unemployment compensation benefits.
- 4 j. The removal of asbestos substances from school buildings or the abatement  
5 of asbestos substances in school buildings under any method approved by  
6 the United States environmental protection agency and any repair,  
7 replacement, or remodeling that results from such removal or abatement, any  
8 remodeling required to meet specifications set by the Americans with  
9 Disabilities Act accessibility guidelines for buildings and facilities as contained  
10 in the appendix to 28 CFR 36, any remodeling required to meet requirements  
11 set by the state fire marshal during the inspection of a public school, and for  
12 providing an alternative education program as provided in section 57-15-17.1.
- 13 k. Participating in cooperative career and technical education programs  
14 approved by the state board.
- 15 l. Maintaining a career and technical education program approved by the state  
16 board and established only for that school district.
- 17 m. Paying the cost of purchasing, contracting, operating, and maintaining  
18 schoolbuses.
- 19 n. Establishing and maintaining school library services.
- 20 o. Equipping schoolbuses with two-way communications and central station  
21 equipment and providing for the installation and maintenance of such  
22 equipment.
- 23 p. Establishing free public kindergartens in connection with the public schools of  
24 the district for the instruction of resident children ~~below school age~~ during the  
25 regular school term.
- 26 q. Establishing, maintaining, and conducting a public recreation system.
- 27 r. The district's share of contribution to finance an interdistrict cooperative  
28 agreement authorized by section 15.1-09-40.