Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

SENATE BILL NO. 2245

Introduced by

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Senators Hogan, Bekkedahl, Kreun

Representatives K. Koppelman, Schneider, Schreiber-Beck

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 1 of section 50-11.1-04, sections
50-11.1-07.2, 50-11.1-09, and 50-11.1-10, and subsection 1 of section 50-11.1-17 of the North
Dakota Century Code, relating to early childhood service licensure adverse actions.for an Act to
amend and reenact sections 50-11.1-02 and 50-11.1-04, subsection 10 of section 50-11.1-06.2,
subsection 1 of section 50-11.1-07.2, sections 50-11.1-07.3 and 50-11.1-07.5, and subsection 3

of section 50-11.1-17 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to early childhood services.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Subsection 1 of section 50-11.1-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

1. An application for operation of an early childhood program must be made on forms provided, in the manner prescribed, by the department. The department or the department's authorized agent shall investigate the applicant's activities and proposed standards of care and shall make an inspection of all premises to be used by the early childhood program applying for a license. The applicant for a license and the staff members, and, if the application is for a program that will be located in a private residence, every individual living in that residence must be investigated in accordance with the rules adopted by the department to determine whether any of them has a criminal record or has had a finding of services required for child abuse or neglect filed against them. The department may use the findings of the investigation to determine licensure. Except as otherwise provided, the department shall grant a license for the operation of an early childhood program within thirty days of receipt of a completed application and all supporting documents by the department and upon a showing:

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1	а. -	The premises to be used are in fit and sanitary condition, are properly equipped
2		to provide for the health and safety for all children, and are maintained according
3		to rules adopted by the department;
4	b.	Staff members are qualified to fulfill the duties required of them according to the
5		provisions of this chapter and standards prescribed for their qualifications by the
6		rules of the department;
7	С.	The application and supporting documents do not include any fraudulent or
8		untrue representations;
9	d.	The owner, operator, or applicant has not had an adverse action taken against or
10		a denial of a previous license or self-declaration denied or revoked within the
11		twelve months before the date of the current application;
12	е.	The owner, operator, or applicant has not had an adverse action taken against or
13		a denial of three or more previous licenses or self-declarations denied or
14		revoked. The most recent revocation or denialadverse action or denial may not
15		have occurred within the five years immediately preceding the application date;
16	f.	The program paid its license fees and any penalties and sanctions assessed
17		against the program as required by sections 50-11.1-03 and 50-11.1-07.4;
18	g.	The family child care owner or operator and staff members have received training-
19		and are currently certified in infant and pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation
20		and the use of an automated external defibrillator by the American heart
21		association, American red cross, or other similar cardiopulmonary resuscitation-
22		and automated external defibrillator training programs that are approved by the
23		department, and are currently certified in first aid by a program approved by the
24		department; and
25	————h.	The group child care, preschool, school-age child care, or child care center, at all
26		times during which early childhood services are provided, staff members have
27		received training and are currently certified in infant and pediatric-
28		cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of an automated external defibrillator
29		by the American heart association, American red cross, or other similar
30		cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillator training

programs that are approved by the department, and currently certified in first aidby a program approved by the department.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 50-11.1-07.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

50-11.1-07.2. Correction orders.

- 1. If the department or the department's authorized agent finds, upon inspection, that the program, self-declaration, or premises is not in compliance with this chapter or the rules adopted under this chapter, the department or the department's authorized agent shall issue a correction order to the program or self-declaration, provided the department does not revoketake an adverse action against the license or self-declaration under section 50-11.1-09 as a result of the noncompliance. The correction order must cite the specific statute or rule violated, state the factual basis of the violation, state the suggested method of correction, and specify the time allowed for correction. The correction order must also specify the amount of any fiscal sanction to be assessed if the program or self-declaration fails to comply with the correction order in a timely fashion. This section does not apply to an applicant's failure to comply with subsection 8 of section 50-11.1-03 or subdivision c of subsection 1 of section 50-11.1-16.
- 2. Within three business days of the receipt of the correction order, the licensee of the early childhood program or the holder of a self-declaration shall notify the parent of each child receiving early childhood services that a correction order has been issued. In addition to providing notice to the parent of each child, the licensee or holder of a self-declaration shall post the correction order in a conspicuous location upon the early childhood premises until the violation has been corrected or for five days, whichever is longer.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Section 50-11.1-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- <u>50-11.1-09. Revocation of Adverse action against license, self-declaration, or registration document Peer review.</u>
 - 1. The department may revokeshall establish a peer review process to make recommendations to the department to determine whether to take an adverse action

1	against the license, self-declaration, or registration document of any early childhood-
2	services provider upon proper showing of any of the following:
3	a. Any of the applicable conditions set forth in sections 50-11.1-04, 50-11.1-06, and
4	section 50-11.1-17 as prerequisites for the issuance of the license,
5	self-declaration, or registration document no longer exist.
6	b. The licensee, holder of a self-declaration, or registrant is no longer in compliance
7	with the minimum standards prescribed by the department.
8	c. The license, self-declaration, or registration document was issued upon-
9	fraudulent or untrue representation.
10	d. The licensee, holder of a self-declaration, or registrant has violated any rules of
11	the department.
12	e. The licensee, holder of a self-declaration, registrant, or a household member of a
13	home out of which early childhood services are provided has been found guilty-
14	of, or pled guilty to, an offense the department determines has a direct bearing
15	upon an individual's ability to serve the public as a licensee, a holder of a
16	self-declaration, or a registrant.
17	f. The licensee, holder of a self-declaration, or registrant has been convicted of any
18	offense and the department, acting pursuant to section 12.1-33-02.1, has
19	determined that the individual has not been sufficiently rehabilitated.
20	g. The department may consider the early childhood services history of the
21	licensee, holder of a self-declaration, or registrant in determining revocation of a
22	license, self-declaration, or in-home registration document.
23	2. The department shall notify, in writing, the parent of each child receiving early
24	childhood services from the early childhood services provider that is the subject of the
25	revocation notice of adverse action.
26	3. An adverse action may include revocation or suspension of a license, self-declaration,
27	or registration and may include issuance of a fine. An adverse action does not include
28	a correction order issued by the department under section 50-11.1-07.2.
29	SECTION 4. AMENDMENT. Section 50-11.1-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is
30	amended and reenacted as follows:

50-11.1-10. Denial or revocation of <u>Adverse action against</u> license, self-declaration, or registration document - Administrative hearing.

Before the department may deny any application for a license, self-declaration, or registration document under this chapter or before the department may revoketakes an adverse action against any license, self-declaration, or registration document, the department shall provide a written notice to the applicant, licensee, or holder of the self-declaration or registration-document of the reasons for the denial or revocationadverse action. The applicant, licensee, holder of a self-declaration, or registrant may request an administrative hearing appealing the denial or revocationadverse action in the manner provided in chapter 28-32. The applicant, licensee, holder of a self-declaration, or registrant shall make a request for hearing to the department within ten days after receipt of the notice of denial or revocationadverse action from the department.

SECTION 5. AMENDMENT. Subsection 1 of section 50-11.1-17 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 1. Applications for self-declarations must be made on forms provided and in the manner prescribed by the department. The department or the department's authorized agent shall investigate the applicant and every individual living in the private residence and shall conduct a background check. The department or the department's authorized agent shall conduct the investigation in accordance with the rules adopted by the department and shall determine whether any of them has a criminal record or has had a finding of services required for child abuse or neglect filed against them. Except as otherwise provided, the department shall approve a self-declaration within thirty days of receipt of a completed application and all supporting documents by the department and upon the applicant's declaration:
 - a. The premises to be used are in fit and sanitary condition to provide for the healthand safety of all children and are maintained according to the standardsprescribed by the rules of the department;
 - b. The applicant is able to provide for the health and safety of each child receiving early childhood services from the applicant according to this chapter and standards prescribed by the department as set forth in its rules;

1	c. The applicant has not had an adverse action taken against or a denial of a		
2	previous license or self-declaration denied or revoked within the twelve months		
3	before the date of the current application;		
4	d. The applicant has not had an adverse action taken against or a denial of three or		
5	more previous licenses or self-declarations denied or revoked. The most recent		
6	revocationadverse action or denial may not have occurred within five years of the		
7	application date;		
8	e. The applicant has paid the required application fees;		
9	f. The applicant has paid any penalties and sanctions assessed against the		
10	program required by sections 50-11.1-03 and 50-11.1-07.4;		
11	g. The applicant is currently certified in infant and pediatric cardiopulmonary		
12	resuscitation and the use of an automated external defibrillator by the American		
13	heart association, the American red cross, or a similar cardiopulmonary-		
14	resuscitation and automated external defibrillator training program approved by		
15	the department;		
16	h. The emergency designee used by the applicant, if any, is currently certified in		
17	infant and pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of an automated		
18	external defibrillator by the American heart association, the American red cross,		
19	or a similar cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillator		
20	training program approved by the department;		
21	i. The applicant is currently certified in first aid through a training program approved		
22	by the department; and		
23	j. The application and supporting documents do not include any fraudulent		
24	or untrue representations.		
25	SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 50-11.1-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is		
26	amended and reenacted as follows:		
27	50-11.1-02. Definitions.		
28	As used in this chapter, unless the context or subject matter otherwise requires:		
29	1. "Authorized agent" means the county social service board, unless another entity is		
30	designated by the department.		

1 "Child care center" means an early childhood program licensed to provide early 2 childhood services to nineteen or more children. 3 3. "County agency" means the county social service board in each of the counties of the 4 state. 5 4. "Department" means the department of human services. 6 5. "Drop-in care" means the care of children on a one-time, occasional, or unscheduled 7 basis to meet the short-term needs of families. 8 6. "Early childhood program" means any program licensed under this chapter where 9 early childhood services are provided for at least two hours a day for three or more 10 days a week. 11 "Early childhood services" means the care, supervision, education, or guidance of a 12 child or children, which is provided in exchange for money, goods, or other services. 13 Early childhood services does not include: 14 Substitute parental child care provided pursuant to chapter 50-11. a. 15 b. Child care provided in any educational facility, whether public or private, in grade 16 one or above. 17 Child care provided in a kindergarten which has been established pursuant to C. 18 chapter 15.1-22 or a nonpublic elementary school program approved pursuant to 19 subsection 1 of section 15.1-06-0615.1-06-06.1. 20 Child care, preschool, and prekindergarten services Early childhood education d. 21 program provided to children under six years of age in any educational facility 22 through a program approved by the superintendent of public instruction pursuant 23 to chapter 15.1-37. 24 Child care provided in facilities operated in connection with a church, business, or e. 25 organization where children are cared for during periods of time not exceeding 26 four continuous hours while the child's parent is attending church services or is 27 engaged in other activities, on the premises. 28 Schools or classes for religious instruction conducted by religious orders during 29 the summer months for not more than two weeks, Sunday schools, weekly

catechism, or other classes for religious instruction.

1 Summer resident or day camps for children which serve no children under six g. 2 years of age for more than two weeks. 3 h. Sporting events, practices for sporting events, or sporting or physical activities 4 conducted under the supervision of an adult. 5 Head start and early head start programs that are federally funded and meet i. 6 federal head start performance standards. 7 Child care provided in a medical facility by medical personnel to children who are 8 ill. 9 "Educational facility" means a public or nonpublic school. 8. 10 "Family child care" means a private residence licensed to provide early childhood 11 services for no more than seven children at any one time, except that the term 12 includes a residence licensed to provide early childhood services to two additional 13 school-age children. 14 9.10. "Group child care" means a child care program licensed to provide early childhood 15 services for thirty or fewer children. 16 10.11. "Household member" means an adult living in the private residence out of which a 17 program is operated, regardless of whether the adult is living there permanently or 18 temporarily. 19 11.12. "In-home provider" means any person who provides early childhood services to 20 children in the children's home. 21 12.13. "Licensed" means an early childhood program has the rights, authority, or permission 22 granted by the department to operate and provide early childhood services. 23 13.14. "Multiple licensed program" means an early childhood program licensed to provide 24 more than one type of early childhood services. 25 14.15. "Owner" or "operator" means the person who has legal responsibility for the early 26 childhood program and premises. 27 15.16. "Parent" means an individual with the legal relationship of father or mother to a child or 28 an individual who legally stands in place of a father or mother, including a legal 29 guardian or custodian. 30 16.17. "Premises" means the indoor and outdoor areas approved for providing early 31 childhood services.

1	17. <u>18.</u>	"Preschool" means a program licensed to offer early childhood services, which follows
2		a preschool curriculum and course of study designed primarily to enhance the
3		educational development of the children enrolled-and which serves no child for more
4		than three hours per day.
5	18. <u>19.</u>	"Public approval" means a nonlicensed early childhood program operated by a
6		government entity that has self-certified that the program complies with this chapter.
7	19. 20.	"Registrant" means the holder of an in-home provider registration document issued by
8		the department in accordance with this chapter.
9	20. <u>21.</u>	"Registration" means the process whereby the department maintains a record of all
10		in-home providers who have stated that they have complied or will comply with the
11		prescribed standards and adopted rules.
12	21. <u>22.</u>	"Registration document" means a written instrument issued by the department to
13		publicly document that the registrant has complied with this chapter and the applicable
14		rules and standards as prescribed by the department.
15	22. 23.	"School-age child care" means a child care program licensed to provide early
16		childhood services on a regular basis for nineteen or more children aged five years
17		through eleven years.
18	23. <u>24.</u>	"School-age children" means children served under this chapter who are at least five
19		years but less than twelve years of age.
20	24. <u>25.</u>	"Self-declaration" means voluntary documentation of an individual providing early
21		childhood services in a private residence for up to five children through the age of
22		eleven, of which no more than three may be under the age of twenty-four months.
23	25. 26.	"Staff member" means an individual:
24		a. Who is an employee of an early childhood program or of an early childhood
25		services provider under a self-declaration;—or
26		b. Whose activities involve the care, supervision, or guidance of children for an
27		early childhood program; or
28		c. Who may have unsupervised access to children under the care, supervision, or
29		guidance of an early childhood program or early childhood services provider
30		under a self-declaration.

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SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 50-11.1-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

50-11.1-04. Application for license - Prerequisites for issuance - License granted Term.

1. An application for operation of an early childhood program must be made on forms provided, in the manner prescribed, by the department. The department or the department's authorized agent shall investigate the applicant's activities and proposed standards of care and shall make an inspection of all premises to be used by the early childhood program applying for a license. The applicant for a license and the staff members, and, if the application is for a program that will be located in a private residence, every individual living in that residence must be investigated in accordance with the rules adopted by the department to determine whether any of them has a criminal record or has had a finding of services required for child abuse or neglect filed against them. The department may use the findings of the investigation to determine licensure. Except as otherwise provided, the department shall grant a license for the

a. The premises to be used are in fit and sanitary condition, are properly equipped
to provide for the health and safety for all children, and are maintained according
to rules adopted by the department;

operation of an early childhood program within thirty days of receipt of a completed

application and all supporting documents by the department and upon a showing:

- Staff members are qualified to fulfill the duties required of them according to the provisions of this chapter and standards prescribed for their qualifications by the rules of the department;
- c. The application and supporting documents do not include any fraudulent or untrue representations;
- d. The owner, operator, or applicant has not had a previous license or self-declaration denied or revoked within the twelve months before the date of the current application, unless waived by the department after the department considers the health and safety of children and the licensing history of the owner, operator, or applicant;

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- e. The owner, operator, or applicant has not had three or more previous licenses or self-declarations denied or revoked. The most recent revocation or denial may not have occurred within the fivethree years immediately preceding the application date;
- f. The program paid its license fees and any penalties and sanctions assessed against the program as required by sections 50-11.1-03 and 50-11.1-07.4;
- g. The family child care owner or operator and staff members have received training and are currently certified in infant and pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of an automated external defibrillator by the American heart association, American red cross, or other similar cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillator training programs that are approved by the department, and are currently certified in first aid by a program approved by the department; and
- h. The group child care, preschool, school-age child care, or child care center, at all times during which early childhood services are provided, staff members have received training and are currently certified in infant and pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of an automated external defibrillator by the American heart association, American red cross, or other similar cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillator training programs that are approved by the department, and currently certified in first aid by a program approved by the department.
- 2. The license issued to the owner or operator of an early childhood program may not be effective for longer than two years.
- 3. The department may consider the applicant's past licensing, self-declaration, and registration history in determining whether to issue a license.
- 4. The department may issue a provisional or restricted license in accordance with the rules of the department. The department shall consider issuing a provisional or restricted license before revoking a license. The department may require the owner or operator of an early childhood program to provide a compliance plan to address compliance issues with this chapter and rules of the department. The department shall review the compliance plan before issuing a provisional or restricted license. The

department shall approve the provisional license if the department approves the compliance plan. The department may revoke a license if the owner and operator fail to comply with the department approved compliance plan or for any additional violations of this chapter or rules of the department.

5. The department shall notify the owner or operator that the owner or operator is required to post a notice of late application at the early childhood program premises if the department has not received a completed application and all supporting documents for licensure or self-declaration renewal at least thirty days before the expiration date of the early childhood program's license.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Subsection 10 of section 50-11.1-06.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

10. AUnless an individual was separated from child care employment for more than one hundred eighty days, a criminal history record check conducted under this section and subsection 3 of section 50-06-01.9 is valid for five years, after which the department shall require another criminal history record check.

SECTION 4. AMENDMENT. Subsection 1 of section 50-11.1-07.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

If the department or the department's authorized agent finds, upon inspection, that the program, self-declaration, or premises is not in compliance with this chapter or the rules adopted under this chapter, the department or the department's authorized agent shallmay issue a correction order to the program or self-declaration, provided the department does not revoke the license or self-declaration as a result of the noncompliance. The correction order must cite the specific statute or rule violated, state the factual basis of the violation, state the suggested method of correction, and specify the time allowed for correction. The correction order must also specify the amount of any fiscal sanction to be assessed if the program or self-declaration fails to comply with the correction order in a timely fashion. This section does not apply to an applicant's failure to comply with subsection 8 of section 50-11.1-03 or subdivision c of subsection 1 of section 50-11.1-16.

SECTION 5. AMENDMENT. Section 50-11.1-07.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

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50-11.1-07.3. Reinspections.

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The department or the department's authorized agent shall reinspect or review an early childhood program or holder of a self-declaration that was issued a correction order under section 50-11.1-07.2, at the end of the period allowed for correction. If, upon reinspection or review, the department determines that the program or holder of a self-declaration has not corrected a violation identified in the correction order, the department shall mail to the program or the holder of a self-declaration, by certified mail, a notice of noncompliance with the correction order. The notice must specify the violations not corrected and the penalties assessed in accordance with section 50-11.1-07.5.

SECTION 6. AMENDMENT. Section 50-11.1-07.5 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

50-11.1-07.5. Accumulation of fiscal sanctions.

An early childhood program or holder of a self-declaration promptly shall-promptly notify the department or the department's authorized agent in writing when if a violation noted in a notice of noncompliance is corrected. Upon receipt of written notice by the department or the department's authorized agent, the daily fiscal sanction assessed for the violation must stop accruing. The department or the department's authorized agent shall reinspect or review the early childhood program or premises out of which the holder of the self-declaration is operating within three working days after receipt of the notification. If, upon reinspection or review, the department determines that a violation has not been corrected, the department shall resume the daily assessment of fiscal sanction and shall add the amount of fiscal sanction which otherwise would have accrued during the period prior to before resumption to the total assessment due from the program or holder of the self-declaration. The department or the department's authorized agent shall notify the facility of the resumption by certified mail. Recovery of the resumed fiscal sanction must be stayed if the operator of the facility makes a written request for an administrative hearing in the manner provided in chapter 28-32; provided, that, if written request for the hearing is made to the department within ten days of the notice of resumption.

SECTION 7. AMENDMENT. Subsection 3 of section 50-11.1-17 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

3. The department may issue a provisional self-declaration document in accordance with the rules of the department. The department shall consider issuing a provisional or

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restricted license before revoking a self-declaration document. The department may require the holder of a self-declaration to provide a compliance plan to address compliance issues with this chapter and rules of the department. The department shall review the compliance plan before issuing a provisional or restricted license. The department shall approve the provisional self-declaration document if the department approves the compliance plan. The department may revoke a license if the holder of a self-declaration fails to comply with the department-approved compliance plan or for any additional violations of this chapter or rules of the department.