

Fifty-fifth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

HOUSE BILL NO. 1368

Introduced by

Representatives Grande, Belter, Boehm

Senators Schobinger, Wanzek

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 1 of section 15-34.1-00.1, subsection 5 of
2 section 15-34.1-03, sections 15-34.1-06, 15-34.1-07, 15-34.1-08, 15-34.1-09 15-34.1-10, and
3 15-34.1-11 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to home schools.

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

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 15-34.1-00.1 of the North Dakota
6 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

7 1. ~~"Home-based instruction"~~ "Home school" means an educational program for
8 ~~students~~ a child, based in the child's home and supervised by the child's parent or
9 parents wherein a resident of North Dakota may legally fulfill the compulsory
10 instruction requirements of section 15-34.1-01.

11 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 5 of section 15-34.1-03 of the 1995
12 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

13 5. That the child, not including a child with developmental disabilities as defined by
14 subsection 1 of section 25-01.2-01, is ~~receiving home-based instruction~~ being
15 educated in a home school in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

16 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-34.1-06 of the 1995 Supplement to the North
17 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

18 **15-34.1-06. Home-based instruction.**

19 1. ~~Home-based instruction~~ A home school is an educational program for ~~students~~ a
20 child. It is based in the child's home and supervised by the child's parent or
21 parents. ~~A parent who provides home-based instruction may only invoke the~~
22 ~~home-based instruction exception to compulsory attendance.~~

23 2. a. A parent is qualified to supervise a ~~program of home-based instruction~~ home
24 school if the parent is certified to teach in North Dakota; has a baccalaureate

degree; or has met or exceeded the cut-off score of the national teacher exam given in North Dakota, or in any other state if North Dakota does not offer such a test.

b. A parent who has a high school diploma or a general education development certificate is qualified to supervise ~~home-based instruction~~ a home school but must be monitored by a certificated teacher during the first two years the parent supervises ~~that instruction, and if~~ the home school or until the child being instructed completes the third grade, whichever is later. If the child being instructed receives a composite standardized achievement test score below the ~~fiftieth~~ twenty-third percentile nationally, the monitoring required by this section must continue during the following school year or longer if the child has not achieved the ~~fiftieth~~ twenty-third percentile. If testing is not required by section 15-34.1-07 in either of the first two years of monitoring, the time of monitoring may not be extended except upon the mutual consent of the parent and the monitor. Once a parent has completed the monitoring requirements for one child, the parent may not be monitored with respect to other children being educated in the home school.

3. ~~Home-based instruction~~ A home school must include instruction in those subjects required to be taught in accordance with sections 15-38-07, 15-41-06, and 15-41-24 ~~and~~. Instruction must be provided for at least four hours per day for a minimum of one hundred seventy-five days per year.

4. Every parent supervising ~~home-based instruction~~ a home school shall maintain an annual record of courses taken by the child and the child's academic progress assessments, including any standardized achievement test results. A parent shall furnish these records to any school to which the child may transfer upon request of the superintendent or other administrator of that public school district. A parent intending to supervise ~~home-based instruction~~ a home school for the parent's child shall file an annual statement with the superintendent of the public school district in which the child resides. If the school district does not employ a local school superintendent, the statement must be filed with the county superintendent of schools for the county of the child's residence. The statement must be filed at

1 least ~~thirty~~ fourteen days prior to the beginning of the home school semester for
2 ~~which the parent requests an exemption except when residency of the child is not~~
3 ~~established by that date. If residency has not been established, the statement~~
4 ~~must be filed within thirty days of the establishment of~~ or within fourteen days of
5 establishing the child's residency within the district. The statement must include:

- 6 4- a. The names and addresses of the parent who will supervise and the child who
7 ~~will receive home-based instruction~~ attend the home school;
- 8 2- b. The date of birth and grade level of each child attending the home school;
- 9 3- c. The intention of the parent to supervise ~~home-based instruction~~ the home
10 school;
- 11 4- d. The qualifications of the parent who will supervise the ~~home-based instruction~~
12 home school;
- 13 5- e. A list of courses or extracurricular activities in which the child intends to
14 participate in the public school district;
- 15 6- f. Proof of an immunization record as it relates to section 23-07-16; and
- 16 7- g. Proof of identity as it relates to section 54-23.2-04.2; ~~and~~
- 17 8- ~~An oath or affirmation that the parent will comply with all provisions of this chapter.~~

18 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-34.1-07 of the 1995 Supplement to the North
19 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

20 **15-34.1-07. ~~Students receiving home-based instruction~~ Home schools - Quality**
21 **~~assurance.~~** ~~In order to meet the state's compelling interest in assuring that citizens of the state~~
22 ~~receive a quality education, the~~ The following minimum indices of quality education are
23 established:

- 24 1. A standardized achievement test used by the public school in the school district in
25 which the parent resides or, if requested by the parent, a nationally normed
26 standardized achievement test ~~used by a state-approved nonpublic school~~ must be
27 given to each child ~~receiving home-based instruction~~ in grades three, four, six,
28 eight, and eleven in a home school. The test must be given in the child's learning
29 environment or, at the option of the child's parent, in the public school and must be
30 administered by a ~~certified~~ certificated teacher. The cost of ~~such testing must be~~
31 ~~borne by the~~ test is the responsibility of the local school district ~~in which the parent~~

1 ~~resides if the test is administered by a certified teacher employed by a public~~
2 ~~school district or by the parent of the child if the test is a nationally normed~~
3 ~~standardized achievement test requested by the parent, if it is a test used by the~~
4 ~~district. The cost of administering the test is the responsibility of the local school if~~
5 ~~it is district administered by a certificated teacher employed by the district. The~~
6 ~~cost of the test is the responsibility of the parent if the test requested is not used by~~
7 ~~the local school district and the cost of having the test administered is the~~
8 ~~responsibility of the parent if it is administered by a certificated teacher secured by~~
9 ~~the parent. Results of such testing must be filed with the local public school~~
10 ~~superintendent. If the parent resides in a school district which does not employ a~~
11 ~~local school superintendent, the results must be filed with the county~~
12 ~~superintendent of schools for the county of the parent's residence.~~

- 13 2. If the child's basic composite score on a standardized achievement test falls below
14 the ~~thirtieth~~ twenty-third percentile nationally, the child must be professionally
15 evaluated for a potential learning problem. If the multidisciplinary assessment
16 team evaluation determines that the child is not ~~handicapped~~ disabled according to
17 the eligibility criteria ~~of the department~~ established by the superintendent of public
18 ~~instruction and the child does not require specially designed instruction according~~
19 ~~to rules adopted by the department of public instruction~~, the parent providing
20 instruction may continue to ~~provide home-based instruction~~ conduct the home
21 school, upon filing with the superintendent of public instruction a statement, from
22 ~~an appropriately licensed professional~~ a state-approved school psychologist,
23 clinical psychologist, state certificated special education teacher, or psychiatrist,
24 that the child is currently making reasonable academic progress when the learning
25 abilities of the child are taken into consideration. If such statement is not filed, the
26 parent ~~is not entitled to an exemption under subsection 5 of section 15-34.1-03~~
27 shall develop and submit to the local school district superintendent or county
28 superintendent, if there is no local superintendent, a plan of remediation to address
29 the academic deficiencies of the child. Such plan of remediation must be
30 developed in consultation with and with the approval of a state-certificated teacher
31 selected by the parent. Costs associated with the consultation are the

responsibility of the parent. The plan of remediation must remain in effect until such time as the child demonstrates reasonable academic progress by achieving a basic composite score on a standardized achievement test at or above the twenty-third percentile or a score indicating one year of academic progress as compared to a score on a test from the previous school year. The test may be one required by this section or one administered in an additional grade level, at the option of the parent. The plan of remediation may be amended from time to time in consultation with and with the approval of the state-certificated teacher in order to accommodate the academic needs of the child. If a plan of remediation is no longer in effect and the child fails to demonstrate reasonable academic progress on a subsequent test required by this section, a plan of remediation must again be developed and instituted. If the evaluation of the multidisciplinary assessment team determines that the child is ~~handicapped, but not developmentally~~ disabled, but does not have a developmental disability, according to the eligibility criteria ~~of the department~~ established by the superintendent of public instruction, ~~and that the student child~~ requires specially designed instruction due to the handicap disability, and that this instruction cannot be provided without special education and related services, the parent providing instruction may continue to ~~provide home-based instruction~~ conduct the home school, upon filing with the superintendent of public instruction an individualized education program plan, ~~formulated within rules adopted by the department of public instruction~~ developed privately or through the local school district, indicating that the child's ~~needs~~ need for special education ~~are~~ is being appropriately addressed by persons qualified to provide special education or related services. A determination of reasonable academic progress must be based on the child's individualized education plan. If such a plan is not filed, the parent ~~is not entitled to an exemption under subsection 5 of section 15-34.1-03~~ is deemed to be in violation of the compulsory attendance requirements of section 15-34.1-01. A child who is once evaluated by a multidisciplinary team need not be reevaluated for a potential learning problem upon scoring below the twenty-third percentile on a subsequent standardized achievement test unless the reevaluation is performed pursuant to the provision of special education and related services.

- 1 3. Any ~~certified~~ certificated teacher monitoring ~~home-based instruction~~ a home school
2 shall spend, at a minimum, an average of one hour per week in contact with the
3 first student and in conjunction with the parent. With two or more children under
4 supervision, the teacher shall ~~monitor~~ spend, at a minimum, an additional one-half
5 hour per month for each child under the teacher's supervision ~~who is receiving~~
6 ~~home-based instruction in the home school~~. The time may be reduced
7 proportionately if the child is in attendance in a public school or an approved
8 ~~private~~ nonpublic school. The teacher shall evaluate the student's progress and
9 report the student's progress at least twice annually to the local public school
10 superintendent. If the school district does not employ a local school
11 superintendent, the report must be filed with the county superintendent of schools
12 for the county of the child's residence.
- 13 4. ~~If the local superintendent of public schools or the county superintendent of~~
14 ~~schools in those school districts that do not employ a local superintendent~~
15 ~~determines that the child is not making reasonable academic progress consistent~~
16 ~~with the child's age or stage of development, the parent of the child must be~~
17 ~~notified of the conclusion reached and the basis for the conclusion. Upon receipt~~
18 ~~of that notice, the parent shall make a good faith effort to remedy any deficiency.~~
19 ~~The appropriate official shall report the failure on the part of a parent to make a~~
20 ~~good faith effort to the state's attorney pursuant to section 15-34.1-04 as a violation~~
21 ~~of this chapter. The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt rules to assist~~
22 ~~local superintendents of schools, county superintendents of schools, and the~~
23 ~~licensed professionals referred to in subsection 2, in determining whether a child is~~
24 ~~making reasonable academic progress. If a monitor is required by section~~
25 ~~15-34.1-06, the school district shall, at the request of the parent, provide the~~
26 ~~monitor at school district expense. A monitor retained by the parent must be~~
27 ~~compensated by the parent.~~

28 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-34.1-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is
29 amended and reenacted as follows:

30 **15-34.1-08. State aid.** For purposes of allocating foundation aid and other state
31 assistance to local school districts, a student ~~receiving home-based instruction~~ in a home

1 school is deemed enrolled in the school district in which the student resides if the student is
2 monitored by a certificated teacher employed by the public school district in which the parent
3 resides. A school district is entitled to one-half of the ~~per-pupil~~ per student payment provided in
4 section 15-40.1-06 times the appropriate factor in section 15-40.1-07 or 15-40.1-08 for each
5 such student. When a student is supervised ~~through home-based instruction~~ in a home school
6 and is enrolled in classes in the public school, proportionate payments must be made as
7 provided in sections 15-40.1-07 and 15-40.1-08. The total amount may not exceed the
8 equivalent of one full foundation aid payment.

9 **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-34.1-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is
10 amended and reenacted as follows:

11 **15-34.1-09. Monitoring or administration by a ~~certified~~ certificated teacher.** Any
12 ~~certified~~ certificated teacher who monitors ~~home-based instruction~~ a child in a home school or
13 who administers a standardized achievement test to ~~children receiving home-based instruction~~
14 a child in a home school must notify the child's public school district of residence that the
15 teacher is providing such monitoring or administration. The parent of any ~~student receiving~~
16 ~~home-based instruction that~~ child in a home school who is monitored by or taking a test
17 administered by a ~~certified~~ certificated teacher not employed by a public school district is
18 responsible for ~~any the~~ the costs ~~charged for such~~ of the monitoring or test administration.

19 **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-34.1-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is
20 amended and reenacted as follows:

21 **15-34.1-10. ~~Home-based instruction~~ Home school - Liability.** No state agency,
22 public school district, or county superintendent may be found liable for accepting as correct the
23 information on the statement of intent or for any damages resulting from the parent's failure to
24 educate the child.

25 **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-34.1-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is
26 amended and reenacted as follows:

27 **15-34.1-11. ~~Home-based instruction~~ Home school - High school diploma - Fee.**
28 The superintendent of public instruction shall issue to a student who has completed the
29 requirements for high school graduation through ~~home-based instruction~~ a home school a
30 diploma that clearly indicates that the requirements for graduation have been met through

- 1 ~~home-based instruction~~ a home school. The superintendent may charge a fee for issuing the
- 2 diploma.