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Sixty-third
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

FIRST ENGROSSMENT

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2229

Introduced by

Senators Poolman, J. Lee, Murphy

Representatives Hawken, N. Johnson, Hogan

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 15.1-09-58 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to early childhood education; and to provide an appropriation for early childhood education grants.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 15.1-09-58 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15.1-09-58. ~~Prekindergarten program~~Early childhood education - Authorization - Support.

The board of a school district may establish ~~a prekindergarten~~an early childhood education program and may ~~receive and expend any state~~support that program with:

1. Local tax revenues, other than those necessary to support the district's kindergarten program and the provision of elementary and high school educational services;
2. State moneys specifically appropriated for the program~~, any federal~~;
3. Federal funds specifically appropriated or approved for the program~~, and any gifts~~; and
4. Gifts, grants, and donations specifically given for the program.

SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of $4,683,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the superintendent of public instruction for the purpose of providing annual early childhood education grants to eligible school districts, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2015.

1. Any school district offering a program of early childhood education, approved in accordance with section 15.1-37-01, is eligible to receive a grant under this section.
2. The superintendent of public instruction shall provide for an annual application process and shall select award recipients. The selection process must take into account the

geographic distribution of recipients, the district's service area, the general economic circumstances within the service area, and the district's current or anticipated financial commitment to providing early childhood education.

3. A school district may not receive more than $100,000 annually under this section.

4. As a condition of receiving an early childhood education grant, a school district shall commit to maintaining a full-time equivalent student-teacher ratio of ten-to-one or sixteen-to-one if the teacher is assisted by a full-time classroom aid.

5. As a condition of receiving an early childhood education grant, a school district shall commit to utilizing the PowerSchool information system and to providing data to the superintendent of public instruction at the time and in the manner requested by the superintendent.

6. The superintendent of public instruction shall monitor the grant recipients, compile data regarding the recipients' provision of early childhood education, and report any findings and recommendations to the legislative management.