

Fifty-seventh
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2417

Introduced by

Senators D. Mathern, Fischer, Lee

Representatives Hawken, Winrich

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-56 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to a community child care improvement grant program; and to provide
3 an appropriation.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 54-56 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 created and enacted as follows:

7 **Community child care improvement grant program.** The children and family
8 services division of the department of human services shall establish a community child care
9 improvement grant program. The early childhood services administrator shall appoint a
10 ten-member statewide community child care improvement grant committee to determine the
11 criteria for awarding grants to evaluate and monitor the progress of the program. The
12 community child care improvement grant committee must be composed of three
13 representatives of child care resource and referral agencies; three representatives of the
14 regional and tribal children's services coordinating committees; the administrators of the early
15 childhood services and the head start collaboration programs of the children and family
16 services division of the department of human services; and two individuals selected by the
17 children's services coordinating committee who represent the early childhood professional
18 community. The administration costs of the program may not exceed five percent of the total
19 allocations to the state. A grant application process must use the children's services
20 coordinating committee's system for distributing local grant money. An individual grant may not
21 exceed five thousand dollars. The following criteria must be met to be eligible for a grant under
22 the program:

- 1 1. A one hundred percent match from a local funding source. Public funds, including
- 2 state funds, private funds, and in-kind donations may be used to meet the
- 3 matching requirement.
- 4 2. The grant must be used to address one or more of the following needs:
- 5 a. Increased availability and accessibility of licensed child care, including rural,
- 6 school age, summer, weekend, evening, night, infant-toddler, and other
- 7 underserved markets;
- 8 b. Retention of qualified child care providers with training, education, and
- 9 compensation; or
- 10 c. Expand or improve the quality of licensed child care facilities in the state.

11 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated from the federal child care and
12 development fund allocations for fiscal year 2001 and fiscal year 2002, the sum of \$500,000, or
13 so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of human services for the purpose
14 of establishing a community child care improvement grant program and for providing grants
15 under the program, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2003. The
16 appropriated funds may not supplant, replace, or reduce any currently funded programs.