

**SENATE BILL NO. 2186**

Introduced by

Senators Wardner, Krebsbach, Mathern

Representatives Gulleason, Hawken, Martinson

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 50-11.1 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to early childhood care workforce development and department of  
3 human services establishment of a quality improvement rating system for early childhood care  
4 facilities.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 50-11.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
7 created and enacted as follows:

8 **Workforce development - Quality improvement and rating system - Technical**  
9 **assistance.**

- 10 1. The department shall provide opportunities for the early childhood care and  
11 education workforce voluntarily and systematically to attain focused training  
12 resulting in certificates, specializations, licensure, and degrees in early childhood  
13 development and education. The department shall establish a statewide system to  
14 build systematic training, including:
- 15 a. Development and implementation of training and education that leads to  
16 certificates, degrees, and other specializations in specific aspects of the early  
17 care and education field.
  - 18 b. Development and maintenance of a professional registry for the early  
19 childhood care workforce to track training, education, and experience.
  - 20 c. Provision of assistance for individuals to chart career paths and access  
21 applicable training and support.
  - 22 d. Provision of scholarships for national accreditation, childhood development  
23 associate assessments, North Dakota teacher licensure, and other activities

- 1                   leading toward completion of certificates and degrees needed for early  
2                   childhood care jobs.
- 3                   e. Provision of financial incentives for incumbent workers upon completion of  
4                   certificates, degrees, and specializations.
- 5                   2. a. The department, in consultation with the state department of health,  
6                   superintendent of public instruction, department of commerce, and a variety of  
7                   early childhood care representatives, shall develop and implement a voluntary  
8                   quality rating system for licensed early childhood facilities which may be used  
9                   as a tool to inform parents, public officials, and other purchasers of child care  
10                   regarding the level of quality at a facility. The system may include:
- 11                   (1) Child to caregiver ratios and group size measurements.  
12                   (2) Staff training, licensure, and experience assessments.  
13                   (3) Program curriculum assessments.  
14                   (4) Regulatory compliance measurements.  
15                   (5) Assessment of program environments.  
16                   (6) National accreditation summaries.
- 17                   b. As part of the rating system, the department may provide a quality incentive  
18                   payment or a higher reimbursement rate for child care assistance program  
19                   payments to a participating early childhood care facility.
- 20                   3. The department shall provide technical assistance and support to an early  
21                   childhood facility that attempts to meet quality improvement and rating system  
22                   criteria and may provide financial incentives to an early childhood facility that  
23                   sustains and increases program quality as defined by the rating system. The  
24                   department may contract with a private nonprofit agency to provide technical  
25                   assistance under this subsection.