

**Sixtieth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Wednesday, January 3, 2007**

SENATE BILL NO. 2186
(Senators Wardner, Krebsbach, Mathern)
(Representatives Gulleason, Hawken, Martinson)

AN ACT to create and enact a new section to chapter 50-09 and a new section to chapter 50-11.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to transition assistance for child care and early childhood workforce development; to provide for a report to the legislative council; to provide for legislative council studies; and to provide an appropriation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. A new section to chapter 50-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Transition assistance for child care. The state agency shall establish a program of transition assistance to pay a portion of the cost of child care for families that lose eligibility, and remain ineligible, for benefits under section 50-09-29 due to earnings from employment. This program must:

1. Provide benefits for up to the six months following the loss of benefits under section 50-09-29;
2. Be paid directly to recipients using a debit card; and
3. Meet all requirements to be considered "assistance" for purposes of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations, part 260, section 31, or any substantially similar federal regulation that may replace title 45, Code of Federal Regulations, part 260, section 31.

SECTION 2. A new section to chapter 50-11.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Workforce development. The department may establish a statewide system to build systematic early childhood workforce voluntary training which may include distance learning formats, a professional registry, certificates, and specializations.

SECTION 3. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STUDY - TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES. The legislative council shall consider studying, during the 2007-08 interim, the temporary assistance for needy families program administered by the department of human services. The study may include review of the sustainability of current services and programs being funded by temporary assistance for needy families funds, review of the potential programs and services that could be funded by use of temporary assistance for needy families funds, and review of the need for increased assistance to recipients of temporary assistance for needy families who are attending a postsecondary institution of learning. The legislative council shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-first legislative assembly.

SECTION 4. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STUDY - CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL SYSTEM. The legislative council shall consider studying, during the 2007-08 interim, the state's child care resource and referral system, including consideration of the purposes and goals of the system and whether the current system is furthering these purposes and goals and consideration of the most appropriate funding source of the system. The legislative council shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-first legislative assembly.

SECTION 5. REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL - DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES. During the 2007-08 interim, the department of human services shall report to the legislative council regarding the transition assistance for the child care program implemented pursuant to section 1 of this Act.

SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated out of any moneys from special funds derived from federal funds and other income from the temporary assistance for needy families program the sum of \$1,491,210, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of human services for the purpose of implementing section 1 of this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2007, and ending June 30, 2009.

SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated out of any moneys from special funds derived from federal funds and other income transferred from the temporary assistance for needy families program the sum of \$500,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of human services for the purpose of implementing section 2 of this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2007, and ending June 30, 2009. The department may transfer the funds provided for under this section to the child care development block grant.

SECTION 8. APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$166,221, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of human services for the purpose of replacing the reduction in child care development fund grants, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2007, and ending June 30, 2009.