

Introduced by

Representatives Hawken, Martinson, Mueller

Senators Fiebiger, Krebsbach, Wardner

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, child care capacity, and
3 quality improvement for early childhood facilities; and to provide an appropriation.

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

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

7 **Workforce development - Quality improvement - Technical assistance - Capacity**
8 **building.**

- 9 1. The department shall provide voluntary, progressive training opportunities leading
10 to credentials and shall provide supports for the early childhood care and
11 education workforce. The department shall implement a registry to track workforce
12 participation.
- 13 2. The department shall implement a voluntary quality improvement process for
14 licensed early childhood facilities. The department may provide a quality incentive
15 payment and a higher reimbursement rate for child care assistance program
16 payments to a participating early childhood facility. The department may provide
17 technical assistance and support to an early childhood facility that applies for
18 quality improvement and may provide financial incentives to an early childhood
19 facility that sustains and increases program quality. The department may contract
20 with a private, nonprofit agency to provide technical assistance under this
21 subsection.
- 22 3. The department may provide supports and incentives to build child care capacity,
23 including:

1 a. Technical assistance and support to individuals who want to establish a new
2 program or expand existing capacity to include information on needs
3 assessments, regulatory processes, facility design and furnishings, startup
4 and operating budgets, staffing patterns, curriculum evaluation, and
5 development of business plans.

6 b. Grants to programs with a viable business plan to support early childhood
7 facility development and expansion in areas with a demonstrated need.

8 4. The department shall coordinate with other state agencies as necessary to
9 implement the provisions of this section.

10 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys from federal
11 funds made available to the state from federal action to provide funding to the states to
12 stimulate the national economy or to address state fiscal recovery and other income, the sum of
13 \$3,644,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of human services
14 for the purpose of implementing programs associated with early childhood care services under
15 section 1 of this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2009, and ending June 30, 2011.

16 **SECTION 3. ADDITIONAL FUNDS.** Subject to approval by the emergency
17 commission and budget section, the department of human services may accept and spend
18 federal or other funds in excess of those funds appropriated in section 2 of this Act for early
19 childhood care programs, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2009, and ending June 30, 2011.