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Sixty-second
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

SENATE BILL NO. 2298

Introduced by

Senators Heckaman, Marcellais, Mathern

Representatives Delmore, Kilichowski, Metcalf

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 the establishment of a grant program for licensed early childhood

3 services providers who care for children with special needs; 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 created

6 and enacted as follows:

7   **Early childhood services grant program.**

8   1.   The department shall establish an early childhood services inclusion grant program for

9   licensed early childhood services providers that provide care for children with

10   disabilities or developmental delays. The grant program must be designed to:

11   a.   Increase the number of staff in the adult-to-child ratio to expand supervision and

12   the ability to care for children with disabilities or developmental delays; and

13   b.   Assist in modifying or adapting the early childhood services setting as needed to

14   address the health and safety needs of children with disabilities or developmental

15   delays.

16   2.   The department shall establish a grant review committee to assist in the development

17   of grant guidelines, the review of applications, and the determination of awards or

18   denials. The membership of the grant review committee must include representation

19   from each of the following:

20   a.   The department of human services;

21   b.   The department of public instruction;

22   c.   The North Dakota training and information center;

23   d.   North Dakota child care resource and referral; and

24   e.   Parents of children with disabilities or at risk for developmental delays.

3. To be eligible for the grant program, the early childhood services provider must:

    a. Be state-licensed;

    b. Submit a letter from the provider's county social services office confirming the provider's licensing status;

    c. Submit a letter from a service provider that provides formal supports to the child confirming an increased funding need to assist the provider in serving the child with disabilities; and

    d. Work with the child's family and an inclusion or health specialist to complete a care plan appropriate for the child care setting.

4. The department shall give priority consideration to licensed early childhood services providers that care for children with disabilities.

5. For purposes of this section, a child with disabilities or who is at risk for developmental delays includes any child in this state between the ages of birth and twelve years who receives support through either public or private services and includes a child who is in the process of being evaluated for public or private formal support. A child who is at risk for developmental delays includes any child between the ages of birth and twelve years who received foster care services; who has a previous substantiated history as a victim of child abuse, neglect, or domestic violence; who is homeless; who has documented special health care needs; or who has a parent with a significant disability.

SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of $600,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, and from special funds derived from federal funds and other income from the temporary assistance for needy families program, the sum of $650,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of human services for the purpose of establishing an early childhood services provider inclusion grant program as provided for in section 1 of this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2011, and ending June 30, 2013.