

**SENATE BILL NO. 2323**

Introduced by

Senator Hogan

Representative Dakane

1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of health and human services  
2 for early childhood programs; and to provide for a legislative management study regarding early  
3 child care programs and child care services to identify major needs and systemic approaches to  
4 stabilize child care infrastructure.

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

6 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES -**  
7 **EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general

8 fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of ~~\$30,000,000~~\$20,000,000, or  
9 so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of health and human services for  
10 the purpose of awarding grants for early childhood programs, for the biennium beginning July 1,  
11 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The department shall ~~award grants with the funds~~  
12 ~~appropriated in this section based on recommendations from the children's cabinet under~~  
13 ~~section 50-06-43.1 to:~~

- 14 1. Expand the four-year old best-in-class program to ensure at least fifty percent of
- 15 four-year old children in the state have a program available to them; and
- 16 2. Supplement funding for federally funded head start programs to assure all eligible
- 17 children are served;
- 18 ~~3. Develop a system of quality ratings for afterschool programs; and~~
- 19 ~~4. Improve other early childhood programs, including school-based programs, with~~
- 20 ~~priority given to programs in underserved areas.~~

21 **SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - EARLY CHILD CARE PROGRAMS**

22 **AND SERVICES.** During the 2023-24 interim, the legislative management shall consider  
23 studying the early child care programs and child care services to identify major needs and  
24 systemic approaches to stabilize child care infrastructure. The legislative management shall

Sixty-eighth  
Legislative Assembly

- 1 report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the
- 2 recommendations, to the sixty-ninth legislative assembly.