

February 10, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

HOUSE BILL NO. 1497

Introduced by

Representatives Maki, Marschall, Monson, Jonas

Senator Schaible

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 1 of section 50-11.1-21 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to age requirements for an approved four-year old program.

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

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 50-11.1-21 of the North Dakota
5 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 6 1. ~~Any~~^A person or school district operating or seeking to operate a four-year old program
7 may request approval for a two-year period of the four-year old program from the
8 department. The department shall approve a four-year old program if the program:
- 9 a. Is taught by individuals licensed or approved to teach in early childhood
10 education by the education standards and practices board ~~or approved to teach~~
11 ~~in early childhood education by the education standards and practices board;~~
 - 12 b. Follows four-year old program requirements approved by the department;
 - 13 c. Is in compliance with all municipal and state health, fire, and safety requirements;
 - 14 d. Limits enrollment to children who have reached the age of four years old before
15 August first in the year of enrollment, unless the child will be four years old before
16 December first and the ~~child:~~
- 17 ~~(1) — By means of developmental and readiness screening instruments approved~~
18 ~~by the superintendent of public instruction and administered by the four-year~~
19 ~~old program operator, demonstrates superior academic talents or abilities~~
20 ~~and social and emotional readiness; or~~

1 ~~(2) Has been enrolled in another approved four-year old program~~ school district
2 determines, based on child development factors, including development
3 milestones, school readiness, and other individual considerations, to allow a
4 child to enroll based on a request;

- 5 e. Submits a nonrefundable fee of fifty dollars ~~at the time~~when the application is
6 filed. All fees collected under this section must be paid to the department and
7 must be used to defray the cost of investigating, inspecting, and evaluating
8 applications for approval; and
9 f. Is in compliance with this chapter.