

Introduced by

Human Services Committee

(At the request of the Department of Health and Human Services)

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 50-06-06.11, 50-33-01, 50-33-06, and  
2 50-33-08 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to child care assistance payments to  
3 providers.

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

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-06-06.11 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **50-06-06.11. Child care provider payments.**

8 Within the limits of federal regulations, the department, ~~at the election of the early childhood~~  
9 ~~facility,~~ shall directly pay early childhood facilities monthly under child care assistance programs  
10 administered by the department.

11 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-33-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
12 amended and reenacted as follows:

13 **50-33-01. Definitions.**

14 For the purposes of this chapter:

- 15 1. "Allowable activities" means paid work, job search, attending job training or an  
16 education program, any activity in the job opportunity and basic skills program,  
17 transportation time related to the activities, temporary illness or incapacity of a current  
18 recipient, and temporary illness of the child.
- 19 2. "Approved relative" means an individual provider related to a child in that provider's  
20 care by marriage, blood, or court decree as a grandparent, step-grandparent, great  
21 grandparent, step-great grandparent, aunt, step-aunt, uncle, step-uncle, sibling, or  
22 step-sibling, who has been approved to care for specific children in the provider's own  
23 home, but does not mean a sibling provider who resides in the home of a child in that  
24 provider's care.

- 1           3. "Caretaker" means a child's biological or adoptive parent, the spouse of the child's  
2           biological or adoptive parent, or an individual acting in the stead of a child's parent at  
3           the request of the parent or another with authority to make the request, but does not  
4           mean a provider.
- 5           4. "Child care assistance unit" means all members of the caretaker's immediate  
6           household, including a child through the month of that child's nineteenth birthday, and  
7           any parent or stepparent of a child, including an acknowledged or adjudicated father of  
8           one or more children in the household, but does not mean any other person who is not  
9           acting in the stead of a parent, a child who is nineteen years of age or older, a child for  
10          whom the household receives foster care payments, or a minor parent of a child in the  
11          household unless the minor parent also requires child care or is incapable of caring for  
12          the child.
- 13          5. "Child care center" has the meaning provided in chapter 50-11.1.
- 14          6. "Department" means the department of health and human services.
- 15          7. "Family child care" has the meaning provided in chapter 50-11.1.
- 16          8. "Group child care" has the meaning provided in chapter 50-11.1.
- 17          9. "Human service zone" ~~means a county or consolidated group of counties~~  
18          ~~administering human services within a designated area in accordance with an~~  
19          ~~agreement or plan approved by the department~~has the meaning provided in section  
20          50-35-01.
- 21          10. "In-home provider" has the meaning provided in section 50-11.1-02.
- 22          11. "Provider" means an individual who is eighteen years of age or older, licensed as a  
23          provider in a family child care, group child care, or child care center, with a  
24          self-declaration as a provider of early childhood services who requires no license,  
25          registered as a child care provider by a tribal entity, or an approved relative, who  
26          meets criteria established by the jurisdiction with authority to regulate child care  
27          services.
- 28          ~~11.12.~~ "Recipient" means an individual who is receiving child care assistance.
- 29          ~~12.13.~~ "Tribal entity" means an organization authorized by the government of an Indian tribe  
30          within North Dakota to license, register, or otherwise recognize a child care provider  
31          operating within the jurisdiction of that Indian tribe.

1 ~~13-14.~~ "Work":

2 a. Means any paid employment and any self-employment providing commensurate  
3 income; and

4 b. Does not mean any unpaid activity except:

5 (1) With respect to a caretaker who is involved in job opportunity and basic  
6 skills or tribal native employment works required by temporary assistance  
7 for needy families, any approved activity for the program; and

8 (2) When a state has been determined to have a major disaster, activity by an  
9 individual who is residing in the disaster area and involved in unpaid work  
10 activities, including the cleaning, repair, restoration, and rebuilding of  
11 homes, businesses, and schools.

12 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-33-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
13 amended and reenacted as follows:

14 **50-33-06. Approved relative provider.**

15 1. The department may approve a relative provider to provide care for specific children  
16 within a specified county. The department shall provide an approved relative provider  
17 with a provider identification number. An approved relative provider may provide care  
18 for no more than five children ~~under~~through the age of twelve or three children under  
19 the age of two, including the provider's children under the age of twelve.

20 2. Before approving an individual as an approved relative provider, the department shall  
21 seek a criminal history record investigation as provided under section 50-11.1-06.2  
22 and pursuant to section 12-60-24. The department shall consider any criminal history  
23 record information available at the time approval decision is made. A background  
24 check must be completed for each adult living in the household of the prospective  
25 provider.

26 3. No payment may be made to a relative provider who is not an approved relative  
27 provider.

28 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-33-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
29 amended and reenacted as follows:

1           **50-33-08. Limitations on in-home child care benefits.**

2           No benefits under this chapter may be provided ~~for~~ to an in-home provider or for a child  
3 receiving in-home child care unless:

- 4           1. A health professional provides written documentation demonstrating to the  
5           department's satisfaction that the child's health would be at risk if taken to an outside  
6           provider; or
- 7           2. A developmental disabilities case manager or a special education case manager  
8           provides written documentation demonstrating to the department's satisfaction that the  
9           child's disability is such that taking the child to an outside provider creates an undue  
10          hardship.