

Sixty-second
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED 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 early childhood services inclusion support
3 services and a grant program for licensed early childhood services providers who care for
4 children with special needs; to provide a continuing appropriation; and to provide an
5 appropriation.

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

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

9 **Early childhood services inclusion support services and grant program.**

10 1. The department shall establish an early childhood services inclusion grant program for
11 licensed early childhood services providers that provide care for children with
12 disabilities or developmental delays. The grant program must be designed to:

13 a. Increase the number of staff in the adult-to-child ratio to expand supervision and
14 the ability to care for children with disabilities or developmental delays; and

15 b. Assist in modifying or adapting the early childhood services setting as needed to
16 address the health and safety needs of children with disabilities or developmental
17 delays.

18 2. The department shall fund early childhood services specialists to make available
19 technical assistance to early childhood services providers that care for children with
20 special needs or developmental delays. The technical assistance program must be
21 designed to:

22 a. Assist early childhood services providers that request support and information
23 regarding caring for children with special needs or developmental delays;

- 1 b. Assist early childhood services providers in adapting the program environment
2 and care practices to meet the individual child's needs and to build the early
3 childhood services providers' capacity to serve children with special needs or
4 developmental delays;
- 5 c. In partnership with the child's parents and health care provider, assist the early
6 childhood services provider in the development or coordination of care plans for
7 children with special needs or special health care needs relevant to the care
8 setting;
- 9 d. In partnership with the child's parents, foster communication with the team of
10 specialists serving the child to ensure consistency in therapy practices and
11 appropriate approaches;
- 12 e. Provide classroom training to early childhood services providers to assist the
13 providers in the integration of children with special needs; and
- 14 f. As requested by the early childhood services providers, conduct one-on-one
15 training at the provider's business to assist the provider in the integration of
16 children with special needs.
- 17 2.3. The department shall establish a grant review committee to assist in the development
18 of grant guidelines, the review of applications, and the determination of awards or
19 denials. The membership of the grant review committee must include representation
20 from each of the following:
- 21 a. The department of human services;
22 b. The department of public instruction;
23 c. The North Dakota training and information center;
24 d. North Dakota child care resource and referral; and
25 e. Parents of children with disabilities or at risk for developmental delays.
- 26 3.4. To be eligible for the grant program, the early childhood services provider must:
27 a. Be state-licensed;
28 b. Submit a letter from the provider's county social services office confirming the
29 provider's licensing status;

- 1 c. Submit a letter from a service provider that provides formal supports to the child
2 confirming an increased funding need to assist the provider in serving the child
3 with disabilities; and
4 d. Work with the child's family and an inclusion or health specialist to complete a
5 care plan appropriate for the child care setting.

6 4.5. The department shall give priority consideration to licensed early childhood services
7 providers that care for children with disabilities.

8 5.6. For purposes of this section, a child with disabilities or who is at risk for developmental
9 delays includes any child in this state between the ages of birth and twelve years who
10 receives support through either public or private services and includes a child who is in
11 the process of being evaluated for public or private formal support. A child who is at
12 risk for developmental delays includes any child between the ages of birth and twelve
13 years who received foster care services; who has a previous substantiated history as
14 a victim of child abuse, neglect, or domestic violence; who is homeless; who has
15 documented special health care needs; or who has a parent with a significant
16 disability.

17 6.7. The department may accept gifts, grants, and donations from any source to assist the
18 department in the establishment and implementation of the early childhood services
19 inclusion support services and grant program. Any gifts, grants, and donations
20 received are appropriated to the department on a continuing basis for the purpose of
21 funding the early childhood services inclusion support services and grant program
22 under this section.

23 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.** The funds provided in this section, or so much of the funds
24 as may be necessary, are appropriated out of any moneys in the lands and minerals trust fund
25 in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, to the department of human services for the
26 purpose of funding the early childhood services inclusion support services and for establishing
27 an early childhood services provider inclusion grant program as provided for in section 1 of this
28 Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2011, and ending June 30, 2013, as follows:

29 Early childhood services inclusion support	\$450,000 <u>\$100,000</u>
30 Early childhood services grant program	300,000 <u>50,000</u>
31 Total lands and minerals trust fund appropriation	\$750,000 <u>\$150,000</u>