

Introduced by

Senators Poolman, Campbell, Heckaman

Representatives Schreiber-Beck, Delmore

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact ~~sections 15.1-37-01 and~~section 15.1-37-06 of the North  
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to early childhood education programs.

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

4 ~~**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-37-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is~~  
5 ~~amended and reenacted as follows:~~

6 ~~**15.1-37-01. Early childhood education program -- Approval.**~~

7 ~~1. Any person or school district operating an early childhood education program may~~  
8 ~~request approval of the program from the superintendent of public instruction. The~~  
9 ~~superintendent shall approve an early childhood education program if the program:~~

10 ~~a. Is taught by individuals who are licensed to teach in early childhood education by~~  
11 ~~the education standards and practices board or approved to teach in early~~  
12 ~~childhood education by the education standards and practices board;~~

13 ~~b. Follows educational standards approved by the superintendent of public~~  
14 ~~instruction;~~

15 ~~c. Is in compliance with all municipal and state health, fire, and safety requirements;~~  
16 ~~and~~

17 ~~d. Limits its enrollment to children who have reached the age of four before August~~  
18 ~~first in the year of enrollment.~~

19 ~~2. In determining the state aid payments to which a school district is entitled, the~~  
20 ~~superintendent of public instruction may not count any student enrolled in a regular~~  
21 ~~early childhood education program.~~

22 ~~3. In determining the state aid payments to which a school district is entitled, the~~  
23 ~~superintendent of public instruction may not count any student enrolled in any federally~~  
24 ~~funded head start program.~~

1       **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-37-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3       **15.1-37-06. Receipt and distribution of grants - Notification.**

4       1. a. The department of commerce shall receive applications for and distribute grants  
5           under this section to eligible members, including governing board members, of a  
6           consortium formed in accordance with section 15.1-37-05, in the amount of  
7           ~~two~~one thousand dollars for ~~each~~any child ~~four years of age~~ enrolled in a  
8           program of early childhood education, ~~two thousand dollars~~ if the child is eligible  
9           for ~~free~~reduced lunches under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act  
10          [42 U.S.C. 1751, et seq.], and ~~one~~four thousand dollars ~~for each child enrolled in~~  
11          ~~a program of early childhood education~~, if the child is eligible for ~~reduced~~free  
12          lunches under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act [42 U.S.C.  
13          1751, et seq.], provided:

14          ~~a.~~ (1) The child is a resident of this state; and

15          ~~b.~~ (2) The program has a duration of at least four hundred hours over a period of  
16                  at least thirty-two consecutive weeks.

17          b. A child enrolled in a federally funded head start program may not be counted for  
18          the purpose of determining grant eligibility under this section.

19       2. a. Once each calendar quarter, at the time and in the manner required by the  
20           department of commerce, any provider receiving a grant under this section shall  
21           forward to the parent of each child receiving services a notice indicating the total  
22           amount of the grant that was awarded to the provider for the quarter, the pro rata  
23           amount attributable to the parent's child, and the source of the grant. The  
24           department of commerce shall standardize the notification required by this  
25           subdivision.

26       b. If a provider fails to meet the notification requirements of this subsection, the  
27           department of commerce shall reduce the amount of the provider's next grant  
28           payment by fifty percent. If a provider fails to meet the notification requirements  
29           of this section a second time, the department of commerce shall determine that  
30           the provider is ineligible to participate in the grant program for a period of one  
31           year.