

Sixty-eighth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**ENGROSSED 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 \$20,000,000, or so much of  
9 the sum as may be necessary, to the department of health and human services for the purpose  
10 of awarding grants for early childhood programs, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and  
11 ending June 30, 2025. The department shall:

- 12 1. Expand the four-year old best-in-class program to ensure at least fifty percent of  
13 four-year old children in the state have a program available to them; and  
14 2. Supplement funding for federally funded head start programs to assure all eligible  
15 children are served.

16 **SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - EARLY CHILD CARE PROGRAMS**  
17 **AND SERVICES.** During the 2023-24 interim, the legislative management shall consider  
18 studying the early child care programs and child care services to identify major needs and  
19 systemic approaches to stabilize child care infrastructure. The legislative management shall  
20 report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the  
21 recommendations, to the sixty-ninth legislative assembly.