

State of South Dakota

NINETY-SECOND SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2017

896Y0399

SENATE BILL NO. 155

Introduced by: Senators Sutton, Frerichs, Heinert, Kennedy, and Nesiba and Representatives Bartling, Ahlers, Bordeaux, Hawley, Lesmeister, McCleerey, Ring, Smith, Soli, and Wismer

1 FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, An Act to establish an early childhood education pilot program and
2 to make an appropriation therefor.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 Section 1. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

5 There is hereby established the early childhood education pilot program in the Department
6 of Education for the purpose of supporting pre-kindergarten programs. For the purposes of this
7 program, an eligible student is:

8 (1) A child who is three or four years of age; and

9 (2) A child who is not participating in the head start program.

10 Section 2. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

11 The secretary of the Department of Education shall select schools to participate in the pilot
12 program established in section 1 of this Act among schools that apply for consideration. The
13 secretary of the Department of Education shall promulgate rules, pursuant to chapter 1-26,
14 establishing the application process and timeline. A participating school shall receive an



1 allotment of two thousand five hundred dollars for each eligible student enrolled in a pre-
2 kindergarten program administered by the school. The Department of Education shall consider
3 the following criteria when selecting schools to participate in the program:

4 (1) If the pre-kindergarten program is taught by individuals with a birth through
5 preschool education endorsement;

6 (2) If other public pre-kindergarten or head start services are available in the community;
7 and

8 (3) If the pre-kindergarten program follows the South Dakota early learning guidelines.

9 Section 3. There is hereby appropriated from the general fund the sum of five million dollars
10 (\$5,000,000), or so much thereof as may be necessary, to the Department of Education for the
11 early childhood education pilot program.

12 Section 4. The secretary of the Department of Education shall approve vouchers and the
13 state auditor shall draw warrants to pay expenditures authorized by this Act.

14 Section 5. Any amounts appropriated in the Act not lawfully expended or obligated shall
15 revert in accordance with procedures prescribed in chapter 4-8.