

Fifty-fifth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## HOUSE BILL NO. 1226

Introduced by

Human Services Committee

(At the request of the Department of Human Services)

1 A BILL for an Act to provide temporary requirements for administration of temporary assistance  
2 for needy families; to create and enact a new subsection to section 14-03-17, a new section to  
3 chapter 14-05, two new sections to chapter 14-08.1, five new sections to chapter 14-09, a new  
4 subsection to section 14-17-09, a new section to chapter 14-17, a new subsection to section  
5 14-17-14, a new section to chapter 14-19, a new subsection to section 23-02.1-19, a new  
6 section to chapter 28-21, a new chapter to title 34, a new chapter to title 35, a new chapter to  
7 title 43, and nine new sections to chapter 50-09 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to  
8 the implementation of federal welfare reform in North Dakota; to amend and reenact sections  
9 11-17-07, 14-08.1-05, 14-08.1-06, 14-08.1-07, 14-09-08.1, 14-09-08.4, 14-09-08.6, 14-09-08.9,  
10 14-09-08.10, 14-09-08.11, 14-09-08.13, 14-09-08.14, 14-09-09.3, 14-09-09.10, 14-09-09.13,  
11 14-09-09.14, 14-09-09.15, 14-09-09.16, 14-09-09.17, 14-09-09.24, 14-09-09.25, 14-17-10,  
12 subsection 4 of section 14-17-13, sections 14-17-16, 14-19-03, 14-19-05, 14-19-06, 14-19-10,  
13 subsection 5 of section 23-02.1-13, sections 50-06-01.4, 50-06-01.8, 50-09-01, 50-09-02,  
14 50-09-02.1, 50-09-03, 50-09-06, 50-09-09, 50-09-14, 50-09-20, 50-09-20.1, 50-09-21,  
15 50-09-22, and 50-09-24 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the implementation of  
16 federal welfare reform in North Dakota; to repeal sections 14-09-09.23, 50-08.1-02, 50-09-16,  
17 50-09-17, and 50-09-22 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to procedures for income  
18 withholding and the state and county shares of the cost of the aid to families with dependent  
19 children program; to provide a penalty; to provide a continuing appropriation; to provide an  
20 appropriation; to provide an effective date; to provide an expiration date; and to declare an  
21 emergency.

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

23 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 11-17-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
24 amended and reenacted as follows:

1           **11-17-07. Decree of or judgment of divorce or, annulment, or paternity filed with**  
2 **registrar of vital statistics.** The clerk of the district court in which any decree or judgment of  
3 divorce or, annulment of marriage, or paternity has been entered shall within fifteen days of the  
4 filing thereof notify the state registrar of vital statistics of the entry of the decree or judgment of  
5 divorce or, annulment of marriage, or paternity and shall furnish such information relating  
6 thereto as the state registrar may require upon such forms as may be furnished by the state  
7 registrar.

8           **SECTION 2.** A new subsection to section 14-03-17 of the 1995 Supplement to the  
9 North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

10           Each application for a marriage license must contain the social security number of  
11 each applicant.

12           **SECTION 3.** A new section to chapter 14-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
13 created and enacted as follows:

14           **Decree to include social security numbers.** Each decree of divorce must include the  
15 social security numbers of the parties to the divorce.

16           **SECTION 4.** A new section to chapter 14-08.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
17 created and enacted as follows:

18           **Definitions.** Terms defined in chapter 14-09 have the same meaning when used in this  
19 chapter.

20           **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-08.1-05 of the 1995 Supplement to the North  
21 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

22           **14-08.1-05. Support order to be judgment.**

23           1. Any order directing any payment or installment of money for the support of a child  
24 is, on and after the date it is due and unpaid:

- 25           a. A judgment by operation of law, with the full force, effect, and attributes of a  
26 judgment of the district court, ~~including the ability to be entered in the~~  
27 ~~judgment book pursuant to rule 58 of the North Dakota Rules of Civil~~  
28 Procedure and must be entered in the judgment docket, upon filing by the  
29 judgment creditor or the judgment creditor's assignee of a written request  
30 accompanied by a verified statement of arrearage or certified copy of the  
31 payment records of the clerk of district court maintained under section

1 14-09-08.1 and an affidavit of identification of the judgment debtor, and  
2 otherwise enforced as a judgment;

3 b. Entitled as a judgment to full faith and credit in any jurisdiction which  
4 otherwise affords full faith and credit to judgments of the district court; ~~and~~

5 c. Not subject to retroactive modification-; and

6 d. Not subject to any waiting period before an execution or other collection  
7 remedy may be initiated.

8 2. Failure to comply with the provisions of a judgment or order of the court for the  
9 support of a child constitutes contempt of court. All remedies for the enforcement  
10 of judgments apply. A party or the party's assignee may also execute on the  
11 judgment, and the obligor is entitled only to the exemptions from process set forth  
12 in section 28-22-02.

13 3. This section applies to all child support arrearages, whether accrued before or after  
14 the effective date of this section.

15 **SECTION 6.** A new section to chapter 14-08.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
16 created and enacted as follows:

17 **Past due support - Plan of payment - Work activities.**

18 1. In any case in which an individual owes past due child support, the court may, by  
19 order, require the individual to:

20 a. Pay past due support in accordance with a plan approved by the court or the  
21 public authority; and

22 b. If the individual is subject to such a plan and is not incapacitated, to  
23 participate in such work activities as the court deems appropriate.

24 2. For purposes of this section, "work activities" include:

25 a. Unsubsidized employment;

26 b. Subsidized private sector employment;

27 c. Subsidized public sector employment;

28 d. Work experience, including work associated with the refurbishing of publicly  
29 assisted housing, if sufficient private sector employment is not available;

30 e. On-the-job training;

31 f. Job search and job readiness assistance;

- g. Community service programs;
- h. Vocational educational training, not to exceed twelve months with respect to any individuals;
- i. Job skills training directly related to employment;
- j. Education directly related to employment, in the case of an individual who has not received a high school diploma or a certificate of high school equivalency;
- k. Satisfactory attendance at secondary school or in a course of study leading to a certificate of general equivalence, in the case of an individual who has not completed secondary school or received such a certificate; and
- l. The provision of child care services to an individual who is participating in a community service program.

**SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-08.1-06 of the 1995 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**14-08.1-06. Suspension of occupational ~~or~~, professional, or recreational license for nonpayment of child support or failure to obey subpoena.** When considering a contempt citation against a child support obligor who is one thousand dollars or more in arrears in child support or who has failed, after receiving appropriate notice, to comply with a subpoena relating to a paternity or child support matter, the court shall address and make specific findings on the issue of whether the obligor has or may obtain an occupational ~~or a~~, professional, or recreational certificate, permit, or license that the court may withhold or suspend ~~for failure to pay child support~~. The court may withhold or suspend any certificate, permit, or license issued by or on behalf of the state or any of its licensing authorities or occupational or professional boards, which the obligor is required to obtain prior to engaging in the obligor's occupation or profession. The court may withhold or suspend any certificate, permit, or license issued by the director of the game and fish department, which the obligor is required to obtain prior to engaging in a recreational activity. Following a decision to withhold or suspend an obligor's certificate, permit, or license for failure to pay child support, the court shall notify the obligor that the decision becomes final thirty days after the notification unless the obligor satisfies or makes arrangements to pay the entire outstanding payment due. Following a decision to withhold or suspend an obligor's certificate, permit, or license for failure to comply with a subpoena relating to a paternity or child support matter, the court shall notify the obligor that the decision becomes

1 final unless the obligor complies with the subpoena within a time set by the court. The court  
2 shall notify the appropriate licensing authority ~~or~~, occupational or professional board, or the  
3 director of the game and fish department of the court's decision to withhold or suspend an  
4 obligor's certificate, permit, or license. A certificate, permit, or license withheld or suspended by  
5 an order issued under this section may be reissued only by order of the court. An appeal by an  
6 obligor who has had a certificate, permit, or license suspended under this section is an appeal  
7 from the court's order and may not be appealed to the licensing authority ~~or~~, occupational or  
8 professional board, or the director of the game and fish department.

9 **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-08.1-07 of the 1995 Supplement to the North  
10 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

11 **14-08.1-07. Suspension of motor vehicle operator's license for nonpayment of**  
12 **child support or failure to obey subpoena.** When considering a contempt citation against a  
13 child support obligor ~~for failure to pay child support and the obligor who~~ who is one thousand dollars  
14 or more in arrears in child support, or who has failed, after receiving appropriate notice, to  
15 comply with a subpoena relating to a paternity or child support matter, the court shall determine  
16 whether the obligor has a motor vehicle operator's license issued under chapter 39-06. The  
17 court may restrict or suspend a motor vehicle operator's license issued by the state which is  
18 held by the obligor. The court shall notify the department of transportation of the court's  
19 decision to restrict or suspend an obligor's motor vehicle operator's license. An appeal by an  
20 obligor who has had a motor vehicle operator's license restricted or suspended under this  
21 section is an appeal from the court's order and may not be appealed to the department of  
22 transportation. Except for statistical purposes, an entry on the driving record or abstract of a  
23 restriction or suspension under this section after the restriction or suspension ceases may not  
24 be available to the public other than by order of a court of competent jurisdiction. A suspension  
25 under this section is not subject to the financial responsibility reporting requirements.

26 **SECTION 9.** A new section to chapter 14-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
27 created and enacted as follows:

28 **State disbursement unit - Duties - Continuing appropriation.**

- 29 1. The public authority shall establish a state disbursement unit for the collection and  
30 disbursement of payments of child support. The state disbursement unit is

1           responsible for the collection and disbursement of all payments under child support  
2           orders:

3           a. In all cases being enforced by the public authority or a child support agency  
4           under title IV-D of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 651 et seq.]; and

5           b. In all cases in which payment is made pursuant to an income withholding  
6           order.

7           2. The public authority may contract with any public or private entity for any service  
8           provided by the state disbursement unit. The state disbursement unit may employ  
9           technology and agents to allow receipt of child support payments at locations and  
10           times when state disbursement unit staff are not available.

11           3. The state disbursement unit shall use automated procedures, electronic processes,  
12           and computer-driven technology, including the statewide automated data  
13           processing system established under section 50-09-02.1, to the maximum extent  
14           feasible, efficient, and economical, for the collection and distribution of child  
15           support payments.

16           4. The state disbursement unit shall account for and disburse all support payments  
17           received by it, maintain necessary records, and develop procedures for providing  
18           information to the parties regarding actions taken and child support payments  
19           collected and distributed. The state disbursement unit shall adopt procedures for  
20           the maintenance and retention of records of child support payments, and for the  
21           storage and destruction of records when the support obligation is satisfied or is  
22           terminated.

23           5. The state disbursement unit shall establish a fund, known as the state  
24           disbursement unit fund. All child support payments received, except those  
25           payments assigned to the state, shall be deposited into the state disbursement unit  
26           fund, and all disbursements of child support, except those payments assigned to  
27           the state, must be made from the state disbursement unit fund.

28           6. The state disbursement unit shall disburse collected child support payments in  
29           conformity with title IV-D of the Social Security Act [Pub. L. 93-647; 88 Stat. 2351;  
30           42 U.S.C. 651 et seq.].

- 1           7. When there is an assignment of support under chapter 50-09 or 50-24.1, and when  
2           an obligor or income payor is required to make payment to the state disbursement  
3           unit, the state disbursement unit, unless notice has otherwise been provided, shall  
4           provide notice to the obligor, the obligee, and any income payor that payment must  
5           be made to the state disbursement unit.

6           **SECTION 10.** A new section to chapter 14-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
7 created and enacted as follows:

8           **Modification of existing child support orders - Requirements after September 30,**  
9 **1998.**

- 10          1. A child support order issued under any provision of this code and in effect on  
11          October 1, 1998, which requires payment of a child support obligation described in  
12          subsection 1 of section 9 of this Act, is deemed to require payment to the state  
13          disbursement unit after September 30, 1998.
- 14          2. A child support order issued under a provision of this code after September 30,  
15          1998, which requires payment of a child support obligation described in  
16          subsection 1 of section 9 of this Act, must require payment to the state  
17          disbursement unit.
- 18          3. A payment of child support described in subsection 1 of section 9 of this Act,  
19          received by a clerk of court after September 30, 1998, is deemed to be a payment  
20          to the state disbursement unit. A clerk of court receiving such child support  
21          payment after September 30, 1998, shall promptly remit or transfer that payment to  
22          the state disbursement unit.

23          **SECTION 11.** A new section to chapter 14-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
24 created and enacted as follows:

25          **State disbursement unit fund - Continuing appropriation - Correction of errors.**

26 All moneys deposited in the state disbursement unit fund are appropriated to the public  
27 authority for disbursement to obligees entitled to child support payments collected. Any  
28 disbursement made in error is not a gift and must be repaid. The public authority may take any  
29 action, not inconsistent with title IV-D of the Social Security Act [Pub. L. 93-647; 88 Stat. 2351;  
30 42 U.S.C. 651 et seq.] to secure repayment of any disbursement made in error.

**SECTION 12. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-09-08.1 of the 1995 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**14-09-08.1. Support payments - Payment to court or state disbursement unit - ~~Transfer of payment to court of recipient's residence~~ - Transfer of proceedings for enforcement of decree - Procedures upon failure to pay.**

1. In any action in which a court orders that payments for child support be made, the court shall provide in its order that the payments be paid to the clerk of court, as trustee, or to the public authority, for remittance to the obligee. ~~The clerk shall remit the payments within ten working days of receipt unless the address of the obligee is unknown to the clerk.~~ The clerk shall maintain records listing the amount of the payments, the date when the payments must be made, the names and addresses of the parties subject to the order, and any other information necessary for the proper administration of the order. ~~Upon the filing with~~ in the statewide automated data processing system established under section 50-09-02.1. Before the system implementation date, upon notification that a party to the case is receiving services under title IV-D of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 651 et seq.], or an assignment of support rights is in effect, the clerk of court ~~of notice of the assignment of support rights to a state, payments must be credited and transmitted pursuant to the assignment and~~ must credit and transmit payments in conformity with title IV-D of the Social Security Act [Pub. L. 93-647; 88 Stat. 2351; 42 U.S.C. 651; et seq., as amended].

2. a. ~~The parties~~ Each party subject to the order shall immediately inform the clerk of court and the public authority ~~of their social security numbers and of the~~ party's:

- (1) Social security number;
- (2) Residential and mailing addresses and any change of address or change;
- (3) Telephone number;
- (4) Driver's license number;
- (5) The name, address, and telephone number of the party's employer or employers; and



- 1                   (6) Change of any other condition which may affect the proper  
2                   administration of this chapter.
- 3           b. The requirements of subdivision a must be incorporated into each order for  
4           payment of child support.
- 5           c. In any subsequent child support enforcement action between the parties,  
6           upon sufficient showing that diligent effort has been made to ascertain the  
7           location of a party, service may be effected by delivery of written notice to the  
8           most recent residential or employer address provided by the noticed party  
9           pursuant to this subsection.
- 10          d. The requirements of this subsection continue in effect until all child support  
11          obligations have been satisfied with respect to each child subject to the order.
- 12          3. Whenever there is failure to make the payments as required, the clerk shall send  
13          notice of the arrears by first-class mail, with affidavit of service, to the person  
14          required to make the payments, or request a district judge of the judicial district, on  
15          a form provided by the judge, to issue a citation for contempt of court against the  
16          person who has failed to make the payments and the citation must be served on  
17          that person as provided by the North Dakota Rules of Civil Procedure.
- 18          4. The court of its own motion or on motion of a child support agency or the state's  
19          attorney of the county of venue, the county of the recipient's residence, or the  
20          county of the obligor's residence may cause a certified copy of any support order in  
21          the action to be transcribed and filed with the clerk of the district court of any  
22          county in this state in which the obligee or the obligor may reside from time to time.  
23          Thereafter, the provisions of this section apply as if the support order were issued  
24          by the district court of the county to which the support order is transcribed. No fee  
25          may be charged for transcribing or filing a certified copy of any support order under  
26          this section.
- 27          5. The clerk of court, at the option of the clerk, may deposit payments received by the  
28          clerk under this section, and not required to be paid to the state disbursement unit,  
29          in a special trust account in either the Bank of North Dakota or in a banking  
30          institution of this state designated as a depository of public funds under chapter  
31          21-04 and make payments from the trust account to the obligee or the clerk may

deposit payments received by the clerk under this section with the county treasurer and direct their disbursement under chapter 11-14.

**SECTION 13. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-09-08.4 of the 1995 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**14-09-08.4. Periodic review of child support orders.**

1. Each child support order must be reviewed by the child support agency ~~no less frequently than~~ thirty-six months after the establishment of the order or the most recent amendment or review of the order by the court or child support agency unless:
  - a. In the case of an order with respect to which there is in effect an assignment under ~~section 50-09-06 or 50-09-06.1, subsection 2 of section 50-24.1-02, or section 50-24.1-02.1~~ chapter 50-09 or 50-24.1, the child support agency has determined that a review is not in the best interests of the child and neither the obligor nor the obligee has requested review; or
  - b. In the case of any other order neither the obligor nor the obligee has requested review.
2. Each child support order, in which there is in effect an assignment under chapter 50-09 or with respect to which either the obligor or the obligee has requested review, must be reviewed by the child support agency if:
  - a. More than twelve months have passed since the establishment of the order or the most recent amendment or review of that order by the court or child support agency, whichever is later; and
  - b. The order provides for no child support and was based on a finding that the obligor has no ability to pay child support.
3. If, upon review, the child support agency determines that the order provides for child support payments in an amount that is inconsistent with the amount that would be required by the child support guidelines established under subsection 1 of section 14-09-09.7, the child support agency may seek an amendment of the order. If the order provides for child support payments in an amount less than eighty-five percent of the amount that would be required by those guidelines, the child support agency shall seek an amendment of the order.

- 1       ~~3.~~ 4. If a child support order sought to be amended was entered at least one year before  
2                   the filing of a motion or petition for amendment, the court shall order the  
3                   amendment of the child support order to conform the amount of child support  
4                   payment to that required under the child support guidelines, whether or not the  
5                   motion or petition for amendment arises out of a periodic review of a child support  
6                   order, and whether or not a material change of circumstances has taken place,  
7                   unless the presumption that the correct amount of child support would result from  
8                   the application of the child support guidelines is rebutted. If a motion or petition for  
9                   amendment is filed within one year of the entry of the order sought to be amended,  
10                  the party seeking amendment must also show a material change of circumstances.
- 11       ~~4.~~ 5. A determination that a child who is the subject of a child support order is eligible for  
12                   benefits furnished under subsection 18 or 20 of section 50-06-05.1, chapter 50-09,  
13                   or chapter 50-24.1, or any substantially similar program operated by any state or  
14                   tribal government, constitutes a material change of circumstances. The availability  
15                   of health insurance at reasonable cost to a child who is the subject of a child  
16                   support order constitutes a material change of circumstances. The need to provide  
17                   for a child's health care needs, through health insurance or other means,  
18                   constitutes a material change of circumstances.

19               **SECTION 14. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-09-08.6 of the 1995 Supplement to the North  
20   Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

21               **14-09-08.6. Obligor's duties upon review - Failure to provide information.**

- 22               1. The obligor shall provide information to the child support agency concerning the  
23                   obligor's income, which is sufficient to accomplish the review, no later than five  
24                   working days before the date of review. The information must be furnished by:
- 25                   a. Providing an income report, in the form and manner required by the child  
26                      support agency, accurately completed and attested to by the obligor;
- 27                   b. Providing a verified copy of the latest income tax return, filed with the internal  
28                      revenue service or any state official administering a state income tax, which  
29                      accurately reports the obligor's income for a fiscal year ending no more than  
30                      seventeen months prior to the date of the review; or

1 c. Providing a written authorization by which the child support agency may  
2 secure a verified copy of the latest income tax return, filed with the tax  
3 commissioner, which accurately reports the obligor's income for a fiscal year  
4 ending no more than seventeen months prior to the date of review.

5 2. ~~If information concerning the obligor's income sufficient to accomplish the review~~  
6 ~~has not been received by the child support agency by the fifth working day before~~  
7 ~~the date of review, the child support agency shall provide to the tax commissioner~~  
8 ~~an affidavit stating the obligor's name and address, that a review of the obligor's~~  
9 ~~child support obligation is pending, that notice requesting income information has~~  
10 ~~been given as required by law, and that the required information has not been~~  
11 ~~furnished on a timely basis. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 57-38-57 or~~  
12 ~~other confidentiality statutes, upon receipt of an affidavit provided for in this~~  
13 ~~subsection, the tax commissioner may provide to a child support agency a verified~~  
14 ~~copy of the latest income tax return, filed with the office of the commissioner, which~~  
15 ~~reports the obligor's income. The information obtained by a child support agency~~  
16 ~~from the tax commissioner, in accordance with this section, retains its~~  
17 ~~confidentiality and may only be used by a child support agency in the pursuit of its~~  
18 ~~child support collection duties and practices. The tax commissioner may require a~~  
19 ~~child support agency to make assurances, satisfactory to the commissioner, that~~  
20 ~~the agency has the ability to comply with this subsection.~~

21 ~~3.~~ If information concerning the obligor's income sufficient to accomplish the review  
22 has not been timely furnished by the obligor ~~and is not available from the office of~~  
23 ~~the tax commissioner~~, the child support agency may apply to the court for an order  
24 compelling the obligor to furnish information sufficient to accomplish the review.

25 4. ~~3.~~ If an application to the court made pursuant to subsection ~~3~~ 2 has not resulted in  
26 the production of information concerning the obligor's income sufficient to  
27 accomplish the review, the child support agency may base its review determination  
28 on the assumption that the obligor's income has increased at the rate of ten  
29 percent per year since the child support order under review was entered or last  
30 modified.

**SECTION 15. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-09-08.9 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**14-09-08.9. Request for review - Notice of right to request review.** An obligor or an obligee may request review under section 16 of chapter 148 of the 1989 Session Laws or section 14-09-08.4, by applying to the child support agency for child support services, and indicating, in the manner there provided, a desire to have a child support order reviewed. Each judgment or order issued by a court in this state which includes an order for child support must include a statement advising of the right to request a review under this section. If a party to a child support matter is receiving services from the child support agency for child support services and an order for current child support has issued out of that matter, the child support agency shall provide notice of the right to request a review or further review of that child support order, to the obligor and obligee, not more than three years after the most recent child support order, review of that child support order, or notice of right to request a review of that child support order.

**SECTION 16. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-09-08.10 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**14-09-08.10. Order.** Each order entered under this code for the support of a minor child must include a provision for health insurance coverage for that child.

1. ~~Unless the obligee has comparable or better group dependent health insurance coverage available at no or nominal cost, the court shall order the obligor to name the minor child as beneficiary on any health insurance plan that is available to the obligor at no or nominal~~ Except as provided in subsection 2, the order must require the obligor to provide satisfactory health insurance coverage whenever that coverage is available at reasonable cost or becomes available at reasonable cost.
2. ~~If the court finds that dependent health insurance is not available to the obligor or the obligee at no or nominal cost, the court may require the obligor to obtain dependent health insurance, or to be liable for reasonable and necessary medical expenses of the child. If the obligee is an individual with physical custody of the child, the obligee must be required to provide satisfactory health insurance~~ whenever that coverage is available at no or nominal cost.

**SECTION 17. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-09-08.11 of the 1995 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**14-09-08.11. Eligible child - Employer to permit enrollment.**

1. When an obligor is required to cover a minor child as a beneficiary under section 14-09-08.10, the child is eligible for health insurance coverage as a dependent of the obligor until the child's eighteenth birthday or until further order of the court. If health insurance coverage required under section 14-09-08.10 is available through an income payer, the income payer must:
  - ~~4.~~ a. Permit the obligor to enroll under family coverage any child who is otherwise eligible for coverage without regard to any open enrollment restrictions;
  - ~~2.~~ b. If the obligor is enrolled but fails to make application to obtain coverage for the child, enroll the child under family coverage upon application by the obligee;
  - c. If the obligor is enrolled but fails to make application to obtain coverage for the child, enroll the child under family coverage upon application to the public authority, subject to subsection 2, whenever the child receives:
    - (1) Benefits through a demonstration project established under section 50-06-01.8, temporary assistance for needy families or foster care under chapter 50-09, or medical assistance under chapter 50-24.1; or
    - (2) Services provided upon application of an obligee to the child support agency;
  - ~~3.~~ d. Not disenroll or eliminate coverage for any child unless the income payer is provided satisfactory written evidence that:
    - a. (1) The order issued under section 14-09-08.10 is no longer in effect;
    - b. (2) The child is or will be enrolled in comparable coverage that will take effect no later than the effective date of disenrollment; or
    - e. (3) The income payer has eliminated family health coverage for all of its employees; and
  - ~~4.~~ e. Withhold from the obligor's compensation the obligor's share, if any, of premiums for health insurance coverage and pay this amount to the health insurance provider; and

1       5. f. If the amount required to be withheld under ~~subsection 4~~ subdivision e, either  
2                   alone or when added to the total of any withholding required by an order  
3                   issued under section 14-09-09.15, exceeds fifty percent of the obligor's  
4                   disposable income, withhold fifty percent of the obligor's disposable income.

5       2. Before making application under subdivision c of subsection 1, the public authority  
6                   shall provide notice to the obligor that the obligor may contest the proposed  
7                   application by filing a written request for a hearing within ten days of the date the  
8                   notice is issued. If the obligor contests the application for coverage, a hearing  
9                   must be held, and the court shall require the public authority to make application if  
10                   it determines coverage for the child is available to the obligor at reasonable cost.

11       3. Withholding required by an order issued under section 14-09-09.15 must be  
12                   satisfied before any payment is made to the health insurance provider. If the  
13                   amount remaining is insufficient to pay the obligor's share of premiums for health  
14                   insurance coverage, the obligor may authorize additional withholding to pay the  
15                   obligor's share. If the obligor does not authorize additional withholding, and the  
16                   health insurance coverage will lapse as a result, the income payer must promptly  
17                   inform the clerk of court that issued the order under section 14-09-09.15 of the  
18                   insufficiency.

19       **SECTION 18. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-09-08.13 of the North Dakota Century Code  
20       is amended and reenacted as follows:

21       **14-09-08.13. Application for service.** The child support agency responsible for  
22       support enforcement shall take necessary steps to implement, modify, and enforce an order for  
23       dependent health insurance whenever the children receive ~~aid to families with dependent~~  
24       ~~children~~ benefits through a demonstration project established under section 50-06-01.8,  
25       temporary assistance for needy families or foster care under chapter 50-09 or medical  
26       assistance under chapter 50-24.1, or upon application of the obligee to the child support agency  
27       and payment by the obligee of any required application fee.

28       **SECTION 19. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-09-08.14 of the North Dakota Century Code  
29       is amended and reenacted as follows:

30       **14-09-08.14. Public authority to establish criteria.** The public authority shall  
31       establish criteria to identify cases involving children who received ~~aid to families with dependent~~

1 ~~children~~ benefits through a demonstration project established under section 50-06-01.8,  
2 temporary assistance for needy families or foster care under chapter 50-09 or medical  
3 assistance under chapter 50-24.1, or where an application to the child support agency has been  
4 completed by an obligee and where there is a high potential for obtaining medical support  
5 based on:

- 6 1. Evidence that health insurance may be available to the obligor at reasonable cost;  
7 and
- 8 2. Facts that are sufficient to warrant modification of the existing court order to include  
9 health insurance coverage for a dependent child.

10 **SECTION 20.** A new section to chapter 14-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
11 created and enacted as follows:

12 **Coordination of income withholding activities.** The clerks of court shall assume  
13 responsibility for administration of income withholding except:

- 14 1. Income withholding orders relating to matters being enforced under title IV-D of the  
15 Social Security Act [Pub. L. 93-647; 88 Stat. 2351; 42 U.S.C. 651]; and
- 16 2. Receipt and disbursement of payments made pursuant to an income withholding  
17 order.

18 **SECTION 21. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-09-09.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
19 amended and reenacted as follows:

20 **14-09-09.3. Child support - Duties and liabilities of income payor under income**  
21 **withholding order.**

- 22 1. Any income payor failing to comply with any requirements in section  
23 14-09-09.16 may be punished by the court for civil contempt. The court shall first  
24 afford such income payor a reasonable opportunity to purge itself of such  
25 contempt.
- 26 2. Any income payor who fails or refuses to deliver income pursuant to an income  
27 withholding order, when such income payor has had in its possession such  
28 income, is personally liable for the amount of such income which the income payor  
29 failed or refused to deliver, together with costs, interest, and reasonable attorney's  
30 fees.



- 1           3. Any employer who refuses to employ, dismisses, demotes, disciplines, or in any  
2           way penalizes an ~~obligor-employee~~ obligor on account of any proceeding to collect  
3           child support, on account of any order or orders entered by the court in such  
4           proceeding, on account of the employer's compliance with such order or orders, or  
5           on account of an income withholding order, is liable to the ~~obligor-employee~~ obligor  
6           for all damages, together with costs, interest thereon, and reasonable attorney's  
7           fees resulting from the employer's action. The employer may be required to make  
8           full restitution to the aggrieved ~~obligor-employee~~ obligor, including reinstatements  
9           and backpay.
- 10          4. An income payor may be enjoined by a court of competent jurisdiction from  
11          continuing any action in violation of section 14-09-09.16.
- 12          5. Any proceeding against an income payor under this section must be commenced  
13          within ninety days after the income payor's act or failure to act upon which such  
14          proceeding is based.
- 15          6. Compliance by an income payor with an income withholding order operates as a  
16          discharge of the income payor's liability to the obligor as to that portion of the  
17          obligor's income so affected.
- 18          7. In considering an income withholding order issued by a court or administrative  
19          tribunal in a state other than the state of the obligor's principal place of  
20          employment, the income payor shall apply the law of the state of the obligor's  
21          principal place of employment in determining any withholding terms and conditions  
22          not specified in the income withholding order or in section 14-12.2-33.1.
- 23          8. An employer who complies with an income withholding order that is regular on its  
24          face is not subject to civil liability to any individual or agency for conduct in  
25          compliance with the order.

26          **SECTION 22.** A new section to chapter 14-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
27          created and enacted as follows:

28          **Monthly amount due.** The total amount of child support due in each month is the sum  
29          of:

- 30          1. The obligor's current monthly support obligation; and

2. a. The amount the obligor is ordered to pay toward any outstanding arrearage;  
or  
b. If no order to repay an arrearage exists, an amount for application to any  
arrears, subject to the limitations of section 14-09-09.16, equal to:  
(1) Twenty percent of the obligor's current monthly support obligation; or  
(2) If there is no current monthly support obligation, the most recent  
monthly support obligation.

**SECTION 23. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-09-09.10 of the 1995 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**14-09-09.10. Definitions.** For the purposes of this chapter, unless the context or subject matter otherwise requires:

1. "Business day" means every day that is not a Saturday or legal holiday.

2. "Child support" means payments for the support of children and combined payments for the support of children and spouses or former spouses, however denominated, if the payment is required by the order of a court or other governmental agency having authority to issue such orders.

~~2-~~ 3. "Child support agency" means the county social service board, any combination of county social service boards, or any entity created by a county social service board or any combination of county social service boards, in execution of the county social service board's duties under subsection 5 of section 50-09-03.

~~3-~~ 4. "Delinquent" means a situation which occurs on the first working day after the day upon which a child support payment was identified as due and unpaid, and the total amount of unpaid child support is at least equal to the amount of child support payable in one month.

4. 5. "Disposable income" means gross income less deductions required by law for taxes and social security.

6. "Employer" means income payor.

~~5-~~ 7. "Health insurance" includes fees for service, health maintenance organization, preferred provider organization, comprehensive health association plan, accident and health insurance policies, group health plans as defined in section 607(1) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 [Pub. L. 99-272; 100 Stat.

281; 29 U.S.C. 1167(1)], and other types of coverage under which major medical coverage may be provided in a policy, plan, or contract which may legally be sold or provided in this state.

~~6-~~ 8. "Income" means any form of payment, regardless of source, owed to an obligor, including any earned, unearned, taxable or nontaxable income, workers' compensation, disability benefits, unemployment compensation benefits, annuity and retirement benefits, but excluding public assistance benefits administered under state law.

~~7-~~ 9. "Income payor" means any person, partnership, firm, corporation, limited liability company, association, political subdivision, or department or agency of the state or federal government owing income to an obligor and includes an obligor if the obligor is self-employed.

~~8-~~ 10. "Obligee" means a person including a state or political subdivision to whom a duty of support is owed.

~~9-~~ 11. "Obligor" means any person owing a duty of support.

12. "Past due support" means child support that is not paid by the earlier of:

a. The date a court order or an order of an administrative process established under state law requires payment to be made; or

b. The last day of the month or other period the payment was intended to cover.

~~10-~~ 13. "Public authority" means the department of human services in execution of its duties pursuant to ~~subsection 12 of section 50-09-02~~ the state plan submitted under chapter 50-09 in conformance with title IV-D of the Social Security Act [Pub. L. 93-647; 88 Stat. 2351; 42 U.S.C. 651 et seq.].

14. "System implementation date" means the date the public authority certifies to the secretary of state and the legislative council that the statewide automated data processing system, established under section 50-09-02.1, is operating.

**SECTION 24. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-09-09.13 of the 1995 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**14-09-09.13. Procedure - Notice to obligor.** If immediate income withholding under section 14-09-09.24 has not been implemented and an obligor is delinquent, if an obligee's request for income withholding is approved, or if a court changes its finding that there is good

1 cause not to require immediate income withholding, the clerk of court ~~shall serve a notice and a~~  
2 ~~copy of section 14-09-09.14 on the obligor by first class mail. The notice must be sent within~~  
3 ~~five working days of the appropriate date under subsection 7 if the obligor's address is known to~~  
4 ~~the clerk on that date or, if the address is unknown on that date, within five working days after~~  
5 ~~the clerk is informed of the obligor's address~~ or public authority shall serve the notice required  
6 under this section upon the obligor whenever issuing an income withholding order. The notice  
7 must state:

- 8 1. That the obligor is delinquent in the payment of child support, that a request for  
9 withholding has been made by the obligee and approved by a child support  
10 agency, or that there is no longer good cause not to require immediate income  
11 withholding, as the case may be, and the obligor is therefore subject to an income  
12 withholding order on all income.
- 13 2. The amount of child support owed and the amount of arrearage, if any.
- 14 3. The total amount of money that will be withheld by the income payor from the  
15 obligor's income in each month ~~and that the amount is the sum of both of the~~  
16 ~~following:~~
  - 17 a. ~~The obligor's current monthly support obligation.~~
  - 18 b. ~~The amount the obligor is ordered to pay toward any outstanding arrearage,~~  
19 ~~or if no order to repay an arrearage exists, then an amount equal to twenty~~  
20 ~~percent of the obligor's current monthly support obligation, if any, or equal to~~  
21 ~~the most recent monthly support obligation if there is no current monthly~~  
22 ~~support obligation, for application towards any arrearage subject to the~~  
23 ~~limitations of section 14-09-09.16 as determined under section 22 of this Act.~~
- 24 4. That the income payor may withhold an additional sum of three dollars to cover the  
25 income payor's expenses.
- 26 5. That ~~if not contested pursuant to section 14-09-09.14,~~ the income withholding  
27 order ~~will be~~ has been issued ~~immediately,~~ without further order of the court.
- 28 6. That the obligor may contest the issuance of the income withholding order by filing  
29 a written request for hearing within ten days of the date of the notice made under  
30 this section.

7. That if the obligor contests the income withholding order pursuant to section 14-09-09.14, a hearing will be held and the court will determine and issue an order consistent with the requirements of section 14-09-09.14.

8. That the income withholding order applies to any current or subsequent income payor or period of employment.

9. ~~The date the income of the obligor is subject to income withholding, which is the earliest of:~~

a. ~~The date the obligor requests income withholding.~~

b. ~~The date on which an approved income withholding request is made by the obligee.~~

c. ~~The date the child support obligation becomes delinquent.~~

**SECTION 25. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-09-09.14 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**14-09-09.14. Hearing upon obligor's request.**

1. If the obligor files a request for a hearing within ten days of the date of the notice made pursuant to section 14-09-09.13, the court shall hold a hearing within ten working days after the date of the request. If

a. The court may order that the income withholding order be withdrawn if at the hearing the obligor establishes:

a. (1) In a case where withholding would be based on an alleged delinquency, that there has been a mistake in the identity of the obligor; or

b. (2) In a case where an approved request for withholding has been made by the obligee, that the approval of the request constituted an abuse of discretion;

~~the court may order that no income withholding order issue.~~

b. If at the hearing the obligor establishes that there is an overstatement in the amount of support stated to be owed by the obligor, the court may amend the amount to be withheld.

c. In the absence of a finding of a mistake of fact in a case where withholding would be based on an alleged delinquency, or in the absence of an abuse of discretion in the approval of an obligee's request for withholding, the court

shall ~~order that~~ confirm the income withholding order ~~issue~~. Payment of  
~~everdue past due~~ support after issuance of notice under section 14-09-09.13  
may not be the basis for an order that ~~re~~ the income withholding order ~~issue~~  
be withdrawn.

2. An obligor is not precluded, by subsection 1, from seeking appropriate relief from a  
judgment or order affecting a child support obligation nor is the court precluded  
from granting such relief. An obligor's request for such relief, whether made by  
motion under rule 60(b) of the North Dakota Rules of Civil Procedure or otherwise,  
may not be considered during the hearing described in subsection 1.

**SECTION 26. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-09-09.15 of the North Dakota Century Code  
is amended and reenacted as follows:

**14-09-09.15. Form - Effect of income withholding order.** The income withholding  
order must be issued in the name of the state of North Dakota, be attested in the name of the  
judge, ~~sealed with the seal of the court,~~ subscribed by the clerk or a designee of the public  
authority, and directed to all current and subsequent income payors of the obligor. The income  
withholding order is binding on the income payor until further notice by the clerk or the public  
authority and applies to all current and subsequent periods in which income is owed the obligor  
by the income payor. The income withholding order has priority over any other legal process  
against the same income.

**SECTION 27. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-09-09.16 of the 1995 Supplement to the  
North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**14-09-09.16. Service of income withholding order on income payor.** The clerk of  
court or the public authority shall serve the income withholding order ~~and a copy of sections~~  
~~14-09-09.3 and 14-09-09.15~~ on the income payor in the manner provided for service of a  
summons in a civil action and upon the obligor by first-class mail to the obligor's last known  
address, ~~within fifteen days of the date of the notice made pursuant to section 14-09-09.13,~~  
~~unless the obligor has contested that notice within ten days of the date of that notice. If a~~  
~~hearing was held under section 14-09-09.14, the income withholding order and the copy of~~  
~~sections 14-09-09.3 and 14-09-09.15 must be served within five working days of the date of the~~  
~~court's determination.~~ If the obligor is subject to immediate income withholding under section  
14-09-09.24, an income withholding order ~~and a copy of sections 14-09-09.3 and 14-09-09.15~~

1 must be served on any known income payor within five ~~working~~ business days of the issuance  
2 of the judgment or order which requires the payment of child support. Subject to the provisions  
3 of section 14-09-09.17, if service of an income withholding order has been or may have been  
4 properly made under this section, an income withholding order ~~and a copy of sections~~  
5 ~~14-09-09.3 and 14-09-09.15~~ must be served on any subsequently identified income payor  
6 within five ~~working~~ business days after the ~~clerk~~ issuer is informed of the name and address of  
7 such an income payor. An income withholding order may also be issued and served at the  
8 request of the obligor. The income withholding order ~~shall~~, upon certification by the public  
9 authority to the secretary of state and the legislative council that the secretary of the United  
10 States department of health and human services, under authority of 42 U.S.C. 666(b)(6)(A)(ii),  
11 has prescribed a standard format for notice of the order, must be in that standard format and  
12 contain only the information necessary for the income payor to comply with the withholding  
13 order. Before that certification, the income withholding order must state all of the following:

- 14 1. That the obligor is properly subject to an income withholding order and that the  
15 income payor is therefore required to withhold a stated amount, determined under  
16 ~~subsection 3 of section 14-09-09.13~~ 22 of this Act, from the obligor's income at the  
17 time the obligor is paid for transmittal to the clerk of court or the public authority  
18 ~~within ten working~~ seven business days of the date the obligor is paid, together  
19 with a report of the date upon which the amount was withheld from the obligor's  
20 income.
- 21 2. That the income payor may also withhold and retain an additional sum of three  
22 dollars per month from the obligor's income to cover expenses involved in  
23 transmitting payment.
- 24 3. That the amount to be withheld, including amounts to cover expenses involved in  
25 transmitting payment, may not exceed fifty percent of the obligor's disposable  
26 income from this income payor, but a payment of an amount less than the ordered  
27 amount must be accompanied by a written calculation disclosing any of the  
28 obligor's income and disposable income which is payable by the income payor.
- 29 4. That the income payor shall begin withholding no later than the first ~~pay period~~  
30 payday that occurs ~~fourteen days~~ after service of the income withholding order.

- 1           5.    That if the income payor is served with more than one income withholding order
- 2                issued under this chapter on a single obligor and the combined total amount to be
- 3                paid under the income withholding orders exceeds fifty percent of the obligor's
- 4                disposable income the income payor shall withhold the maximum amount
- 5                permitted, and transmit to the clerk of court or the public authority that portion
- 6                thereof which the obligee's claim bears to the combined total of all claims.
- 7           6.    That the income payor shall notify the clerk of court or the public authority in writing
- 8                of the termination of a duty to pay income to the obligor within ~~fifteen~~ seven
- 9                business days of ~~such~~ the termination. ~~Such~~ The notification must include the
- 10              name and address of the obligor's subsequent income payor, if known.
- 11           7.    That if the income payor is subject to income withholding orders for more than one
- 12              obligor:
- 13                a.   Prior to the system implementation date, the income payor may combine in a
- 14                single payment the amounts for all obligors who have been ordered to pay the
- 15                same clerk of court with identification of the amount attributable to each
- 16                obligor; and
- 17                b.   Thereafter the income payor may combine in a single payment the amounts
- 18                for all obligors who have been ordered to pay the public authority with
- 19                identification of the amount attributed to each obligor.
- 20           8.    That failure to comply with the income withholding order will subject the income
- 21              payor to penalties provided under section 14-09-09.3.
- 22           9.    That the withholding order has priority over any other legal process under state law
- 23              against the same wages.
- 24           10.   If appropriate, that the obligor is required to provide health insurance coverage for
- 25              a child who is the subject of a child support order.
- 26           ~~11.    When an obligor employed by an income payor terminates that employment, the~~
- 27           ~~income payor must promptly so notify the clerk and provide the obligor's last known~~
- 28           ~~address and the name and address of the obligor's new employer, if known.~~

29           **SECTION 28. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-09-09.17 of the 1995 Supplement to the  
30   North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:



1           **14-09-09.17. Amendment - Termination of income withholding order.** Upon  
2 amendment or termination of an income withholding order, the clerk of court or the public  
3 authority shall send appropriate notice to the income payor. An income withholding order is to  
4 be amended by the clerk or the public authority when the total amount of money to be withheld  
5 is changed by elimination of arrearages or by court-ordered change in amount of child support.  
6 An income withholding order is to be terminated when the duty to support ceases and all child  
7 support arrearages have been paid. When two or more income payors have been subjected to  
8 income withholding orders with respect to a child support obligation, the clerk or the public  
9 authority shall suspend the income withholding order directed to one or more income payors,  
10 provided that the amount of child support withheld by the remaining income payor or payors  
11 equals the amount determined under ~~subsection 3 of section 14-09-09.13~~ 22 of this Act. The  
12 clerk or the public authority shall immediately reinstate any suspended income withholding  
13 order should any child support obligation of the obligor thereafter become delinquent. The clerk  
14 or the public authority shall provide a copy of the reinstated income withholding order, by  
15 first-class mail, to the obligor and the income payor.

16           **SECTION 29. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-09-09.24 of the North Dakota Century Code  
17 is amended and reenacted as follows:

18           **14-09-09.24. Immediate income withholding.**

- 19           1. Except as provided in subsection 2, each judgment or order which requires the  
20 payment of child support, issued or modified on or after January 1, 1990, subjects  
21 the income of the obligor to income withholding, regardless of whether the obligor's  
22 support payments are delinquent.
- 23           2. If a party to a proceeding, who would otherwise be subject to immediate income  
24 withholding under subsection 1, demonstrates, and the court finds that there is  
25 good cause not to require immediate withholding, or if the parties, including any  
26 assignee of support rights, reach a written agreement that provides for an  
27 alternative arrangement for assuring the regular payment of child support, the court  
28 need not subject the income of the obligor to immediate withholding.
- 29           3. A finding that there is good cause not to require immediate income withholding  
30 must be based on at least:

- 1           a.    A written determination that, and an explanation of why, implementing
- 2                    immediate income withholding would not be in the best interests of the child;
- 3           b.    Proof of timely payment of previously ordered support; and
- 4           c.    ~~Requirement~~ A requirement that the obligor keep the clerk and the public
- 5                    authority informed of ~~the name and address of each of the obligor's current~~
- 6                    ~~and future income payors and~~ of any employment-related health insurance to
- 7                    which the obligor has access.
- 8        4.    A written agreement for an alternative arrangement for assuring the regular
- 9                    payment of child support is effective only if the agreement at least, in addition to
- 10                  other conditions the parties agree to:
- 11           a.    Provides that the obligor shall keep the clerk and the public authority informed
- 12                    ~~of the name and address of each of the obligor's current and future income~~
- 13                    ~~payors and~~ of any employment-related health insurance to which the obligor
- 14                    has access;
- 15           b.    Describes the provisions by which regular payment of child support is
- 16                    assured; and
- 17           c.    Is reviewed and approved by the court and entered into the court's records.

18        **SECTION 30. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-09-09.25 of the North Dakota Century Code  
19 is amended and reenacted as follows:

20        **14-09-09.25. Requests by obligee for income withholding - Approval - Procedures**  
21 **and standards.**

- 22        1.    An obligee may apply to a child support agency for approval of an income
- 23                    withholding request. The income of the obligor becomes subject to income
- 24                    withholding on the date an approved request is made.
- 25        2.    The public authority shall establish procedures and standards for the approval of
- 26                    obligee requests for income withholding. The standards established must include
- 27                    consideration of:
- 28           a.    An obligor's threat to discontinue child support payments; and
- 29           b.    An obligor's having made child support payments sufficient to avoid a
- 30                    delinquency, but insufficient to conform to the ordered amount.

3. Upon application of an obligee requesting income withholding, the child support agency shall promptly approve or disapprove the request. The child support agency may not approve the obligee's request in a case where the court has determined that there is good cause not to require immediate income withholding unless the court first changes its determination. ~~Each approved request must be transmitted promptly to the clerk of court.~~

**SECTION 31.** A new subsection to section 14-17-09 of the 1995 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

In any pretrial proceeding, upon motion by any party, the court shall order child support to be paid pending a final determination of paternity if there is clear and convincing evidence of paternity, based on genetic tests or otherwise.

**SECTION 32. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-17-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**14-17-10. Genetic test.**

1. The court may, and upon request of a party shall, require the child, mother, or alleged father to submit to genetic tests, including tests of blood or other tissues. The tests must be performed:
  - a. Of a type generally acknowledged as reliable by accreditation bodies designated by the secretary of the United States department of health and human services;
  - b. Performed by a laboratory approved by such an accreditation body; and
  - c. Performed by an expert qualified as an examiner of genetic data or specimens, appointed by the court.
2. The court, upon reasonable request by a party, shall order that independent tests be performed by other experts qualified as examiners of genetic data or specimens.
3. In all cases, the court shall determine the number and qualifications of the experts.

**SECTION 33. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 4 of section 14-17-13 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

4. The trial must be by the court without a jury ~~unless either party demands trial by jury.~~

1           **SECTION 34.** A new section to chapter 14-17 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
2 created and enacted as follows:

3           **Evidence relating to costs of pregnancy, childbirth, and genetic testing.**

- 4           1. Extrinsic evidence of authenticity as a condition precedent to admissibility is not  
5 required of billings by service providers for services relating to pregnancy,  
6 childbirth, and genetic testing.  
7           2. Billings by service providers for services relating to pregnancy, childbirth, and  
8 genetic testing constitute prima facie evidence of the costs of those services.

9           **SECTION 35.** A new subsection to section 14-17-14 of the North Dakota Century Code  
10 is created and enacted as follows:

11           The judgment or order must include the social security numbers of the child and of  
12 individuals determined to be the child's parents.

13           **SECTION 36. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-17-16 of the 1995 Supplement to the North  
14 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15           **14-17-16. Enforcement of judgment or order.**

- 16           1. If existence of the father and child relationship is declared, or paternity or a duty of  
17 support has been acknowledged or adjudicated under this chapter or under prior  
18 law, the obligation of the father may be enforced in the same or other proceedings  
19 by the mother, the child, the public authority that has furnished or may furnish the  
20 reasonable expenses of pregnancy, confinement, education, support, or funeral, or  
21 by any other person, including a private agency, to the extent he has furnished or  
22 is furnishing these expenses.  
23           2. The court ~~may~~ shall order support payments to be made ~~to the mother, the clerk of~~  
24 ~~the court, or a person, corporation, or agency designated to administer them for the~~  
25 ~~benefit of the child under the supervision of the court~~ subject to section 10 of this  
26 Act and section 14-09-08.1.  
27           3. Willful failure to obey the judgment or order of the court constitutes contempt of  
28 court. All remedies for the enforcement of ~~judgments~~ child support orders apply.

29           **SECTION 37. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-19-03 of the 1995 Supplement to the North  
30 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

1           **14-19-03. Establishment of relationship of father and child.** The relationship of  
2 father and child may be established by an acknowledgment of paternity, signed by both  
3 parents, given before a witness if:

4           1. The acknowledgment is made on a form, approved by the department, which  
5 provides:

- 6           a. Instructions for filing the acknowledgment with the department of health;  
7           b. Places for entry of the parents' names, addresses, and social security  
8 numbers; parents' signatures; and witnesses' signatures; and

9           2. The witness, or any agent of a child support agency, verifies that the parents have  
10 been provided, before the acknowledgement of paternity is signed:

- 11           a. Written materials about paternity establishment, including the manner in which  
12 the relationship of father and child established under this chapter may be  
13 vacated; and  
14           b. A written and oral description of the rights ~~and~~ responsibilities, and legal  
15 consequences of acknowledging paternity.

16           **SECTION 38. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-19-05 of the 1995 Supplement to the North  
17 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

18           **14-19-05. Filing of acknowledgment - Services provided.** An acknowledgment of  
19 paternity made under this chapter must be filed with the department of health. Upon request of  
20 the department, the department of health shall furnish a certified copy of an acknowledgment of  
21 paternity to the department. The state department of health shall offer voluntary paternity  
22 establishment services.

23           **SECTION 39. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-19-06 of the 1995 Supplement to the North  
24 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

25           **14-19-06. Hospital-based program for acknowledgment of paternity - Effect of**  
26 **noncompliance.**

27           1. During the period immediately preceding or following the birth of a child to an  
28 unmarried woman in a birthing hospital, the hospital, at a minimum, shall:

- 29           a. Provide to the mother and the alleged father, if he is present in the hospital:  
30               (1) Written materials about paternity establishment;  
31               (2) The forms necessary to voluntarily acknowledge paternity;

- 1 (3) A written and oral description of the rights ~~and~~, responsibilities, and  
2 legal consequences of acknowledging paternity; and
- 3 (4) The opportunity to speak, either by telephone or in person, with staff  
4 who are trained to clarify information and answer questions about  
5 paternity establishment;
- 6 b. Provide the mother and the alleged father, if he is present, the opportunity to  
7 voluntarily acknowledge paternity in the hospital;
- 8 c. Afford due process safeguards by informing, in writing, the mother and the  
9 alleged father, if he is present, of the manner in which a relationship of father  
10 and child established under this chapter may be vacated or rescinded; and
- 11 d. Forward completed acknowledgments to the state department of health.
- 12 2. The department may withhold medical assistance payments from any hospital that  
13 fails to comply with this section. At least thirty days in advance of any withholding,  
14 the department shall notify the hospital of the department's intention to withhold  
15 medical assistance payments from the hospital. The hospital may appeal the  
16 decision to withhold medical assistance benefits to the department.

17 **SECTION 40.** A new section to chapter 14-19 of the 1995 Supplement to the North  
18 Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

19 **Oral notice.** Any oral notice required under this chapter may be provided by a  
20 recording.

21 **SECTION 41. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-19-10 of the 1995 Supplement to the North  
22 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

23 **14-19-10. Vacation or rescission of acknowledgments - Time for commencing**  
24 **actions - Effect on presumptions under section 14-17-04 - Notice.**

- 25 1. An acknowledgment of paternity made under this chapter may be vacated by the  
26 court or state department of health, or rescinded by the mother or father:
  - 27 a. By a notarized writing signed by either the father or the mother and filed with  
28 the state department of health within ~~ten~~ the earlier of:
    - 29 (1) Sixty days after the execution of the acknowledgment of paternity; or
    - 30 (2) The date of any proceeding relating to the child in which the signatory  
31 on the acknowledgment is a party;

- 1           b. By order of the district court upon a showing, by a party, that an
- 2           acknowledgment of paternity made under this chapter was the result of
- 3           material mistake of fact, fraud, or ~~misrepresentation by another party, or any~~
- 4           ~~other reason justifying relief~~ duress;
- 5           c. By order of the district court upon a showing that a voidable acknowledgment
- 6           of paternity made concerning the birth of a child to a married woman should
- 7           be made void; or
- 8           d. By the state department of health upon receipt of two or more
- 9           acknowledgments of paternity concerning the same child.
- 10          2. A party shall commence a claim for relief under subdivision b of subsection 1 within
- 11          one year after execution of the acknowledgment of paternity. This limitation may
- 12          only be extended:
- 13           a. Due to the minority of a child in a case brought by the child with respect to
- 14           whom the relationship of father and child was established; or
- 15           b. Upon a showing that continued enforcement of a judgment based on an
- 16           acknowledgment of paternity made under this chapter would be manifestly
- 17           unjust and unconscionable to all parties; that the party seeking relief was
- 18           prevented by fraud or fraudulent concealment from discovering the claim for
- 19           relief; and that the claim is commenced within one year after the claim was
- 20           discovered or might, in the exercise of diligence, have been discovered.
- 21          3. The vacation or rescission of an acknowledgment of paternity under this section
- 22          does not affect any presumption of paternity provided under section 14-17-04.
- 23          4. If the state department of health vacates an acknowledgment under this section, it
- 24          promptly shall provide notice of its action to the mother, to each acknowledged
- 25          father of the child, and, if the department has requested a certified copy of any
- 26          vacated acknowledgment, to the department.
- 27          5. The legal responsibilities of a parent, including the duty of supporting the child,
- 28          may not be suspended during a district court proceeding under this section, except
- 29          for good cause shown.

30           **SECTION 42. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 5 of section 23-02.1-13 of the North Dakota  
31 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

5. If the child is not born during the marriage of the mother, or within three hundred days after any such marriage is terminated by death, annulment, declaration of invalidity, or divorce, or after a decree of separation is entered by a court, the name of the father may not be entered on the birth certificate unless:

a. After the child's birth, the father and the child's natural mother have married, or attempted to marry, each other by a marriage solemnized in apparent compliance with law, although the attempted marriage is or could be declared invalid, and:

(1) He has acknowledged his paternity of the child in writing filed with the state registrar;

(2) With his consent, he is named as the child's father on the child's birth certificate; or

(3) He is obligated to support the child under a written voluntary promise or by court order;

b. While the child is under the age of majority, he received the child into his home and openly holds out the child as his natural child; ~~or~~

c. ~~He acknowledges his paternity of the child in a writing filed with the state registrar which shall promptly inform the mother of the filing of the acknowledgment, and she does not dispute the acknowledgment within a reasonable time after being informed thereof, in a writing filed with the state registrar.~~ After the child's birth, the child's natural mother and the father voluntarily acknowledge the child's paternity in a writing signed by both and filed with the state registrar; or

d. A court or other entity of competent jurisdiction has adjudicated paternity.

**SECTION 43.** A new subsection to section 23-02.1-19 of the 1995 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Each death certificate must include the social security number of the decedent, if the information is available.

**SECTION 44.** A new section to chapter 28-21 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:



**Department of human services may issue executions for child support**

**arrearages.**

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 28-21-05, if a judgment has been docketed under section 14-08.1-05, the department of human services may issue an execution, against the property of the judgment debtor, to the sheriff of any county in which the property may be found.
2. A writ of execution issued by the department of human services must be issued as provided in section 28-21-06, except the writ may omit:
  - a. The seal of the court;
  - b. The subscription of the clerk of that court;
  - c. A statement of the courts and counties to which the judgment has been transcribed; and
  - d. If the writ is issued to a sheriff of a county other than the county in which the judgment is docketed, a date and time of docketing in that sheriff's county.
3. A writ issued by the department of human services is returnable to the department.

**SECTION 45.** A new chapter to title 34 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

**Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

1. "Department" means the department of human services.
2. "Employee" means an individual who would be determined to be an employee under chapter 24 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended [26 U.S.C. 3401 et seq.], but does not include an employee of a federal or state agency performing intelligence or counterintelligence functions, if the head of the agency has determined that reporting under this chapter, with respect to that employee, could endanger the safety of the employee or compromise an ongoing investigation or intelligence mission.
3. "Employer" means an entity or individual who would be determined to be an employer under section 3401(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended [26 U.S.C. 3401(d)], and includes any governmental entity and any labor organization.

- 1           4.   "Labor organization" means an organization treated as a labor organization under  
2                   section 2(5) of the National Labor Relations Act, as amended [29 U.S.C. 152(5)],  
3                   and includes any entity, including a "hiring hall", which is used by the organization  
4                   and an employer to carry out requirements, described in section 8(f)(3) of the  
5                   National Labor Relations Act, as amended [29 U.S.C. 158(f)(3)], of an agreement  
6                   between the organization and the employer.

7           **State directory of new hires - Duties and responsibilities.** There is, within the  
8   department, a state directory of new hires. The state directory of new hires shall, in  
9   conformance with section 453A of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 653A]:

- 10           1.   Receive reports made by employers;  
11           2.   Enter information into a data base maintained by the state directory of new hires;  
12           3.   Provide automated comparisons of employer report information and information  
13                   maintained in the state registry of cases being enforced under the state plan  
14                   approved under title IV-D of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 651 et seq.] and  
15                   identify cases matched; and  
16           4.   Transmit information received by the state directory of new hires to the national  
17                   directory of new hires.

18           **Employer reporting.**

- 19           1.   Except as provided in subsections 2 and 3, each employer shall furnish to the  
20                   directory of new hires a report that contains the name, address, and social security  
21                   number of each employee newly hired for work within this state, and the  
22                   employer's name and address and the identifying number assigned under section  
23                   6109 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended [26 U.S.C. 6109], to the  
24                   employer.  
25           2.   An employer who has employees who are employed in two or more states, and  
26                   who transmits reports magnetically or electronically, may designate one state in  
27                   which the employer has employees and may transmit a report conforming to  
28                   subsection 1 to that state. An employer who reports pursuant to this subsection  
29                   must notify the secretary of the United States department of health and human  
30                   services, in writing, of the state so designated.

1        3. Any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States shall transmit a  
2        report, conforming to subsection 1, to the national directory of new hires  
3        established pursuant to section 453 of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 653].

4        4. a. Except as provided in subdivision b, a report required under this section must  
5        be made no later than twenty days after the date the employer hires the  
6        employee.

7        b. If the employer transmits reports magnetically or electronically, a report  
8        required under this section may be made by two monthly transmissions, if  
9        necessary, not less than twelve nor more than sixteen days apart.

10       **Reporting format.** Each employer report required by this chapter must be made on a  
11       W-4 form, or, at the option of the employer, an equivalent form. The report may be transmitted  
12       by first-class mail or by any magnetic or electronic means readable by the department.

13       **Civil money penalties.**

14       1. Except as provided in subsection 3, an employer who, after warning provided  
15       under subsection 2, fails to file a timely, complete, and correct report required  
16       under this chapter is liable for a civil money penalty of twenty dollars for each  
17       failure to report a new hire.

18       2. The department may issue a written warning to an employer who fails to file a  
19       timely, complete, and correct report required under this chapter. The warning must  
20       state that a failure to report may result in a civil money penalty.

21       3. An employer who, by agreement between the employer and employee, fails to file  
22       a timely, complete, and correct report required under this chapter or files a false or  
23       incomplete report, is liable for a civil money penalty of two hundred fifty dollars for  
24       each failure to report or each false or incomplete report.

25       **Recovery of civil money penalties.** A civil money penalty assessed under this  
26       chapter is payable fifteen days after service on the employer, by first-class mail, of notice of  
27       imposition of the civil money penalty. If an order for child support was issued by a court in this  
28       state, failure to pay a civil money penalty may be punished as a civil contempt by the court that  
29       issued an order for child support imposed upon a newly hired employee whose hiring was not  
30       reported timely, completely, and correctly. If an order for child support was issued by a court or

administrative tribunal in another state, failure to pay a civil money penalty may be punished as a civil contempt by any court of this state with jurisdiction over the employer.

**Disposition of civil money penalties.** A civil money penalty collected under this chapter must be paid into the state treasury for deposit in the general fund after the costs of recovering the civil money penalty are deducted therefrom.

**Confidentiality.** Information derived from employer reports received and maintained by the directory of new hires is confidential but must be made available for use by state agencies, in this state and other states, administering:

1. State plans under title IV-D of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 651 et seq.];
2. Programs specified in section 1137(b) of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 1320b-7(b)];
3. Employment security programs; and
4. Workers' compensation programs.

**SECTION 46.** A new chapter to title 35 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

**Definitions.** For purposes of this chapter:

1. "Account" has the meaning provided in section 50-09-01.
2. "Child support" has the meaning provided in section 14-09-09.10.
3. "Financial institution" has the meaning provided in section 50-09-01.
4. "Obligee" has the meaning provided in section 14-09-09.10.
5. "Obligor" has the meaning provided in section 14-09-09.10.
6. "Past due support" has the meaning provided in section 14-09-09.10.
7. "Public authority" has the meaning provided in section 14-09-09.10.
8. "Vehicle" has the meaning provided in section 39-01-01.
9. "Vessel" has the meaning provided in section 20.1-01-02.

**Lien for past due child support.** When a child support obligation is past due, the public authority may establish a lien on personal property as provided in this chapter.

**Vehicle lien.**

1. In the case of a vehicle, the public authority may establish a lien by filing a notice of lien with the director of the department of transportation. The notice must be in a form prescribed by the director and contain a description of the vehicle, the name

and last known address of the obligor, and any other information required by the director. The notice of lien must state that the child support obligation is past due and that a copy of the notice of lien has been served on the obligor by first-class mail at the obligor's last known address.

2. Upon filing of the notice of lien in accordance with this section, the director shall demand in writing the surrender of the certificate of title from the obligor or a superior lienholder for the purpose of recording the lien on the certificate of title. Upon receipt of the certificate of title, the director shall record the fact of the lien and the identity of the lienholder on the certificate of title and deliver the certificate of title to the vehicle's owner or, if a superior lienholder had possession of the certificate of title, to that superior lienholder. If the obligor or superior lienholder fails to surrender the certificate of title within fifteen days after the written demand by the director, the director shall notify the public authority seeking the lien.
3. Upon receipt of notice from the director that the obligor or superior lienholder has not responded to the demand for surrender of a title certificate, the public authority may obtain an order from a court of competent jurisdiction requiring the certificate of title to be delivered to the court so that a lien may be properly recorded.
4. No fee may be charged for services provided under this section.
5. The director may determine a certificate of title to have been fraudulently procured if endorsed by a previous owner who, at the time the endorsement was made:
  - a. Was an obligor who owed past due child support; and
  - b. Had been served with a copy of a notice of lien filed under this section with respect to the vehicle described on that certificate of title.

**Vessel lien.**

1. In the case of a vessel, the public authority may establish a lien by filing a notice of lien with the secretary of state. The notice must contain a description of the make, model designation, and serial number of the vessel, including its identification or registration number, if any, and the name and last known address of the obligor. The notice of lien must state that the child support obligation is past due and that a copy of the notice of lien has been served on the obligor by first-class mail at the obligor's last known address.

2. Upon filing of the notice of lien in accordance with this section, the notice of lien must be retained by the secretary of state and may be enforced and foreclosed in the same manner as a security agreement under the provisions of title 41.
3. The secretary of state shall file, index, amend, maintain, remove, and destroy the lien notification statement in the same manner as a financing statement filed under chapter 41-09. The secretary of state shall charge the same filing and information retrieval fees and credit the amounts in the same manner as financing statements filed under chapter 41-09.

**Account lien.**

1. In the case of an account maintained in a financial institution, the public authority may establish a lien on the account by serving a notice of lien upon the financial institution in the manner provided for service of a summons in a civil action. The notice must be in a form prescribed by the public authority and contain the name, social security number, or other taxpayer identification number and last known address of the obligor, the amount of past due support for which a lien is claimed, and any other information required by the public authority. The notice of lien must state that the child support obligation is past due and that a copy of the notice of lien has been served on the obligor by first-class mail at the obligor's last known address.
2. Upon service of the notice of lien on a financial institution in accordance with this section, the lien attaches to accounts of the obligor maintained in the financial institution, except to the extent necessary to satisfy obligations of the obligor based upon instruments made or issued by the obligor before the financial institution was served with notice of lien.

**Lien on other personal property.**

1. In the case of personal property that does not consist of a vehicle, a vessel, or an account maintained in a financial institution, the public authority may establish a lien on such personal property by filing a notice of lien with the office of the register of deeds in the county in which the personal property may be found. The notice must particularly describe the property to be subjected to the lien and the name and last known address of the obligor. The notice of lien must state that the child

1           support obligation is past due and that a copy of the notice of lien has been served  
2           on the obligor by first-class mail at the obligor's last known address.

3           2.   Upon filing of the notice of lien in accordance with this section, the lien attaches to  
4           all personal property described in the notice.

5           **Priority of liens.** A lien perfected under this chapter may not be subordinate to any  
6           other lien except a lien that was perfected before the child support lien was perfected. The  
7           public authority may, upon request of the obligor, subordinate the child support lien.

8           **Satisfaction of lien.** Upon payment of all past due child support obligations, the obligor  
9           may demand, and the public authority shall provide, an appropriate satisfaction or release of a  
10          lien arising under this chapter.

11          **Immunity from liability.** A person in possession of, or obligated with respect to,  
12          property, who, upon demand of the public authority, surrenders the property or discharges the  
13          obligation to the public authority is immune from any liability to the obligor arising from the  
14          surrender or payment.

15          **Action to enforce lien.** In any case in which there has been a refusal or neglect to pay  
16          child support, the public authority, in addition to any other relief, may file an action in any court  
17          of competent jurisdiction to enforce a lien under this chapter. The filing of an action does not  
18          preclude the public authority from pursuit of any other means of enforcement available under  
19          state or federal law.

20          **Persons aggrieved.** A person aggrieved by an action taken by the public authority to  
21          enforce a lien under this chapter may seek review of the public authority's actions in the court  
22          that issued the child support order claimed to be past due.

23          **Full faith and credit.** A lien arising in another state, under a law of that state  
24          implementing the provisions of 42 U.S.C. 666(a)(4)(A), is entitled to full faith and credit when  
25          the party seeking to enforce that lien records or serves the lien documents in the manner  
26          provided under this code. No judicial notice or hearing is required prior to recording or service  
27          of the lien documents.

28          **SECTION 47.** A new chapter to title 43 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
29          and enacted as follows:

30          **Definition.** For purposes of this chapter, "occupational or professional certificate,  
31          permit, or license" means a certificate, permit, or license issued by or on behalf of the state by

any of its licensing authorities or occupational or professional boards, which an individual is required to obtain before engaging in the individual's occupation or profession.

**Social security number required for professional or occupational license.** No issuer of an occupational or professional certificate, permit, or license may issue such a certificate, permit, or license, or renewal thereof, to any individual who has not first provided the individual's social security number.

**Inclusion of social security number in automated data base.** An issuer of an occupational or professional certificate, permit, or license, that maintains an automated data base concerning individuals who have applied for or been issued a certificate, permit, or license, after the effective date of this section, must include the individual's social security number as an identifier in that data base.

**SECTION 48. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-06-01.4 of the 1995 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**50-06-01.4. Structure of the department.** The department includes the state hospital; the regional human service centers; a vocational rehabilitation unit; and other units or offices and administrative and fiscal support services as the executive director determines necessary. The department must be structured to promote efficient and effective operations and, consistent with fulfilling its prescribed statutory duties, shall act as the official agency of the state in the discharge of the following functions not otherwise by law made the responsibility of another state agency:

1. Administration of programs for children and families, including adoption services and the licensure of child-placing agencies, foster care services and the licensure of foster care arrangements, child protection services, children's trust fund, state youth authority, licensure of day care homes and facilities, services to unmarried parents, refugee services, in-home community-based services, and administration of the interstate compacts on the placement of children and juveniles.
2. Administration of programs for persons with developmental disabilities, including licensure of facilities and services, and the design and implementation of a community-based service system for persons in need of habilitation.
3. Administration of aging service programs, including nutrition, transportation, advocacy, social, ombudsman, recreation, and related services funded under the



Older Americans Act of 1965 [42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.], home and community-based services, licensure of adult family care homes, committee on aging, and the fund matching program for city or county tax levies for senior citizen activities and services.

4. Administration of mental health programs, including planning and implementing preventive, consultative, diagnostic, treatment, and rehabilitative services for persons with mental or emotional disorders and psychiatric conditions.
5. Administration of programs for crippled children, including the provision of services and assistance to crippled children and their families, and the development and operation of clinics for the identification, screening, referral, and treatment of crippled children.
6. Administration of alcohol and drug abuse programs, including establishing quality assurance standards for the licensure of programs, services, and facilities, planning and coordinating a system of prevention, intervention, and treatment services, providing policy leadership in cooperation with other public and private agencies, and disseminating information to local service providers and the general public.
7. Administration of economic assistance programs, including ~~aid to families with dependent children~~ temporary assistance for needy families, food stamps, fuel assistance, child support enforcement, refugee assistance, work experience, work incentive, and quality control.
8. Administration of medical service programs, including medical assistance for needy persons, early and periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment, ~~the licensure of basic care facilities~~, utilization control, and claims processing.

The executive director shall consult with and maintain a close working relationship with the state department of health; with the department of corrections and rehabilitation and the superintendents of the school for the deaf and the school for the blind to develop programs for developmentally disabled persons; and with the superintendent of public instruction to maximize the use of resource persons in regional human service centers in the provision of special education services. The executive director shall also maintain a close liaison with county social service agencies.

1           **SECTION 49. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-06-01.8 of the 1995 Supplement to the North  
2 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

3           **50-06-01.8. Department to seek waiver to establish ~~welfare reform demonstration~~**  
4 **project training, education, employment, and management program - Waiver may be**  
5 **terminated - Program characteristics - Cooperation by governmental bodies - Interim**  
6 **rulemaking.**

7           1. The department of human services shall seek, from appropriate federal officials,  
8 authorization to establish a demonstration project to combine the benefits provided  
9 under the state's aid to families with dependent children, temporary assistance for  
10 needy families, fuel assistance, and food stamp programs, pursuant to title IV-A of  
11 the Social Security Act, as enacted before August 22, 1996, [42 U.S.C. 601  
12 et seq.], title IV-A of the Social Security Act, as enacted August 22, 1996, [42  
13 U.S.C. 601 et seq.], the low-income home energy assistance program [42 U.S.C.  
14 8621-8629], and the Food Stamp Act [7 U.S.C. 2011-2027].

15          2. The department of human services may terminate any waiver secured under  
16 subsection 1, or the demonstration project described in subsection 1, if necessary  
17 or desirable for the statewide implementation of the training, education,  
18 employment, and management program, or otherwise.

19          3. The ~~demonstration project~~ training, education, employment, and management  
20 program established under this section must provide for uniform and consistent  
21 treatment of income and assets in determining eligibility; provide for the creation of  
22 a uniform method of budgeting and computing benefits, a consistent certification  
23 period for the receipt of benefits, and uniform reporting requirements; provide for  
24 necessary child care to allow a participant to meet educational and employment  
25 goals; and provide for universal employment and training to assist individuals in  
26 becoming self-sufficient. The ~~project training, education, employment, and~~  
27 management program may be administered notwithstanding the requirements of  
28 ~~subsections 4 and 5 of section 50-01-09~~ section 50-01.2-03, section 50-03-07,  
29 subsections 17 and 19 of section 50-06-05.1, chapter 50-09, and section  
30 50-11.1-11.1, relating to the administration of the ~~aid to families with dependent~~  
31 ~~children~~ temporary assistance for needy families, fuel assistance, and food stamp

1 programs, except that a county shall reimburse the state for expenditures for the  
2 ~~aid to families with dependent children~~ temporary assistance for needy families  
3 program in that county as required by section 50-09-21. The ~~demonstration project~~  
4 training, education, employment, and management program may require any  
5 participant to cooperate with child support enforcement efforts.

6 4. The department of economic development and finance, job service North Dakota,  
7 county social service boards, and any other state agency determined appropriate,  
8 shall cooperate with the department to ensure the success of the ~~project program~~.  
9 Local government agencies within the demonstration project counties are  
10 encouraged to cooperate with the department.

11 5. Rules adopted to implement the ~~demonstration project~~ training, education,  
12 employment, and management program may be adopted as interim final rules  
13 without a finding that emergency rulemaking is necessary, and the interim final  
14 rules may take effect on a date no earlier than the date of filing with the legislative  
15 council of the notice of proposed adoption of a rule required by subsection 4 of  
16 section 28-32-02.

17 **SECTION 50. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-06-01.8 of the 1995 Supplement to the North  
18 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

19 **50-06-01.8. Department to seek waiver to establish ~~welfare-reform demonstration~~**  
20 **~~project~~ training, education, employment, and management program - Waiver may be**  
21 **terminated - Program characteristics - Cooperation with governmental bodies - Interim**  
22 **rulemaking.**

23 1. The department of human services shall seek, from appropriate federal officials,  
24 authorization to establish a demonstration project to combine the benefits provided  
25 under the state's aid to families with dependent children, temporary assistance for  
26 needy families, fuel assistance, and food stamp programs, pursuant to title IV-A of  
27 the Social Security Act, as enacted before August 22, 1996, [42 U.S.C. 601  
28 et seq.], title IV-A of the Social Security Act, as enacted August 22, 1996, [42  
29 U.S.C. 601 et seq.], the low-income home energy assistance program [42 U.S.C.  
30 8621-8629], and the Food Stamp Act [7 U.S.C. 2011-2027].

- 1        2. The department of human services may terminate any waiver secured under  
2        subsection 1, or the demonstration project described in subsection 1, if necessary  
3        or desirable for the statewide implementation of the training, education,  
4        employment, and management program, or otherwise.
- 5        3. The ~~demonstration project~~ training, education, employment, and management  
6        program established under this section must provide for uniform and consistent  
7        treatment of income and assets in determining eligibility; provide for the creation of  
8        a uniform method of budgeting and computing benefits, a consistent certification  
9        period for the receipt of benefits, and uniform reporting requirements; provide for  
10       necessary child care to allow a participant to meet educational and employment  
11       goals; and provide for universal employment and training to assist individuals in  
12       becoming self-sufficient. The ~~project~~ training, education, employment, and  
13       management program may be administered notwithstanding the requirements of  
14       ~~subsections 4 and 5 of section 50-01-09~~ section 50-01.2-03, section 50-03-07,  
15       subsections 17 and 19 of section 50-06-05.1, chapter 50-09, and section  
16       50-11.1-11.1, relating to the administration of the ~~aid to families with dependent~~  
17       ~~children~~ temporary assistance for needy families, fuel assistance, and food stamp  
18       programs, ~~except that a county shall reimburse the state for expenditures for the~~  
19       ~~aid to families with dependent children program in that county as required by~~  
20       ~~section 50-09-24~~. The ~~demonstration project~~ training, education, employment, and  
21       management program may require any participant to cooperate with child support  
22       enforcement efforts.
- 23       4. The department of economic development and finance, job service North Dakota,  
24       county social service boards, and any other state agency determined appropriate,  
25       shall cooperate with the department to ensure the success of the ~~project~~ program.  
26       Local government agencies ~~within the demonstration project counties~~ are  
27       encouraged to cooperate with the department.
- 28       5. Rules adopted to implement the demonstration project may be adopted as interim  
29       final rules without a finding that emergency rulemaking is necessary, and the  
30       interim final rules may take effect on a date no earlier than the date of filing with the

legislative council of the notice of proposed adoption of a rule required by  
subsection 4 of section 28-32-02.

**SECTION 51. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-09-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
amended and reenacted as follows:

**50-09-01. Definitions.** In this chapter, unless the context or subject matter otherwise  
requires:

1. "Account" means a demand deposit account, checking or negotiable withdrawal  
order account, savings account, time deposit account, or money market fund  
account.

2. "Assistance" means money payments with respect to, or goods and services  
provided for dependent children, including payments for the care of unmarried  
mothers or fathers and their infants.

3. "Child support" has the meaning provided in section 14-09-09.10.

4. "Child support agency" has the meaning provided in section 14-09-09.10.

2- 5. "County agency" means the county social service board in each of the counties of  
the state.

3- 6. "Dependent child" means any needy child who is described in a state plan for aid  
and services to needy families submitted pursuant to title IV-A of the Social  
Security Act [42 U.S.C. § 601, et seq.]. ~~The state agency is authorized to submit a  
state plan in a form which is consistent with and which meets the requirements for  
such plans which are or may be imposed by that Act.~~

7. "Financial institution" means:

a. A depository institution, as defined in section 3(c) of the Federal Deposit  
Insurance Act [12 U.S.C. § 1813(c)];

b. An institution-affiliated party, as defined in section 3(u) of the Federal Deposit  
Insurance Act [12 U.S.C. § 1813(u)];

c. Any federal credit union or state credit union, as defined in section 101 of the  
Federal Credit Union Act [12 U.S.C. § 1752], including an institution-affiliated  
party of such a credit union, as defined in section 206(r) of the Federal Credit  
Union Act [12 U.S.C. § 1786(r)]; and

d. Any benefit association, insurance company, safe deposit company, money market mutual fund, or similar entity authorized to do business in the state.

8. "Obligor" has the meaning provided in section 14-09-09.10.

9. "Past due support" has the meaning provided in section 14-09-09.10.

10. "Secretary" means the secretary of the United States department of health and human services.

4. 11. "State agency" means the North Dakota department of human services.

12. "Title IV-A" means title IV-A of the Social Security Act, as adopted by title I of Pub. L. 104-193 [110 Stat. 2110 et seq.; 42 U.S.C. § 601 et seq.].

13. "Title IV-D" means title IV-D of the Social Security Act [Pub. L. 93-647; 88 Stat. 2351; 42 U.S.C. 651 et seq.].

**SECTION 52. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-09-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**50-09-02. Duties of the state agency.** The state agency shall:

1. Take such action and make such rules and regulations as may become necessary to entitle the state to receive ~~aid~~ funds from the federal government ~~for aid to dependent children in North Dakota~~ under title IV-A.

2. Supervise the administration of ~~assistance to dependent children~~ temporary assistance for needy families throughout the state of North Dakota.

3. Take such action, give such directions, and promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary or desirable to carry out the provisions of this chapter, including the adoption and application of suitable standards and procedure to ensure ~~uniform and equitable~~ appropriate treatment of all applicants for ~~aid to dependent children~~ temporary assistance for needy families.

4. Cooperate with the federal government in matters of mutual concern pertaining to ~~aid to dependent children~~ temporary assistance for needy families, including the adoption of such methods of administration as are found by the ~~federal government~~ state agency to be ~~necessary~~ appropriate for the efficient operation of the plan for such assistance.

5. Provide such qualified employees and representatives as may be necessary.

- 1           6.   Prescribe the form of and print and supply to the county agencies blanks for
- 2                   applications, reports, and such other forms as it may deem necessary and
- 3                   advisable.
- 4           7.   Have authority to establish and maintain personnel standards on a merit basis for
- 5                   personnel employed by the state and the county public assistance agencies not
- 6                   covered by a statewide merit system.
- 7           8.   Make such reports in such form and containing such information as the federal
- 8                   government from time to time may require.
- 9           9.   ~~Comply with such provisions, rules, and regulations as the federal government,~~
- 10               ~~from time to time, may find it necessary to make to assure the correctness and~~
- 11               ~~verification of the reports to be made.~~ Make any determination respecting title IV-A
- 12               not expressly reserved to the federal government under federal law.
- 13          10.   ~~Publish a biennial report and such interim reports as may be deemed necessary.~~
- 14               Determine if the terms of any waiver of federal requirements, pertaining to the aid
- 15               to families with dependent children program, submitted to the federal government
- 16               before August 22, 1996, are consistent with the requirements of title IV-A.
- 17          11.   Determine the expenditures that constitute qualified state expenditures for
- 18               purposes of this chapter.
- 19          12.   Determine the costs that constitute administrative costs for purposes of this
- 20               chapter.
- 21          13.   Determine in any case if assistance provided will be funded through qualified state
- 22               expenditures, funds made available from the federal government under title IV-A,
- 23               or a combination thereof.
- 24          14.   Assist recipients of temporary assistance for needy families, in a form and manner
- 25               determined appropriate by the state agency, but which need not be uniform among
- 26               families or among counties.
- 27          44. 15.   Administer all funds appropriated or made available to it for the purpose of carrying
- 28                   out the provisions of this chapter.
- 29          42. 16.   Act as the official agency of the state in the administration of the child support
- 30                   enforcement program in conformity with title IV-D ~~of the Social Security Act, as~~
- 31                   ~~amended,~~ and to direct and supervise county administration of that program.

**SECTION 53. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-09-02.1 of the 1995 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**50-09-02.1. State agency to submit plans - Administer ~~Family Support Act~~ programs under title IV-A and title IV-D - Establish data system - Provide capacity for electronic funds transfer.**

1. The state agency may submit state plans in forms that meet the requirements for such plans which are, or may be, imposed under ~~the Family Support Act of 1988 [Pub. L. 100-485; 102 Stat. 2343]~~ title IV-A or title IV-D. The state agency may take actions reasonably necessary to conform the administration of programs under its supervision and direction to the requirements of ~~the Family Support Act of 1988~~ title IV-A or title IV-D and the state plans submitted thereunder, including the issuance of policy manuals, forms, and program directives. The state agency may seek appropriate waivers of the requirements of federal statutes or regulations as authorized by federal law.
2. The state agency shall establish a statewide automated data processing system designed to conform to requirements imposed by or under ~~the Family Support Act of 1988~~ title IV-D. The state agency must make that system available for the use of clerks of court in carrying out their duties under section 14-09-08.1. The official records of the state regarding all child support amounts owed, collected, and distributed must be maintained in that system.
3. The statewide automated data processing system must provide capability for electronic funds transfer for the purpose of income withholding and interstate collections.

**SECTION 54.** A new section to chapter 50-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

**State case registry.**

1. The statewide automated data processing system established under section 50-09-02.1 must include a registry that contains records with respect to:
  - a. Each child support case in which services are being provided by the state agency or a child support agency under title IV-D; and



b. Each child support order established or modified in this state on or after October 1, 1998.

2. The case records must use standardized data elements for both parents and contain other information the secretary requires.

3. Each case record concerning a case with respect to which services are being provided by the state agency or a child support agency under title IV-D must:

a. Include payment records consistent with the requirements of title IV-D, which include:

(1) The amount of current monthly or other periodic support owed under the order, and other amounts, including arrearages, interest, late payment penalties, fees, and amounts determined under section 22 of this Act, due or past due under the order;

(2) Any amount described in paragraph 1 that has been collected;

(3) The distribution of collected amounts;

(4) The birthdate of any child for whom an order requires the provision of support; and

(5) The amount necessary to satisfy any lien imposed under section 46 of this Act or established as a judgment lien under section 14-08.1-05.

b. Be established, maintained, updated, and monitored on the basis of:

(1) Information on administrative actions and administrative and judicial proceedings and orders relating to paternity and child support;

(2) Information obtained from comparison with federal, state, and local sources of information;

(3) Information on child support collections and distributions; and

(4) Any other relevant information.

**SECTION 55.** A new section to chapter 50-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

**Required uses of statewide automated data processing system.** The stateside automated data processing system established under section 50-09-02.1 must, in accordance with requirements of title IV-D, and regulations, formats, and operating requirements of the secretary adopted thereunder:

1. Effective October 1, 1998, provide comparisons respecting:
  - a. Federal and state case registry information;
  - b. Federal and state parent locator information;
  - c. Information secured under this chapter, chapter 50-24.1, similar laws administered in other states, and such other programs designated by the secretary as necessary to perform state agency functions under title IV-D, and under the respective programs; and
  - d. Information gathered by other agencies of this state, agencies of other states, and interstate networks as necessary and appropriate to carry out state agency duties respecting title IV-D or to assist other states to carry out similar duties;
2. Effective October 1, 1998, be used by the state disbursement unit in the performance of functions including:
  - a. Timely transmission of orders and notices to income payors for the withholding of income using uniform formats prescribed by the secretary;
  - b. Ongoing monitoring to promptly identify failures to make timely payment of support; and
  - c. Automatic use of enforcement procedures if payments are not timely made; and
3. Be used, to the maximum extent feasible, to implement the expedited administrative procedures required by title IV-D.

**SECTION 56. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-09-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**50-09-03. Duties of county agency.** In the administration of ~~aid to dependent children~~ assistance under this chapter, a county agency shall:

1. Administer the ~~provisions of this chapter~~ temporary assistance for needy families program in its county, subject to the rules ~~and regulations prescribed by~~ of the state agency ~~pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.~~
2. Report to the state agency at such times and in such manner and form as the state agency, from time to time, may direct.

3. Submit annually to the board of county commissioners of each county a budget containing an estimate and supporting data, setting forth the amount of money needed to carry out the provisions of this chapter.
4. Cooperate with juvenile courts and licensed children's agencies.
5. Administer the child support enforcement program under the direction and supervision of the state agency in conformity with title IV-D ~~of the Social Security Act, as amended~~. In administering the program, the county agency shall have the authority to contract with any public or private agency or person to discharge their child support enforcement duties.

**SECTION 57. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-09-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**50-09-06. Application for assistance - Assignment of support rights.** Application for ~~aid to a dependent child~~ assistance under this chapter must be made to the county agency in the manner and form prescribed by the state agency. The application must contain such information as the state agency may require, and the action of the state agency in approving and granting assistance or in disapproving and denying assistance is final and binding on the county agency. An application for assistance under this chapter is deemed to create and effect an assignment of all rights of support, which exist or may come to exist for the benefit of the child, to the state agency and county agency. The assignment:

1. Is effective as to both current and accrued child support obligations.
2. Takes effect upon a determination of eligibility for assistance under this chapter.
3. Terminates when an applicant ceases to receive assistance under this chapter, except with respect to the amount of any unpaid support obligation accrued under the assignment.

**SECTION 58.** A new section to chapter 50-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

**Power of state agency, child support agency, and employees and agents.**

1. In implementing programs under title IV-D, the state agency, the child support agencies, and the officials, employees, and agents of such agencies may:
  - a. Conduct examinations;

- 1            b. Require by subpoena the attendance of witnesses and the production of
- 2            books, records, and papers;
- 3            c. Compensate witnesses and individuals producing books, records, including
- 4            records maintained in automated data bases, and papers in amounts
- 5            determined by the state agency, not to exceed actual reasonable costs
- 6            incurred;
- 7            d. Impose a fiscal sanction of no more than twenty-five dollars for each day
- 8            against a person who fails to attend as a witness or produce books, records,
- 9            or papers;
- 10          e. Require genetic testing of appropriate individuals when necessary in disputed
- 11          paternity cases, to determine the relationship of parent and child, and to:
- 12            (1) Pay the costs of such testing, subject to recoupment from the alleged
- 13            father if paternity is established; and
- 14            (2) Obtain additional testing in any case if an initial test result is contested,
- 15            upon request and advance payment by the contestant;
- 16          f. Make application to the district court to compel participation in genetic testing,
- 17          the attendance of witnesses, the production of books, records, and papers,
- 18          and the payment of fiscal sanctions imposed under this section;
- 19          g. Notwithstanding any provision of law making the records confidential, to
- 20          obtain access, including automated access in the case of records maintained
- 21          in automated data bases, to:
- 22            (1) Records of other state and local government agencies, including:
- 23            (a) Vital statistics, including records of marriage, birth, and divorce;
- 24            (b) State and local tax and revenue records, including information on
- 25            residence address, employer, income, and assets;
- 26            (c) Records concerning real and titled personal property;
- 27            (d) Records of occupational and professional licenses, and records
- 28            concerning the ownership and control of corporations,
- 29            partnerships, and other business entities;
- 30            (e) Employment security records;
- 31            (f) Workers compensation records;

- 1                   (g)   Records of all agencies administering public assistance  
2                               programs;  
3                   (h)   Records of the department of transportation;  
4                   (i)   Corrections records; and  
5                   (j)   Law enforcement records; and  
6           (2)   Certain records held by private entities with respect to individuals who  
7                   owe or are owed child support, or against or with respect to whom a  
8                   child support obligation is sought, consisting of:  
9                   (a)   The names and addresses of such individuals and the names  
10                               and addresses of the employers of such individuals, as appearing  
11                               in customer records of public utilities and cable television  
12                               companies; and  
13                   (b)   Information, including information on assets and liabilities, on  
14                               such individuals held by financial institutions.  
15       h.   Enter into agreements with financial institutions doing business in the state:  
16           (1)   To develop and operate, in coordination with those financial institutions,  
17                   a data match system, using automated data exchanges to the  
18                   maximum extent feasible, in which each such financial institution is  
19                   required to provide in each calendar quarter the name, record address,  
20                   social security number or other taxpayer identification number, and  
21                   other identifying information for each noncustodial parent who  
22                   maintains an account at such financial institution and who owes past  
23                   due support, as identified by the state agency by name and social  
24                   security number or other taxpayer number; and  
25           (2)   Under which such financial institution, in response to a notice of lien or  
26                   an execution, will encumber or surrender, as the case may be, assets  
27                   held by such institution on behalf of any noncustodial parent who is  
28                   subject to a lien for unpaid child support.  
29       i.   For purposes of locating parents or alleged parents of children receiving  
30                   services under title IV-D, provide all federal and state agencies conducting  
31                   activities under title IV-D with access to:

(1) Records of the department of transportation; and

(2) Law enforcement records.

2. All information received under this section, if confidential under some other provision of law, is subject to the provision of section 50-06-15. Any person acting under the authority of the state agency who pursuant to this subsection obtains information from the office of the state tax commissioner, the confidentiality of which is protected by law, may not divulge such information except to the extent necessary for the administration of the child support enforcement program or when otherwise directed by judicial order or otherwise provided by law.

3. No person may be held liable under any federal or state law:

a. For any disclosure of information, in any form, made under this section, to the state agency, a county agency, or an official, employee, or agent of either;

b. For encumbering or surrendering any assets held by a financial institution in response to a notice of lien or an execution issued by the state agency as provided in subsection 1; or

c. For any other action taken in good faith to comply with the requirements of this section.

4. The officers and employees designated by the county agencies or the state agency may administer oaths and affirmations.

5. All employing or contracting entities within this state, including for-profit, nonprofit, and governmental employers, shall provide information on the employment, compensation, and benefits of any individual employed by such entity as an employer or contractor within ten days of a request made under subsection 1 or made by the agency of any other state charged with administration of programs under title IV-D. An entity that receives a request for which a response is required by this section is subject to a fiscal sanction of twenty-five dollars for each day, beginning on the eleventh day after the request is made and not complied with.

**SECTION 59.** A new section to chapter 50-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

1       **Administrative enforcement in interstate cases.** In acting as the official agency of  
2 the state in administering the child support program under title IV-D, the state agency, directly  
3 or through agents and county agencies:

4       1. Shall respond within five business days of receipt of a request made by another  
5 state to enforce a child support order;

6       2. May transmit to other states requests for assistance in cases involving  
7 enforcement of child support orders which include information provided and  
8 intended to enable the receiving state to compare information about the case to  
9 information in the data bases of the receiving state, and which constitute a  
10 certification:

11       a. Of the amount of arrearages, if any, under the child support order; and

12       b. That procedural due process requirements applicable to the case have been  
13 complied with;

14       3. In cases in which the state agency receives requests made by another state to  
15 enforce a child support order, shall not consider that matter a child support case  
16 transferred to this state; and

17       4. Shall maintain records of:

18       a. The number of requests for assistance made by other states;

19       b. The number of cases in which this state collected support in response to  
20 requests made by other states; and

21       c. The amount of support collected.

22       **SECTION 60.** A new section to chapter 50-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
23 created and enacted as follows:

24       **Reporting arrearages to credit bureaus.**

25       1. In acting as the official agency of the state in administering the child support  
26 program under title IV-D, the state agency, directly or through agents and county  
27 agencies, subject to subsection 2, may report periodically to consumer reporting  
28 agencies the name of any obligor who owes past due support, and the amount of  
29 past due support owed by the obligor.

2. The state agency may report under subsection 1 only after such an obligor has been provided notice and a reasonable opportunity to contest the accuracy of the statement of the name and amount of overdue support owed by the obligor.
3. For purposes of this section, "consumer reporting agency" means an agency that has furnished evidence, satisfactory to the department, that the agency is a consumer reporting agency as defined in section 603(f) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act [15 U.S.C. 1681a(f)].

**SECTION 61.** A new section to chapter 50-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

**Securing assets to satisfy past due child support.** In acting as the official agency of the state in administering the child support program under title IV-D, in cases in which there is past due child support, the state agency may secure assets to satisfy the past due amount by issuing writs of execution under chapter 28-21. Those writs of execution may be used to secure or seize property including:

1. Periodic or lump sum payments from:
  - a. An agency administering unemployment compensation benefits, workers compensation benefits, or other benefits; and
  - b. Judgments, settlements, and gaming proceeds otherwise belonging to the obligor, or payable upon the obligor's demand;
2. Assets of the obligor held in financial institutions; and
3. Public and private retirement funds.

**SECTION 62. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-09-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**50-09-09. Award of assistance.** Upon completion of the investigation of an applicant for assistance under this chapter, the county agency shall determine, in accordance with the rules of the state agency:

1. ~~That if the applicant is eligible for~~ may be provided assistance under the provisions of this chapter;
2. The amount and type of any assistance the applicant ~~shall~~ may receive; and
3. The date upon which such assistance ~~shall~~ may begin.



1 In all cases, a statement of the findings of the county agency forthwith must be transmitted to  
2 the state agency.

3 **SECTION 63. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-09-14 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
4 amended and reenacted as follows:

5 **50-09-14. Appeal and hearing - Review of child support actions.**

6 1. An applicant for or recipient of aid to dependent children temporary assistance for  
7 needy families under the provisions of this chapter, aggrieved because of a county  
8 agency's decision or delay in making a decision, may appeal to the state agency in  
9 the manner prescribed by the state agency and must be afforded a reasonable  
10 notice and opportunity for a fair hearing by the state agency. The state agency, on  
11 its own motion, may review individual cases and make determinations which are  
12 binding upon the county agency. An applicant or recipient aggrieved by any such  
13 determination, upon request, must be afforded reasonable notice and opportunity  
14 for a fair hearing by the state agency. All decisions of the state agency made on  
15 an appeal are final and are binding upon and must be complied with by the county  
16 agency.

17 2. Any person aggrieved by an action taken by the state agency or a child support  
18 agency under section 9 of this Act or this chapter to establish or enforce a child  
19 support order may seek review of the action of the state agency or child support  
20 agency in the court of this state that issued or considered the child support order.  
21 If an order for child support was issued by a court or administrative tribunal in  
22 another state, any person aggrieved by an action taken by the state agency or a  
23 child support agency under section 9 of this Act or this chapter to enforce that  
24 order may seek review of the action of the state agency or child support agency in  
25 any court of this state which has jurisdiction to enforce that order, or if no court of  
26 this state has jurisdiction to enforce that order, in any court of this state with  
27 jurisdiction over the necessary parties. Any review sought under this subsection  
28 must be commenced within thirty days after the date of action for which review is  
29 sought. A person who has a right of review under this subsection may not seek  
30 review of the actions of the state agency or child support agency in a proceeding  
31 under chapter 28-32.

**SECTION 64. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-09-20 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**50-09-20. Appropriation of county funds.**

1. For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this chapter, the board of county commissioners of each county annually shall appropriate and make available an amount sufficient to pay:

~~4.~~ a. Local expenses of administration of temporary assistance for needy families and the county's share of assistance payments as specified in section 50-09-21;

~~2.~~ b. Local expenses of administration of the child support enforcement program; and

~~3.~~ c. Local expenses of administration and the county's share of program costs of ~~the early childhood services program, job opportunity and basic skills training program, transportation program, and case management program programs~~ and employment and training programs, as specified in section 50-09-21.

2. For purposes of this section, "local expenses of administration" include costs for personnel, space, equipment, computer software, materials, travel, utilities, and related costs, and the indirect costs properly allocated to those costs. The term does not include custom computer programs, custom software development, computer operations undertaken at the direction of the department, and computer processing costs to the extent those costs exceed, in any calendar year, that county's cost of operation of the technical eligibility computer system in calendar year 1995 increased by the increase in the consumer price index for all urban consumers, all items, United States city average, after January 1, 1996.

3. If the financial condition of any county is such that it cannot make an appropriation or levy a tax for ~~aid to dependent children~~ temporary assistance for needy families or cannot issue warrants legally in an amount sufficient to provide the necessary funds to comply with the provisions of this chapter, the board of county commissioners shall report such fact to the state agency. After a hearing before the state agency, and such investigation as the state agency may make, the state

agency may increase the amount to be supplied from state funds and adjust accordingly the amount to be supplied from county funds.

**SECTION 65. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-09-20 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**50-09-20. Appropriation of county funds.**

1. For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this chapter, the board of county commissioners of each county annually shall appropriate and make available an amount sufficient to pay:

4. a. Local expenses of administration and the county's share of assistance payments as specified in section 50-09-24 of temporary assistance for needy families;

2. b. Local expenses of administration of the child support enforcement program; and

3. c. Local expenses of administration and the county's share of program costs of the early childhood services program, job opportunity and basic skills training program, transportation program, and case management program as specified in section 50-09-24 programs and employment and training programs.

2. For purposes of this section, "local expenses of administration" include costs for personnel, space, equipment, computer software, materials, travel, utilities, and related costs, and the indirect costs properly allocated to those costs. The term does not include custom computer programs, custom software development, computer operations undertaken at the direction of the department, and computer processing costs to the extent those costs exceed, in any calendar year, that county's cost of operation of the technical eligibility computer system in calendar year 1995 increased by the increase in the consumer price index for all urban consumers, all items, United States city average, after January 1, 1996.

3. If the financial condition of any county is such that it cannot make an appropriation or levy a tax for ~~aid to dependent children~~ temporary assistance for needy families or cannot issue warrants legally in an amount sufficient to provide the necessary funds to comply with the provisions of this chapter, the board of county

commissioners shall report such fact to the state agency. After a hearing before the state agency, and such investigation as the state agency may make, the state agency may increase the amount to be supplied from state funds and adjust accordingly the amount to be supplied from county funds.

**SECTION 66. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-09-20.1 of the 1995 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**50-09-20.1. Amounts state liable for - Reimbursement by state.** The

1. Except as provided in subsection 2, the state agency shall reimburse each county, upon claim being made therefor by the county agency, for fifty:

a. Fifty percent of the amount expended by the county agency in excess of the amount provided by the federal government for the administration of the temporary assistance for needy families program; and

b. Seventy-five percent of the amount expended by the county agency for the administration of the early childhood services program, the job opportunity and basic skills training program, the transportation program, and the case management program and employment and training programs provided under this chapter.

2. After January 1, 1998, the state agency shall not reimburse for any increased costs associated with achieving caseload ratios required by the department or increased costs for equipment, computer software, travel, and training expended by a county agency for converting cases previously administered substantially in the form of the aid to families with dependent children program to administration in the form of the training, education, employment, and management program. "Computer software" does not include custom computer programs and custom software development undertaken at the direction of the state agency.

**SECTION 67. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-09-21 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**50-09-21. Amount county liable for - Reimbursement by county.**

1. Each county shall reimburse the state agency, upon claim being made therefor by the state agency, for one-fourth of the amount expended, in the county, for aid to dependent children each county's share of all counties' shares of program costs of

1           ~~the temporary assistance for needy families program, and program costs of the~~  
2           ~~early childhood services program, job opportunity and basic skills training program,~~  
3           ~~transportation program, and case management program, in excess of the amount~~  
4           ~~provided by the federal government for assistance payments to dependent children~~  
5           ~~and for the program costs~~ and employment and training programs provided under  
6           this chapter.

- 7           2.   a.   Each county shall reimburse the state agency, upon claim being made  
8               therefor by the state agency, for ~~an amount equal to one half of that county's~~  
9               ~~share of all counties' shares based upon the combined percentage average of~~  
10              ~~the four year period beginning November 1983 and ending October 1987, and~~  
11              ~~the one year period beginning November 1986 and ending October 1987,~~  
12              ~~plus one half of that county's share of all counties' shares allocated according~~  
13              ~~to each county's percentage of population of persons under age eighteen~~  
14              ~~according to the 1980 census,~~ that county's share of one-fourth of the amount  
15              expended in the state in excess of any amount provided by the federal  
16              government under title IV-E of the Social Security Act [94 Stat. 501; 42 U.S.C.  
17              670 et seq.], as amended, for payments for children approved and granted  
18              foster care for children or subsidized adoption, without regard to that child's  
19              eligibility for benefits under title IV-E of the Social Security Act.

- 20           b.   Each county's share of all counties' shares must be calculated under a  
21               formula established by the department through consultation with county  
22               representatives. The formula must:

- 23               (1)   Include consideration of the most recent census data or official census  
24               estimates of the number of youth in each county;  
25               (2)   Include consideration of recent expenditures for foster care for youth  
26               from each county; and  
27               (3)   Be established by policy, and not by rule.

28           **SECTION 68. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-09-21 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
29   amended and reenacted as follows:

30           **50-09-21. Amount county liable for - Reimbursement by county.**

1           1. ~~Each county shall reimburse the state agency, upon claim being made therefor by~~  
2           ~~the state agency, for one-fourth of the amount expended, in the county, for aid to~~  
3           ~~dependent children, and program costs of the early childhood services program,~~  
4           ~~job opportunity and basic skills training program, transportation program, and case~~  
5           ~~management program, in excess of the amount provided by the federal~~  
6           ~~government for assistance payments to dependent children and for the program~~  
7           ~~costs.~~

8           2. Each county shall reimburse the state agency, upon claim being made therefor by  
9           the state agency, for ~~an amount equal to one-half of that county's share of all~~  
10          ~~counties' shares based upon the combined percentage average of the four-year~~  
11          ~~period beginning November 1983 and ending October 1987, and the one-year~~  
12          ~~period beginning November 1986 and ending October 1987, plus one-half of that~~  
13          ~~county's share of all counties' shares allocated according to each county's~~  
14          ~~percentage of population of persons under age eighteen according to the 1980~~  
15          ~~census; that county's share of one-fourth of the amount expended in the state in~~  
16          ~~excess of any amount provided by the federal government under title IV-E of the~~  
17          ~~Social Security Act [94 Stat. 501; 42 U.S.C. 670 et seq.], for payments for children~~  
18          ~~approved and granted foster care for children or subsidized adoption, without~~  
19          ~~regard to that child's eligibility for benefits under title IV-E of the Social Security~~  
20          ~~Act.~~

21          2. Each county's share of all counties' shares must be calculated under a formula  
22          established by the department through consultation with county representatives.

23          The formula must:

- 24          a. Include consideration of the most recent census data or official census  
25             estimates of the number of youth in each county;  
26          b. Include consideration of recent expenditures for foster care for youth from  
27             each county; and  
28          c. Be established by policy, and not by rule.

29          **SECTION 69. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-09-22 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
30          amended and reenacted as follows:

1           **50-09-22. Procedure for reimbursement.** The state agency shall keep records and  
2 accounts in relation to the expenditures for ~~aid to dependent children~~ temporary assistance for  
3 needy families in each county in North Dakota. ~~Claims for reimbursements under the provision~~  
4 ~~of section 50-09-21 must be presented by the state agency to the board of county~~  
5 ~~commissioners at the end of each calendar month.~~ The state agency shall certify to each  
6 county the total amount paid with respect to ~~aid to dependent children eligible for aid~~ temporary  
7 assistance for needy families from that county, and the county's share of such payments. The  
8 amount so certified must be paid to the state agency by the county treasurer upon the audit and  
9 approval of the claim in the manner provided by law. Nothing contained herein shall prevent  
10 the state agency, in cases where assistance is granted to, or on the behalf of unmarried  
11 mothers or the dependent children of unmarried mothers, from electing to assume the payment  
12 thereof without reporting the same to the board of county commissioners upon a claim for  
13 reimbursement: an election by the state agency to assume such payments without reporting  
14 the same to the counties shall relieve the counties of any liability as to such payments, but shall  
15 in no manner affect the liability of the counties as to any claim duly reported by the state agency  
16 for reimbursement.

17           **SECTION 70. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-09-24 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
18 amended and reenacted as follows:

19           **50-09-24. Limitations of chapter.** All assistance awarded under this chapter must be  
20 deemed to be awarded and to be held subject to the provisions of any amending or repealing  
21 act which may be passed, and no recipient shall have any claim for compensation, or  
22 otherwise, because ~~his~~ that recipient's assistance has been affected in any way by any  
23 amending or repealing act. Assistance provided under this chapter is not an entitlement. No  
24 person has a property interest in any assistance sought or provided under this chapter. This  
25 chapter may not be construed to require provision of assistance not required by federal law.

26           **SECTION 71.** A new section to chapter 50-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
27 created and enacted as follows:

28           **Transition to training, education, employment, and management program.** In  
29 counties in which a demonstration project established under section 50-06-01.8 is operating,  
30 the state agency shall supervise and direct county administration of temporary assistance to  
31 needy families, in the form of the training, education, employment, and management program.

1 In all other counties, the state agency shall supervise and direct county administration of  
2 temporary assistance to needy families, substantially in the form of the aid to families with  
3 dependent children program established under 42 U.S.C. 601 et seq., as amended before  
4 August 22, 1996 [49 Stat. 627 et seq.], provided that the requirements of 42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.,  
5 as amended by section 103 of Pub. L. 104-193, 110 Stat. 2112 et seq., as amended, are met.  
6 Beginning January 1, 1998, the state agency shall convert temporary assistance to needy  
7 families cases, previously administered substantially in the form of aid to families with  
8 dependent children cases, to administration in the form of the training, education, employment,  
9 and management program. After July 1, 1998, or as soon thereafter as may be feasible, the  
10 state agency shall supervise and direct county administration of all temporary assistance to  
11 needy families in the form of the training, education, employment, and management program.

12 **SECTION 72.** A new section to chapter 50-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
13 created and enacted as follows:

14 **Programs funded at state expense - Interpretation.**

- 15 1. The state shall bear the cost, in excess of the amount provided by the federal  
16 government, of:  
17 a. Services provided under section 50-06-06.8 and this chapter as child care  
18 assistance;  
19 b. Services provided under this chapter as employment and training programs;  
20 and  
21 c. Temporary assistance for needy families benefits provided under this chapter.  
22 2. This section does not grant any recipient of services, benefits, or supplements  
23 identified in subsection 1, any service, benefit, or supplement that a recipient could  
24 not claim in the absence of this section.

25 **SECTION 73.** A new section to chapter 50-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
26 created and enacted as follows:

27 **Substitution of terms - Meaning of title IV-A.** Whenever the term "aid to families with  
28 dependent children", or any derivative of that term, appears in this code or the North Dakota  
29 Administrative Code, used in a context that refers to a period following the effective date of a  
30 state plan submitted under section 402 of the Social Security Act, as added by title I of Pub. L.  
31 104-193; 110 Stat. 2110, the term "temporary assistance for needy families", or a derivative of



that term, must be substituted therefor. The term "title IV-A of the Social Security Act", or any derivative of that term, whenever it appears in this code or the North Dakota Administrative Code, used in a context that refers to a period following the effective date of a state plan submitted under section 402 of the Social Security Act, as added by title I of Pub. L. 104-193; 110 Stat. 2110, refers to title IV-A of the Social Security Act, as amended by section 103 of Pub. L. 104-193; 110 Stat. 2112 et seq.

**SECTION 74. Requirements for administration of temporary assistance for needy families.**

1. Except as provided in subsections 2 through 6, the department of human services, in its administration of temporary assistance for needy families in the form of the training, education, employment, and management program, shall:
  - a. Provide no assistance to pregnant women not otherwise eligible for assistance;
  - b. Except as provided in subdivision c, afford eligible households benefits for no more than sixty months;
  - c. Exempt up to twenty percent of the caseload from the requirements of subdivision b due to mental or physical disability of a parent or child, or incapacity of a parent;
  - d. Unless an exemption, exclusion, or disregard is required by law, count income and assets whenever actually available;
  - e. Unless an exemption, exclusion, or disregard is required by law, deem income and assets of their sponsors to otherwise eligible immigrant applicants for assistance;
  - f. Limit eligibility to households with total available assets, not otherwise exempted or excluded, of a value not exceeding five thousand dollars for a one-person household and eight thousand dollars for a household of two or more;
  - g. Seek approval of appropriate federal officials, and, if approved, use a simplified food stamp program to provide food stamp benefits to eligible households receiving temporary assistance for needy families;
  - h. Exclude one motor vehicle of any value in determining eligibility;

- i. Require work activities as defined in section 6 of this Act for all household members not specifically exempted by the department of human services for reasons such as mental or physical disability of a parent or child, or incapacity of a parent;
- j. Develop a pregnancy prevention training package appropriate for children age thirteen and older;
- k. Develop a statutory rape training package appropriate for males age thirteen and older;
- l. Afford otherwise eligible households that have resided in this state less than twelve months benefits subject to the lifetime limit of the household's immediately previous state of residence;
- m. Provide benefits to otherwise eligible noncitizens who are lawfully present in the United States;
- n. Establish and enforce standards against program fraud and abuse;
- o. Establish procedures to screen and identify victims of domestic violence for referral to appropriate services;
- p. Provide an employment placement program;
- q. Implement, as soon as practicable, an electronic benefit transfer system;
- r. Not exempt funds in individual development accounts;
- s. Sanction parents who, without good cause, fail to ensure dependent minor children attend school unless the child has received a high school diploma or equivalent;
- t. When appropriate, require household members to complete high school;
- u. Exempt single parents from required work activities as defined in section 6 of this Act if the exempted parent has a child under four months of age;
- v. Provide for payment of assistance only after performance by individuals required to engage in work activities, as defined in section 6 of this Act;
- w. Count only approved work activities as defined in section 6 of this Act for the purpose of measuring work participation rates;
- x. Provide for progressive sanctions, including termination of assistance to the household, if a household member fails to cooperate with work requirements;

y. Provide for progressive sanctions, including termination of assistance to the household, if a household member fails to cooperate with child support activities;

z. Deny assistance with respect to a minor child absent from the household for more than one calendar month, except as specifically provided by the state agency for absences such as hospitalization;

aa. Require each household to participate in developing an individual responsibility plan and provide for progressive sanctions, including termination of assistance to the household, if adult and minor household members age sixteen or older fail to cooperate in developing an individual responsibility plan;

bb. Provide pre-pregnancy family planning services;

cc. Seek federal funding to assist in the evaluation of the program;

dd. Develop and seek approval of the secretary to use a single application form for assistance under this chapter and chapter 50-24.1;

ee. Increase the assistance amount to recognize the increase in household size when a child is born to a household member who is, or, at any time during the ten-month period ending with the birth of the child, was a recipient of assistance under this chapter; and

ff. Disregard earned income as an incentive allowance for no more than twelve months.

2. If the secretary of the United States department of health and human services determines that funds otherwise available for the temporary assistance for needy families program in this state must be reduced or eliminated should the department of human services administer the program in accordance with any provision of subsection 1, the department of human services shall administer the program in a manner that avoids the reduction or loss.

3. If the caseload of households provided assistance exceeds projections provided to the fifty-fifth legislative assembly by the department of human services, the department of human services, subject to the approval of the budget section of the legislative council, shall administer the temporary assistance for needy families

1           program in a manner that avoids expending or committing all funds appropriated  
2           for that purpose earlier than June 30, 1999.

3           4.   If the department of human services determines, subject to the approval of the  
4           budget section of the legislative council, that there is insufficient worker  
5           opportunity, due to increases in the unemployment rate, to participate in work  
6           activities as defined by section 6 of this Act, the department may administer the  
7           temporary assistance for needy families program in a manner different than  
8           provided in subsection 1.

9           5.   If the department of human services determines, subject to the approval of the  
10          budget section of the legislative council, that administration of the temporary  
11          assistance for needy families program, in the manner provided by subsection 1,  
12          causes otherwise eligible individuals to become a charge upon the counties under  
13          chapter 50-01, the department may administer the program in a manner that  
14          avoids that result.

15          6.   If projected rates of expenditures for operation of the temporary assistance for  
16          needy families program, approved by the budget section of the legislative council,  
17          indicate that appropriations for that purpose will be expended or committed earlier  
18          than June 30, 1999, the department of human services shall administer the  
19          temporary assistance for needy families program in a manner that avoids that  
20          result.

21          **SECTION 75. REPEAL.** Section 14-09-09.23 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
22          repealed.

23          **SECTION 76. REPEAL.** Sections 50-09-16, 50-09-17, and 50-09-22 of the North  
24          Dakota Century Code and section 50-08.1-02 of the 1995 Supplement to the North Dakota  
25          Century Code are repealed.

26          **SECTION 77. APPROPRIATION.** There is hereby appropriated out of special funds  
27          derived from federal funds, the sum of \$200,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary,  
28          to the department of human services for the purpose of providing child care assistance and  
29          employment and training under this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 1997, and ending  
30          June 30, 1999.

1           **SECTION 78. APPROPRIATION.** There is hereby appropriated out of special funds  
2 derived from federal funds, the sum of \$1,600,000 or so much of the sum as may be necessary,  
3 to the department of human services for the purpose of evaluating programs and services  
4 established under this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 1997, and ending June 30, 1999.

5           **SECTION 79. EFFECTIVE DATE.** Section 75 of this Act becomes effective on the  
6 system implementation date as defined by section 23 of this Act.

7           **SECTION 80. EFFECTIVE DATE.** Sections 1 through 8, 12 through 19, 37 through 44,  
8 46 through 49, 51 through 53, 55 through 64, 66, 67, 69, 70, 73, and 74 of this Act become  
9 effective on July 1, 1997.

10          **SECTION 81. EFFECTIVE DATE.** Section 45 of this Act becomes effective on October  
11 1, 1997.

12          **SECTION 82. EFFECTIVE DATE.** Sections 50, 65, 68, 71, 72, and 76 of this Act  
13 become effective on January 1, 1998.

14          **SECTION 83. EFFECTIVE DATE.** Sections 9 through 11, 20, 36, and 54 of this Act  
15 become effective on October 1, 1998.

16          **SECTION 84. EXPIRATION DATE.** Sections 49, 64, and 67 of this Act are effective  
17 through December 31, 1997, and after that date are ineffective.

18          **SECTION 85. EXPIRATION DATE.** Section 74 of this Act is effective through  
19 June 30, 1999, and is thereafter ineffective.

20          **SECTION 86. EMERGENCY.** Sections 1 through 8, 12 through 19, 37 through 44, 46  
21 through 49, 51 through 53, 55 through 64, 66, 67, 69, 70, 73, and 74 of this Act are declared to  
22 be an emergency measure.