

Sixty-second  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2268**

Introduced by

Senators Wardner, Nelson

Representative N. Johnson

1 A BILL for an Act to provide for a regional autism spectrum disorder centers of early intervention  
2 and achievement pilot program; to provide for a department of human services report to the  
3 legislative management; to provide for a legislative management study; and to provide an  
4 appropriation.

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

6 **SECTION 1. REGIONAL AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER CENTERS OF EARLY**  
7 **INTERVENTION AND ACHIEVEMENT PILOT PROGRAM - DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN**  
8 **SERVICES STUDY - REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.**

9 1. During the 2011-13 biennium, the department of human services shall establish and  
10 operate a regional autism spectrum disorder centers of early intervention and  
11 achievement pilot program.

12 a. The pilot program must provide a matching grant to a qualified applicant that is a  
13 nonprofit intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded which is licensed by  
14 the department of human services.

15 b. A qualified applicant shall establish the availability of one dollar of nonstate, cash  
16 matching funds for each grant dollar awarded under this section. The source of  
17 the matching funds may not be a gift or grant, but must be funds of the applicant.

18 c. A qualified applicant shall submit a plan for the funding, development, and  
19 delivery of skilled services to individuals with autism spectrum disorder who  
20 reside within the applicant's service region. The plan must provide for the  
21 establishment of a regional autism spectrum disorder center of early intervention  
22 and achievement in a city with a population of more than ten thousand.

23 d. As a condition of award of a grant under this program, a qualified applicant shall  
24 agree to collaborate with the department of human services in developing and

1 implementing the plan as well as postaward monitoring by the department of  
2 human services.

3 2. During the 2011-13 biennium, the department of human services shall work with public  
4 and private stakeholders to study the feasibility of establishing a network of regional  
5 autism spectrum disorder centers of early intervention and achievement. The study  
6 must include:

7 a. Consideration of funding needs and sources for startup as well as ongoing  
8 financial sustainability of a network of regional autism spectrum disorder centers  
9 of early intervention and achievement;

10 b. Evaluation of the unmet needs in the state related to the regional delivery of  
11 skilled services to individuals with autism spectrum disorder, early intervention  
12 and consideration of the most effective and efficient delivery system for these  
13 skilled services, and evaluation of whether the skilled services provided by the  
14 qualified applicant under subsection 1 is part of a viable plan to increase  
15 availability of these services; and

16 c. Evaluation of the funding, development, and delivery of the skilled services  
17 provided by a qualified applicant under subsection 1, including recommendations  
18 regarding the feasibility and desirability of implementing the pilot program on a  
19 broader scale.

20 3. During the 2011-13 biennium, the department of human services shall provide regular  
21 status reports to and work in cooperation with the legislative management as the  
22 legislative management conducts the study provided for under section 2 of this Act.

23 4. Before September 1, 2012, the department of human services shall report to the  
24 legislative management on the preliminary findings and recommendations of the  
25 regional autism spectrum disorder centers of early intervention and achievement pilot  
26 program and study. During the 2013 legislative session, the department of human  
27 services shall introduce any legislation that may be necessary to implement the study  
28 recommendations.

29 **SECTION 2. AUTISM STUDY - LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.** During the 2011-12  
30 interim, the legislative management shall conduct a comprehensive study of the current system  
31 for the diagnosis of, early treatment of, care for, and education of individuals with autism

1 | spectrum disorder, shall study a sliding fee scale for payment of services, and shall make  
2 | recommendations regarding how this system can be improved to better meet the needs of  
3 | individuals with autism spectrum disorder. The study must consider the recommendations of the  
4 | autism spectrum disorder task force and must seek input from stakeholders in the private and  
5 | public sectors, including families impacted by autism spectrum disorder, insurers, educators,  
6 | treatment providers, early childhood service providers, caretakers, and nonprofit intermediate  
7 | care facilities for the mentally retarded. The legislative management shall report its findings and  
8 | recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to  
9 | the sixty-third legislative assembly.

10 |       **SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general  
11 | fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$600,000, or so much of the  
12 | sum as may be necessary, to the department of human services for the purpose of  
13 | implementing the regional autism spectrum disorder centers of early intervention and  
14 | achievement pilot program and study provided for under section 1 of this Act, for the biennium  
15 | beginning July 1, 2011, and ending June 30, 2013.