

HOUSE BILL NO. 1122

Introduced by

Natural Resources Committee

(At the request of the Department of Human Services)

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 54-44.8-03 and 54-44.8-06 of the North
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to administration of the program for telecommunications services
3 for communications impaired persons.

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

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-44.8-03 of the 1997 Supplement to the North
6 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **54-44.8-03. Program established - Purpose.**

- 8 1. The division shall establish and administer a program to provide
9 telecommunications relay service to persons who are communications impaired.
- 10 2. The program shall provide a telecommunications relay service to allow persons
11 who are communications impaired to communicate via the telecommunications
12 network with noncommunications-impaired persons.
- 13 3. The ~~vocational rehabilitation division~~ of the department of human services shall
14 furnish specialized telecommunications equipment to meet the needs of individuals
15 who are communications impaired and who might be otherwise disadvantaged in
16 their ability to obtain such equipment. The ~~vocational rehabilitation division~~
17 department shall determine eligibility and may provide the specialized
18 telecommunications equipment to individuals determined eligible within the limits of
19 funding made available to the ~~vocational rehabilitation division~~ department through
20 gifts and grants received under section 54-44.8-06 and from funding made
21 available by the information services division from the surcharge collected pursuant
22 to section 54-44.8-08, which are hereby appropriated.

23 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-44.8-06 of the 1997 Supplement to the North
24 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

1 **54-44.8-06. Gifts and grants.** The ~~vocational rehabilitation division~~ department of
2 human services may accept contributions and gifts and may apply for and accept grants, in
3 money or otherwise, to the program. Monetary contributions, gifts, and grants must be
4 deposited in the state treasury to be credited to the department of human services operating
5 account.