

SENATE BILL NO. 2207

Introduced by

Senators Fischer, Cook

Representatives D. Johnson, Weisz

1 A BILL for an Act to provide for assistance to parents in resolution of disputes in cases involving
2 custody and support of children; to provide for a report; to provide an appropriation; and to
3 provide an expiration date.

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

5 **SECTION 1. Dispute resolution - Custody and support of children.** In addition to
6 any other authority provided by law, the department of human services may provide assistance
7 to parents in amicably resolving issues pertaining to custody and support of a child in a way that
8 best serves the interests of the child and promotes a healthy relationship between the child and
9 each parent. The assistance may include pilot programs involving creation of a child support
10 obligor ombudsman program and improved access to legal resources by parents who do not
11 have an attorney. In carrying out this section, the department of human services may employ
12 staff, enter contracts with any public or private person, and incur expenses within the limits of
13 legislative appropriation. The department of human services may create a fee schedule for
14 services provided under this section and receive grants or donations from federal or private
15 sources. As authorized under chapter 28-32, the department may adopt rules to implement this
16 section.

17 **SECTION 2. DISPUTE RESOLUTION SERVICES TO CHILDREN - REPORT TO**
18 **SIXTY-FIRST LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.** The department of human services shall prepare
19 and present a report to the appropriations committees of the sixty-first legislative assembly on
20 the use of any funds appropriated under section 3 of this Act during the biennium beginning
21 July 1, 2007, and ending June 30, 2009.

22 **SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the
23 general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$150,000, or so much
24 of the sum as may be necessary, and any special funds derived from federal funds and other

1 income, to the department of human services for the purpose of implementing section 1 of this
2 Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2007, and ending June 30, 2009.

3 **SECTION 4. EXPIRATION DATE.** This Act is effective through July 31, 2009, and
4 after that date is ineffective.