

SENATE BILL NO. 2326

Introduced by

Senators Mathern, J. Lee

Representative Hofstad

1 A BILL for an Act to provide for a substance abuse services pilot voucher payment program; to
2 provide a continuing appropriation; and to provide for a report to the legislative management.

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

4 **SECTION 1. SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES PILOT VOUCHER PAYMENT PROGRAM -**

5 **CONTINUING APPROPRIATION.** The department of human services shall establish and
6 administer a pilot voucher payment program to provide substance abuse services for the
7 biennium beginning July 1, 2011, and ending June 30, 2013. The pilot voucher payment
8 program must consist of voucher use and provider choice as a method of providing substance
9 abuse services to beneficiaries. The program must allow a voucher to be submitted to the
10 beneficiary's provider of choice for payment of substance abuse services. The department of
11 human services shall develop service agreements with substance abuse service providers
12 licensed and accredited by the state to offer services in exchange for vouchers, which may be
13 presented to the department for payment as provided for in the agreement. The payment
14 amount may not exceed the cost of the same service provided by the state. The substance
15 abuse services pilot voucher payment program must be developed to improve access to
16 substance abuse services. The department of human services shall apply for funding available
17 through a federal access to recovery grant program available from the federal substance abuse
18 and mental health services administration center for substance abuse treatment. All moneys
19 received by the department through the federal access to recovery grant for the pilot voucher
20 payment program under this section are appropriated and may be spent by the department for
21 costs of the pilot voucher payment program for the biennium beginning July 1, 2011, and ending
22 June 30, 2013. The department of human services shall offer the substance abuse services
23 pilot voucher payment program in one human service region of the state as determined by the
24 department to provide services required by the access to recovery grant program. If no region

1 has available the services required by the access to recovery grant program, the department of
2 human services shall choose a region in which to develop the required services without
3 duplication to meet the access to recovery grant requirements. If the federal access to recovery
4 grant funding is not available to the department, the department is not required to implement the
5 pilot voucher payment program.

6 **SECTION 2. DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES REVIEW - REPORT TO THE**

7 **LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.** The department of human services shall perform a
8 comprehensive review of the substance abuse services pilot voucher payment program for the
9 biennium beginning July 1, 2011, and ending June 30, 2013. The review must include
10 information regarding the cost of substance abuse services provided through the pilot voucher
11 payment program compared to the cost of similar substance abuse services provided during the
12 2011-13 biennium. The review must also analyze the effect of the substance abuse services
13 pilot voucher payment program on access to care and outcomes.

14 The department of human services shall report the preliminary findings of the
15 comprehensive review and any recommendations for continuation or expansion of the pilot
16 voucher payment program to the legislative management prior to September 30, 2012.