Sixty-fourth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

BILL NO.

Introduced by

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Representative Kasper

- 1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 54-52.1-04 of the North Dakota Century Code,
- 2 relating to provider networks for the public employees uniform group insurance program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

- 4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-52.1-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:
- 6 54-52.1-04. Board to contract for insurance.
- 7 The board shall receive bids for the providing of hospital benefits coverage, medical 8 benefits coverage, life insurance benefits coverage for a specified term, and employee 9 assistance program services; may receive bids separately for prescription drug 10 coverage; and shall accept one or more bids of and contract with the carriers that in 11 the judgment of the board best serves the interests of the state and its eligible 12 employees. Solicitations must be made not later than ninety days before the expiration 13 of an existing uniform group insurance contract. Bids must be solicited by 14 advertisement in a manner selected by the board that will provide reasonable notice to 15 prospective bidders. In preparing bid proposals and evaluating bids, the board may 16 utilize the services of consultants on a contract basis in order that the bids received 17 may be uniformly compared and properly evaluated. In determining which bid, if any, 18 will best serve the interests of eligible employees and the state, the board shall give 19 adequate consideration to the following factors:
 - 1.a. The economy to be effected.
- 21 2.b. The ease of administration.
- 22 3.c. The adequacy of the coverages.
- 23 4.d. The financial position of the carrier, with special emphasis as to its solvency.

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- The reputation of the carrier and any other information that is available tending to show past experience with the carrier in matters of claim settlement, underwriting, and services.
 - 2. The board may reject any or all bids and, in the event it does so, shall again solicit bids as provided in this section. The board may establish a plan of self-insurance for providing health insurance benefits coverage only under an administrative services only (ASO) contract or a third-party administrator (TPA) contract.
 - 3. Regardless of whether the board chooses to self-insure, the board may develop a provider network by negotiating and contracting with health care providers and associations. A provider network developed under this subsection may only be used by the board, or an insurance company contracting with the board, to provide health insurance coverage pursuant to this chapter.