15.3027.01000

Sixty-fourth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

Introduced by

FIRST DRAFT:
Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for the
Health Services Committee
October 2014

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to study dental services in the 2 state, including the effectiveness of case management services and the feasibility of utilizing 3 mid-level providers to improve access to services and address dental service provider 4 shortages in underserved areas of the state. 5 WHEREAS, the 2013-14 interim Health Services Committee studied how to improve access 6 to dental services and ways to address dental service provider shortages; and 7 WHEREAS, dentists in rural areas of the state are often unable to generate sufficient 8 operating revenues to sustain a practice and oral health professionals are located mostly in 9 urban areas of the state, resulting in a shortage of providers in rural areas of the state; and 10 WHEREAS, access to dental care is limited for Medicaid-eligible children, rural residents, 11 low-income adults, the elderly, especially those in nursing homes, and Native Americans; and 12 WHEREAS, emergency room visits for preventable dental conditions result in unnecessary 13 costs; and 14 WHEREAS, the 2013-14 interim Health Services Committee learned case management 15 services may have the potential to reduce dental costs and improve access to services; and 16 WHEREAS, the 2013-14 interim Health Services Committee received a report on the early 17 impacts of dental therapists in Minnesota prepared by the Minnesota Department of Health and 18 Minnesota Board of Dentistry for the Minnesota Legislature in 2014 indicating mid-level 19 providers serve more patients enrolled in public health insurance programs and some patients 20 served in clinics employing dental therapists experienced reduced wait times and travel times 21 with no quality or safety concerns; and 22 WHEREAS, the 2013-14 interim Health Services Committee determined additional 23 information was needed regarding the effectiveness of case management services and the 24 feasibility of utilizing mid-level providers to improve access to services and address dental 25 service provider shortages in underserved areas of the state;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE **OF NORTH** 2 DAKOTA, THE **CONCURRING THEREIN:** 3 That the Legislative Management study dental services in the state, including the 4 effectiveness of case management services and the feasibility of utilizing mid-level providers to 5 improve access to services and address dental service provider shortages in underserved 6 areas of the state; and 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Management report its findings and 8 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to 9 the Sixty-fifth Legislative Assembly.