

Sixty-third
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2193

Introduced by

Senators Heckaman, Mathern, Nelson

Representatives Kiefert, Muscha, Oversen

1 A BILL for an Act to provide for the establishment of an autism spectrum disorder database and
2 an autism spectrum disorder voucher program; to provide for a department of human services
3 study and report to the legislative management; and to provide an appropriation.

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

5 **SECTION 1.**

6 **Autism spectrum disorder database - Rulemaking - Confidentiality.**

- 7 1. The state department of health shall establish and administer an autism spectrum
8 disorder database. The database must include a record of all reported cases of autism
9 spectrum disorder in the state and any other information determined relevant and
10 appropriate by the department in order to complete epidemiologic surveys of the
11 autism spectrum disorder, enable research and analysis of the autism spectrum
12 disorder, and provide services to individuals with an autism spectrum disorder.
- 13 2. The state department of health shall establish criteria regarding who is qualified to
14 report a case of autism spectrum disorder to the database. In establishing this criteria,
15 the department shall require that the reporter be a doctoral-level professional and be
16 appropriately licensed, credentialed, and experienced in the field of autism spectrum
17 disorder, including intellectual testing and other formal evidenced-based assessments
18 for autism spectrum disorders. The department shall consult with experts in
19 establishing this criteria.
- 20 3. The database established under this section must:
- 21 a. Include the reported individual's diagnoses under the American psychiatric
22 association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition;
23 and

1 b. Include a complete physical evaluation of the reported individual, performed by a
2 licensed physician.

3 4. The state health council shall adopt rules to provide for mandatory reporting to the
4 autism spectrum disorder database and to establish reporting requirements, including
5 timeliness requirements.

6 5. The state department of health shall keep confidential all records of the database
7 which could be used to identify a reported individual; however, the department may
8 provide these records to other state agencies as necessary to effect the purposes of
9 this database without regard to the confidential nature of the records. If the
10 department provides confidential records of the database to a state agency, the
11 department shall notify the receiving agency of the confidential nature of the records
12 and the receiving agency shall treat these records as confidential.

13 **SECTION 2.**

14 **Autism spectrum disorder voucher program - Appeal.**

15 1. The department of human services shall establish a voucher program to assist in
16 funding equipment and general educational needs related to autism spectrum disorder
17 for individuals under age twenty-two who have been diagnosed with autism spectrum
18 disorder. The program may include funding for assistive technology; video modeling
19 videos or equipment; language-generating devices; training and educational material
20 for parents; parenting education; sensory equipment; tutors; safety equipment; travel
21 tools; self-care equipment; timers; visual representation systems; language
22 comprehension equipment; and registration and related expenses for workshops and
23 training to improve independent living skills, employment opportunities, and other
24 executive or social skills. In determining the amount of a voucher for which an
25 applicant may be determined eligible under this section, the department shall consider
26 the applicant's level of functioning.

27 2. The department shall adopt rules addressing management of this voucher program
28 and establishing the eligibility requirements and exclusions for this voucher program.
29 The program may not provide a voucher for early intensive behavioral intervention,
30 including applied behavioral analysis, intensive early interventional behavioral therapy,
31 intensive behavioral intervention, the Lovaas method, the Denver model, LEAP

- 1 (learning experiences - an alternative program for preschoolers and parents).
2 TEACCH (treatment and education of autistic and related communication handicapped
3 children), pivotal response training, or discrete trial training.
4 3. A decision on a voucher application which is issued by the department under this
5 section may be appealed as provided under chapter 28-32.

6 **SECTION 3. DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER**
7 **STUDY AND REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.** During the 2013-14 interim, in
8 consultation with clinicians who have expertise in the evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment of
9 autism spectrum disorder, the department of human services shall study autism spectrum
10 disorder services, including the most feasible service delivery system for individuals not served
11 in the developmental disability system who have an autism spectrum disorder. Before August 1,
12 2014, the department of human services shall report to the legislative management the
13 outcome and recommendations of this study.

14 **SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - AUTISM**
15 **SPECTRUM DISORDER DATABASE.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general
16 fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$200,648, or so much of the
17 sum as may be necessary, to the state department of health for the purpose of establishing and
18 administering an autism spectrum disorder database, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2013,
19 and ending June 30, 2015. The state department of health is authorized one full-time equivalent
20 position for this purpose.

21 **SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES - STATE**
22 **AUTISM COORDINATOR.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the
23 state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$400,000, or so much of the sum as may
24 be necessary, to the department of human services for the purpose of hiring a state autism
25 coordinator who would be responsible for implementing a resource and service center to
26 provide information and services for individuals with autism spectrum disorder, developing a
27 statewide outreach plan, conducting regional meetings and an annual conference, and
28 developing a protocol for use after screenings, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2013, and
29 ending June 30, 2015. The department of human services is authorized one full-time equivalent
30 position for this purpose.

1 **SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES - STATEWIDE**
2 **AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER TRAINING EFFORT.** There is appropriated out of any
3 moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of
4 \$500,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of human services
5 for the purpose of implementing a statewide autism spectrum disorder training effort, including
6 physician training, regional training, school staff training, and parent training, for the biennium
7 beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2015.