

Introduced by

Representative Frelich

1 A BILL for an Act to provide for a legislative management study regarding accessibility of
2 government services for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have hearing differences.

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

4 **SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - ACCESSIBILITY OF**
5 **GOVERNMENT SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE DEAF, HARD OF HEARING, OR**
6 **HAVE HEARING DIFFERENCES.**

7 1. During the 2025-26 interim, the legislative management shall study the accessibility of
8 state and local services for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have hearing
9 differences. The study must:

- 10 a. Consider the requirements under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act
11 providing for state and local government entities to communicate effectively with
12 individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have hearing differences.
- 13 b. Consider challenges or barriers to effective communication for individuals who
14 are deaf, hard of hearing, or have hearing differences when communicating with,
15 including receiving information from and conveying information to, state and local
16 government entities, and identify strategies for improving communication.
- 17 c. Include input from the department of labor and human rights, department of
18 health and human services, employees of the school for the deaf, individuals who
19 are deaf, hard of hearing, or have hearing differences, information technology
20 professionals, American sign language interpreters, and family members of
21 individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have hearing differences.

22 2. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together
23 with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the seventieth
24 legislative assembly.