

FIRST ENGROSSMENT

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1425

Introduced by

Representatives Klemin, Hanson, Stemen

Senators Davison, Larson

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 11-16, a new chapter to title 12,
2 and two new sections to chapter 54-23.3 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to
3 prosecution-led diversion programs, deflection process, and supervision for presentence
4 programs; to provide for a legislative management study; and to provide for an appropriation.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 11-16 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
7 and enacted as follows:

8 **Prosecution-led diversion program.**

- 9 1. The state's attorney for each county may create and administer a prosecution-led
10 diversion program if, after due consideration of any crime victim's rights and subject to
11 approval from the court, the prosecuting attorney and the defendant agree to suspend
12 prosecution for a period of time after which the case will be dismissed under rule 32.2
13 of the North Dakota Rules of Criminal Procedure on condition that the defendant not
14 commit any new criminal offense during the period of the agreement.
15 2. Each county that establishes a prosecution-led diversion program shall establish
16 written guidelines for the program and minimum eligibility criteria.

17 **SECTION 2.** A new chapter to title 12 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and
18 enacted as follows:

19 **Definition.**

20 As used in this chapter, "deflection process" means a procedure for facilitating an
21 assessment, service or treatment in lieu of incarceration, criminal charges, or unnecessary
22 admissions to the emergency department when a peace officer or first responder is directed to

1 intervene with an individual with a behavioral health condition, including a substance use
2 disorder or mental health disorder, with or without the presence of criminal activity.

3 **Individual with a behavioral health condition - Assistance - Medical care.**

4 A peace officer, as defined under section 12-63-01, may transport or refer an individual to a
5 local hospital, detoxification center, community behavioral health center, or other appropriate
6 treatment facility. A tier 1b mental health professional, as defined under section 25-01-01, of a
7 local hospital may hold that individual for treatment up to seventy-two hours.

8 **Deflection process - Regional authority and planning.**

9 1. A local government, law enforcement agency, or other first responder agency may
10 establish a deflection process in partnership with one or more licensed providers of
11 behavioral health services or substance use disorder treatment services, subject to the
12 provisions of this section. A deflection process must include participation from a law
13 enforcement agency and behavioral health service provider.

14 2. A deflection process must include procedures for:

15 a. The identification, screening, and assessment of its participants;

16 b. Case management and treatment facilitation;

17 c. Participant followups;

18 d. Law enforcement, first responder, and treatment provider training;

19 e. The collection and evaluation of data for:

20 (1) Demographics of program participants;

21 (2) The number of law enforcement interactions that result in a treatment
22 referral; and

23 (3) The time between initial law enforcement interaction and treatment service;
24 and

25 3. A deflection process must include a performance management system with key
26 performance indicators. Key performance indicators may include the:

27 a. Rate of treatment engagement within thirty days of initial contact;

28 b. Duration of treatment involvement; and

29 c. Number of subsequent law enforcement interactions for individuals referred to
30 treatment.

1 **Exemption from civil liability.**

2 A local government agency, law enforcement agency, peace officer, first responder, or
3 employee of the agency, a behavioral health provider, or a public or private entity acting in good
4 faith, is not liable for civil damages as a result of an act or omission in providing services under
5 this section, unless the act or omission constitutes willful and wanton misconduct.

6 **SECTION 3.** A new section to chapter 54-23.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
7 and enacted as follows:

8 **Supervision for presentence programs.**

9 The department of corrections and rehabilitation has the authority to supervise a defendant
10 while the defendant is participating in a prosecution-led, or pretrial diversion program under
11 section 1 of this Act or rule 32.2 of the North Dakota Rules of Criminal Procedure, or any other
12 pretrial services program.

13 **SECTION 4.** A new section to chapter 54-23.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
14 and enacted as follows:

15 **Prosecution-led diversion supervision pilot program - Report.**

- 16 1. The department of corrections and rehabilitation shall establish a prosecution-led
17 diversion supervision program as a pilot project in three counties in the state during
18 the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.
- 19 2. Beginning July 1, 2025, the department shall collaborate with the department of health
20 and human services, North Dakota association of counties, county state's attorneys,
21 the commission on legal counsel for indigent defense, county and regional correctional
22 facilities, and public and private treatment providers to develop guidelines and
23 procedures for the administration of the prosecution-led diversion supervision
24 program.
- 25 3. The department of corrections and rehabilitation shall select three counties for a pilot
26 project and enter contracts with third-party providers in partnership with the pilot
27 counties to provide supervision, including monitoring and connection to services.
- 28 4. The department of corrections and rehabilitation shall implement the program no later
29 than July 1, 2026.

1 5. Before June 30, 2027, the department, in collaboration with the three pilot counties,
2 shall report to legislative management regarding the process and outcome of the
3 prosecution-led diversion program and any recommendations for future legislation.

4 **SECTION 5. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - PRETRIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS.**

5 During the 2025-26 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying costs and
6 savings associated with pretrial service programs operating in the state and opportunities to
7 reinvest savings to improve re-entry outcomes. The study must include the effect of pretrial
8 services on admissions to county jail, detention facilities, medical costs of participants, rate of
9 failure to appear in court, rate of recidivism, and rate of participation in treatment programs. The
10 study must identify opportunities for counties, courts, and state agencies to invest cost-savings
11 associated with pretrial services in programs, treatment, and services that will further reduce
12 recidivism and promote public health. The legislative management shall report its findings and
13 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to
14 the seventieth legislative assembly.

15 **SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND**
16 **REHABILITATION - PROSECUTION-LED DIVERSION SUPERVISION PILOT PROGRAM -**
17 **FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS - ONE-TIME FUNDING.**

18 There is appropriated out of
19 any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of
20 \$1,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of corrections and
21 rehabilitation, for the purpose of hiring one full-time equivalent position and contracting with
22 third-party providers for a prosecution-led diversion supervision pilot program, for the biennium
23 beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The personnel hired pursuant to this section
24 must prioritize the prosecution-led diversion supervision pilot program. The funding provided
25 under this section is considered a one-time funding item.

26 **SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND**
27 **REHABILITATION - PRETRIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS COST-SAVINGS STUDY - ONE-TIME**
28 **FUNDING.**

29 There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury,
30 not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$55,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to
the department of corrections and rehabilitation, for the purpose of contracting for consulting
services for the study provided in section 5 of this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025,

1 and ending June 30, 2027. The funding provided under this section is considered a one-time
2 funding item.

3 **SECTION 8. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES -**
4 **PROSECUTION-LED DIVERSION TREATMENT SERVICES - ONE-TIME FUNDING.** There is
5 appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise
6 appropriated, the sum of \$750,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the
7 department of health and human services, for the purpose of providing treatment services for
8 participants in the prosecution-led diversion program, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025,
9 and ending June 30, 2027. The funding provided under this section is considered a one-time
10 funding item.