

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

**ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2357**

Introduced by

Senators Roers, Axtman, Wobbema

Representatives Richter, Louser, O'Brien

1 A BILL for an Act to provide for a legislative management study regarding the feasibility,  
2 benefits, and challenges of creating a composite mental health licensing board.

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

4 **SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - CREATION OF A COMPOSITE**  
5 **MENTAL HEALTH LICENSING BOARD.**

6 1. During the 2025-26 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying the  
7 feasibility, benefits, and challenges of creating a composite mental health licensing  
8 board. The study must include:

9 a. An evaluation of the impact of the creation of a composite mental health licensing  
10 board to oversee the licensing, regulation, and disciplinary procedures for  
11 psychologists, social workers, addiction counselors, professional counselors, and  
12 marriage and family therapists;

13 b. A consideration of the addition of peer support certification and participation in  
14 the composite mental health licensing board;

15 c. An analysis of the regulatory efficiencies that would result from the consolidation  
16 of multiple independent licensing boards into a single entity;

17 d. A consideration of the fiscal impact that would result from the creation of a  
18 composite mental health licensing board, including administrative consolidation,  
19 fee structures, and operational efficiencies;

20 e. An analysis of the effects of the creation of a composite mental health licensing  
21 board on licensing requirements, professional standards, and the disciplinary  
22 processes, including the maintenance and improvement of current oversight;

- 1           f. A consideration of the perspectives of affected professionals, board members,  
2           industry associations, and the public regarding the creation of a composite  
3           mental health licensing board;
- 4           g. A consideration of the influence of a composite mental health licensing board on  
5           the state's participation in professional licensure compacts, multistate practice  
6           agreements, and workforce mobility;
- 7           h. A consideration of the impact of a composite mental health licensing board on the  
8           availability of qualified mental health professionals and public access to mental  
9           health care; and
- 10          i. A review of best practices from other states that have created similar composite  
11          licensing boards.
- 12          2. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations together  
13          with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the seventieth  
14          legislative assembly.