

**SENATE BILL NO. 2388**

Introduced by

Senators C. Nelson, LaFountain, O'Connell

Representatives Gulleeson, Oban

1 A BILL for an Act to provide for a statewide strategic plan to address domestic violence through  
2 coordination of resources and efforts, education of the public, domestic violence stakeholders,  
3 children and youth and professionals, and development of preventative solutions to domestic  
4 violence.

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

6 **SECTION 1. Purpose.** The legislative assembly finds that North Dakota residents can  
7 work and live in a nurturing environment in which each child and adult is treated with respect  
8 and kindness, and each citizen will take responsibility for the quality of life and the reduction of  
9 domestic violence in North Dakota.

10 **SECTION 2. Cooperation on domestic violence effort required.** To achieve  
11 significant reductions in the level of domestic violence in this state, all state and local entities in  
12 this state must create a safer, more supportive environment for victims. All state and local  
13 entities shall:

- 14 1. Coordinate their domestic violence efforts;
- 15 2. Engage in cooperative efforts at education and training regarding domestic  
16 violence;
- 17 3. Engage in the performance of meaningful and effective consequences for domestic  
18 violence offenders;
- 19 4. Effectively and efficiently use existing domestic violence resources and develop  
20 new resources;
- 21 5. Place special emphasis on prevention of domestic violence; and
- 22 6. Emphasize the impact of domestic violence on children.

23 **SECTION 3. State domestic violence committee.** The governor, chief justice of the  
24 supreme court, and the attorney general shall establish and appoint a statewide domestic

1 violence committee by January 1, 1998. The committee must be appointed after consultation  
2 among the governor, the chief justice, the attorney general and the council on abused women's  
3 services. Membership of the committee must include one representative from each of the  
4 following categories: a member of the council for abused women's services, a state judge, a  
5 care provider, a cleric, an early childhood professional, a prosecutor, a member of law  
6 enforcement, a defense attorney, a tribal judge, a children's protective services worker, a victim,  
7 a victim witness advocate, an educator, a member of city or county government, two members  
8 of the legislative assembly, a parole or probation officer, an emergency room physician, and a  
9 public health professional. Membership of the committee, including tribal representatives, must  
10 be balanced between urban and rural residents. The terms of each appointee are for a  
11 two-year period, however one-half of the initial membership, chosen by lot, must serve a  
12 one-year term.

13 **SECTION 4. Duties of state domestic violence committee.** The state domestic  
14 violence committee shall:

- 15 1. Promote coordination and communication;
- 16 2. Develop protocols for domestic violence intervention;
- 17 3. Encourage uniformity when appropriate;
- 18 4. Approve a statewide plan for training and education;
- 19 5. Promote the imposition of appropriate consequences on offenders by the criminal  
20 justice system; and
- 21 6. Engage in and encourage other efforts so that incidents of domestic violence in this  
22 state will be reduced.

23 **SECTION 5. Committee staff.** Upon request of the committee the office of attorney  
24 general shall make staff available to provide clerical, research, and other administrative  
25 support.

26 **SECTION 6. Coordination and communication by the committee.** The committee  
27 shall:

- 28 1. Encourage communication and coordination among all service providers by:
  - 29 a. Defining common concerns and solutions of the stakeholders including  
30 members of the:
    - 31 (1) Criminal justice system;

- 1 (2) Human services agencies;
- 2 (3) Private nonprofit treatment and service providers; and
- 3 (4) Educational institutions.
- 4 b. Educating members regarding each stakeholder's respective role, needs, and
- 5 goals.
- 6 c. Providing model community coordination strategies to assist in development
- 7 of local strategies and create incentives to develop local task forces.
- 8 d. Identifying gaps in service delivery throughout this state, including the
- 9 reservations, and recommending methods to provide services to those victims
- 10 who are outside service areas.
- 11 e. Identifying areas for appropriate uniformity, and, once identified, establishing
- 12 model protocol and policies to serve as a minimum standard in each
- 13 stakeholder's discipline.

14 **SECTION 7. Education.**

- 15 1. By March 1, 1998, the committee shall appoint a training and education
- 16 subcommittee. The subcommittee shall develop a consistent, integrated, and
- 17 coordinated multidisciplinary education and training plan to provide:
  - 18 a. Education to the public on domestic violence recognition, prevention, and
  - 19 consequences;
  - 20 b. Prevention education to children and youth; and
  - 21 c. Professional training for stakeholders.
- 22 2. The subcommittee's plan for community education must include steps to:
  - 23 a. Investigate the availability of resources or create alliances to develop a media
  - 24 campaign, including distribution of pamphlets and educational material of all
  - 25 media, with the goal of educating the general public about domestic violence
  - 26 and assistance available in the local areas; and
  - 27 b. Work with local task forces and local domestic violence programs to identify
  - 28 community organizations or groups to assist in community education.
  - 29 Examples of the groups include parent associations, medical alliance, junior
  - 30 league, American association of university women, league of women voters,

- 1 extension service, churches and ministerial associations, youth groups, senior  
2 organizations, headstart, and women, infants and children offices.
- 3 3. When addressing professional training needs the subcommittee shall:
- 4 a. Gather information on the current training efforts, including training standards  
5 and requirements;
- 6 b. Assess the need for improvement, enhancements, and more efficient  
7 coordination of current training and need for additional training;
- 8 c. Develop a list of speakers and training resources;
- 9 d. Identify state and local associations and institutions that can provide  
10 educational programming for the broad range of professionals who serve  
11 domestic violence victims;
- 12 e. Support minimum training standards where needed; and
- 13 f. Track and evaluate the success of the training efforts.

14 **SECTION 8. Prevention.**

- 15 1. The committee shall emphasize prevention-related activities and explore  
16 intervention and prevention strategies and treatment services for children who are  
17 victims or witnesses of domestic violence. The personnel provided by the office of  
18 the attorney general to staff the committee shall research and report on prevention  
19 strategies that are being used in other states and current North Dakota efforts by  
20 March 31, 1998.
- 21 2. At the direction of the committee, but not later than November 3, 1998, the staff  
22 person, working with other appropriate professional groups and the department of  
23 public instruction, shall coordinate and distribute in all grades kindergarten through  
24 twelve in this state's public school system educational activities aimed at  
25 prevention of domestic violence.
- 26 3. By October 27, 1998, the committee, in conjunction with the state department of  
27 health, state tribal agencies, regional children's services coordinating committees,  
28 the coalition against sexual assault in North Dakota, and the department of human  
29 services, shall develop a five-year plan to improve treatment services to affected  
30 children.

1           **SECTION 9. Cooperation.** All persons, state and local government entities, and  
2 private organizations, including partnerships and associations authorized to do business in this  
3 state, must cooperate with the committee to provide information and support in the committee's  
4 effort. This section does not require any private person or entity to provide services without  
5 reimbursement.