

**Sixty-first-Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 6, 2009**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1573
(Representatives Hofstad, D. Johnson, Potter, Weisz)
(Senators J. Lee, Oehlke)

AN ACT to provide for a legislative council study of voucher use and provider choice for clients in human services and other programs and for funding of human services and other state programs.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STUDY - VOUCHER USE AND PROVIDER CHOICE.

During the 2009-10 interim, the legislative council shall consider conducting a comprehensive study of voucher use and provider choice for clients in various human services and other state programs, including programs related to mental health services, addiction treatment, counseling services, transition services, various home services, and other special services. The study must explore the extent to which vouchers are currently used in federal and state human service programs and other programs, how voucher systems are implemented, and the advantages and challenges posed by the use of vouchers as a mechanism for expanding service options and maximizing client choices. The study also must include a comprehensive review of funding for human services and other state programs, focusing on the feasibility of improving access to care and providers for clients through the use of a voucher system, including programs related to mental health services, addiction treatment, counseling services, and transition services. The legislative council shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-second legislative assembly.