

**Sixty-second Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 4, 2011**

SENATE BILL NO. 2326
(Senators Mathern, J. Lee)
(Representative Hofstad)

AN ACT to provide for a substance abuse services pilot voucher payment program; to provide a continuing appropriation; and to provide for a report to the legislative management.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES PILOT VOUCHER PAYMENT PROGRAM - CONTINUING APPROPRIATION. The department of human services shall establish and administer a pilot voucher payment program to provide substance abuse services for the biennium beginning July 1, 2011, and ending June 30, 2013. The pilot voucher payment program must consist of voucher use and provider choice as a method of providing substance abuse services to beneficiaries. The program must allow a voucher to be submitted to the beneficiary's provider of choice for payment of substance abuse services. The department of human services shall develop service agreements with substance abuse service providers licensed and accredited by the state to offer services in exchange for vouchers, which may be presented to the department for payment as provided for in the agreement. The payment amount may not exceed the cost of the same service provided by the state. The substance abuse services pilot voucher payment program must be developed to improve access to substance abuse services. The department of human services shall apply for funding available through a federal access to recovery grant program available from the federal substance abuse and mental health services administration center for substance abuse treatment. All moneys received by the department through the federal access to recovery grant for the pilot voucher payment program under this section are appropriated and may be spent by the department for costs of the pilot voucher payment program for the biennium beginning July 1, 2011, and ending June 30, 2013. The department of human services shall offer the substance abuse services pilot voucher payment program required by the access to recovery grant program. If no region has available the services required by the access to recovery grant program, the department of human services shall choose a region or regions in which to develop the required services without duplication to meet the access to recovery grant requirements. If the federal access to recovery grant funding is not available to the department, the department is not required to implement the pilot voucher payment program.

SECTION 2. DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES REVIEW - REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT. The department of human services shall perform a comprehensive review of the substance abuse services pilot voucher payment program for the biennium beginning July 1, 2011, and ending June 30, 2013. The review must include information regarding the cost of substance abuse services provided through the pilot voucher payment program compared to the cost of similar substance abuse services provided during the 2011-13 biennium. The review must also analyze the effect of the substance abuse services pilot voucher payment program on access to care and outcomes.

The department of human services shall report the preliminary findings of the comprehensive review and any recommendations for continuation or expansion of the pilot voucher payment program to the legislative management prior to September 30, 2012.