

Introduced by

Legislative Management

(Human Services Committee)

1 A BILL for an Act to provide for the establishment of a voucher system for autism spectrum
2 disorder services and support; and to provide an appropriation.

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

4 **SECTION 1.**

5 **Voucher system for autism spectrum disorder services and support.**

6 The department of human services shall develop a voucher system for autism spectrum
7 disorder services and support.

8 1. The department shall implement a voucher program for individuals with an autism
9 spectrum disorder consisting of up to one hundred individuals up to age twenty-six and
10 up to fifty individuals aged twenty-six and older.

11 2. To be eligible for the voucher program, individuals must have been a resident of the
12 state for a minimum of six months, have income levels that do not exceed three
13 hundred percent of the federal poverty level, and have a clinician's diagnosis of
14 autism, Asperger's syndrome, or pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise
15 specified.

16 3. Eligible services for individuals up to age twenty-six include assessments, medical
17 care, mental health services, occupational therapy and equipment, speech and
18 language services, assistive technology, case management, transportation,
19 educational supports, respite care, executive and social skills training programs, and
20 development and implementation of behavioral intervention plans.

21 4. Eligible services for individuals aged twenty-six and older include assessments,
22 medical care, mental health services, occupational therapy and equipment,
23 educational and employment services, housing, transportation, medical care, and
24 independent living services.

1 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general
2 fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$4,500,000, or so much of the
3 sum as may be necessary, to the department of human services for the purpose of
4 administering a voucher system for autism spectrum disorder services and support, for the
5 biennium beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2015. The department shall allocate up
6 to \$30,000 per year to each individual enrolled in the voucher program for paying costs of
7 eligible services.