

**SECOND ENGROSSMENT  
with House Amendments  
REENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2048**

Introduced by

Legislative Management

(Human Services Committee)

1 A BILL for an Act to provide appropriations to the department of human services for improving  
2 behavioral health services and for substance abuse treatment services; to provide for reports to  
3 the legislative management; and to provide for legislative management studies.

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

5 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES - BEHAVIORAL**  
6 **HEALTH ACTIVITIES FACILITATOR.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general  
7 fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$166,092, or so much of the  
8 sum as may be necessary, to the department of human services for the purpose of hiring one  
9 full-time equivalent employee to facilitate the behavioral health activities required of the  
10 department of human services, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015, and ending June 30,  
11 2017. The department of human services shall develop criteria for a youth mental health  
12 assessment network and develop protocols for the discharge or release of individuals with  
13 behavioral health issues under this section.

14 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES - REPORT TO**  
15 **THE LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general  
16 fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$1,000,000, or so much of the  
17 sum as may be necessary, to the department of human services for the purpose of establishing  
18 and administering a voucher system to address underserved areas and gaps in the state's  
19 substance abuse treatment system, and to assist in the payment of addiction treatment services  
20 provided by private licensed substance abuse treatment programs, for the period beginning  
21 July 1, 2016, and ending June 30, 2017. Services eligible for the voucher program include only  
22 those levels of care recognized as effective by the American society of addiction medicine, with  
23 particular emphasis given to underserved areas and programs focusing on youth services. The  
24 department of human services shall ensure that a private licensed substance abuse treatment

1 program accepting vouchers under this Act collects and reports process and outcome  
2 measures. The department of human services shall develop requirements and provide training  
3 and technical assistance to a private licensed substance abuse treatment program accepting  
4 vouchers under this Act. A private licensed substance abuse treatment program accepting  
5 vouchers under this Act shall provide evidence-based services. Before July 1, 2016, the  
6 department of human services shall provide a report to the legislative management regarding  
7 the rules adopted to establish and administer the voucher system to assist in the payment of  
8 addiction treatment services provided by private licensed substance abuse treatment programs.

9 **SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES - HEALTHY**

10 **FAMILIES HOME VISITATION PROGRAM.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the  
11 general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$750,000, or so much  
12 of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of human services for the purpose of  
13 expanding the healthy families home visitation program to an additional two human service  
14 regions, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015, and ending June 30, 2017. The department of  
15 human services, in collaboration with the provider, shall determine the regions for expansion.  
16 The requirements of chapter 54-44.4 do not apply under this section.

17 **SECTION 4. ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES -**  
18 **INCORPORATION IN TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE**  
19 **MANAGEMENT.**

- 20 1. During the 2015-16 interim, the state board of higher education shall convene an  
21 advisory committee to address the desirability and feasibility of increasing the  
22 exposure of students enrolled in teacher preparation programs to the variety of mental  
23 and behavioral health issues that the students are likely to encounter upon  
24 commencement of their professional teaching careers.
- 25 2. The membership of the advisory committee must be determined by a majority of the  
26 following:
- 27 a. The commissioner of higher education;
  - 28 b. The superintendent of public instruction;
  - 29 c. The director of the department of human services;
  - 30 d. The director of the state department of health;
  - 31 e. A representative of the education standards and practices board;

- 1           f. A member of the house of representatives, appointed by the legislative  
2           management; and
- 3           g. A member of the senate, appointed by the legislative management.
- 4        3. The membership of the advisory committee must be geographically balanced and  
5        include:
- 6           a. Representatives of public and private teacher education programs in the state;  
7           b. Providers of behavioral health services to children under the age of eighteen;  
8           c. Providers of mental health services to children under the age of eighteen;  
9           d. Representatives of mental health advocacy organizations;  
10          e. Representatives of the juvenile court;  
11          f. Representatives of law enforcement; and  
12          g. Representatives of Indian tribes in this state.
- 13        4. The committee shall meet as necessary to achieve the objective set forth in  
14        subsection 1 and shall present a report before September 1, 2016, to a committee  
15        designated by the legislative management.

16        **SECTION 5. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - ADULT MENTAL HEALTH**

17        **ASSESSMENT NETWORK.** During the 2015-16 interim, the legislative management shall  
18        consider studying mental health assessment networks for adults. The study must identify the  
19        populations that may benefit from an adult mental health assessment network, the challenges  
20        and any deficiencies that may exist, and alternative assessment delivery frameworks, and must  
21        provide details of how assessment networks may be integrated into the existing mental health  
22        delivery system. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations,  
23        together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-fifth  
24        legislative assembly.

25        **SECTION 6. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS OF**

26        **YOUTH AND ADULTS.** During the 2015-16 interim, the legislative management shall consider  
27        studying behavioral health needs. The study must include consideration of behavioral health  
28        needs of youth and adults and access, availability, and delivery of services. The study must  
29        include input from stakeholders, including representatives of law enforcement, social and  
30        clinical service providers, education, medical providers, mental health advocacy organizations,  
31        emergency medical service providers, juvenile court, tribal government, and state and local

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1 agencies and institutions. The study must also address the development of a grant program for  
2 mental health first-aid training for teachers and nonlicensed school staff, the monitoring and  
3 reviewing of strategies to improve behavioral health services implemented pursuant to  
4 legislation enacted by the sixty-fourth legislative assembly and other behavioral health-related  
5 recommendations presented to the 2013-14 interim human services committee. The legislative  
6 management shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation  
7 required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-fifth legislative assembly.