

Introduced by

Senators Mathern, J. Lee

1 A BILL for an Act to direct the department of human services to seek federal medical assistance  
2 coverage for tribal community health representative services; to provide for a legislative  
3 management study; to provide for a report; and to provide an effective date.

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

5 **SECTION 1. MEDICAL ASSISTANCE COVERAGE - TRIBAL COMMUNITY HEALTH**

6 **REPRESENTATIVE SERVICES.** The department of human services shall seek federal medical  
7 assistance coverage for tribal community health representative services if the representative  
8 provides for the coordination of care and education services and if the services are provided  
9 under the supervision of a physician, a physician's assistant, a registered nurse, an advanced  
10 practice registered nurse, a behavioral health professional, an optometrist, or a dentist for the  
11 period beginning with the effective date of this Act and ending June 30, 2017.

12 **SECTION 2. REPORT.** The department of human services shall provide a report to the  
13 sixty-fifth legislative assembly on the medicaid enrollment by community health representatives  
14 and on medicaid service utilization of clients receiving services from tribal community health  
15 representatives. The department of human services shall compare medicaid service utilization  
16 before and after the medicaid enrollment of community health representatives.

17 **SECTION 3. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY.** During the 2015-16 interim, the  
18 legislative management shall consider studying the feasibility and desirability of implementing a  
19 community health worker-community health representative program to assist with optimizing  
20 individual and family health and dental outcomes through services which include informal and  
21 motivational counseling and education; interventions to maximize social support; participation in  
22 care coordination; participation in case management; facilitation of access to health care, dental  
23 care, and social services; and health and dental screenings. The study must consider the  
24 requirements for licensing or certifying community health workers including education,

1 experience, and training requirements and review the availability of medical assistance  
2 coverage for services provided by community health workers. The legislative management shall  
3 report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the  
4 recommendations, to the sixty-fifth legislative assembly.

5 **SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.** Sections 1 and 2 of this Act become effective on July 1,  
6 2016, or on approval from the centers for medicare and medicaid services for the department of  
7 human services to secure one hundred percent federal funding of the medicaid costs for the  
8 services of the community health representative, whichever occurs later.