

Sixty-sixth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

SENATE BILL NO. 2026

Introduced by

Legislative Management

(Health Services Committee)

1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of human services for improving
2 mental health services; and to provide for a report.

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

4 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES - REPORT TO**

5 **THE LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general

6 fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$1,050,000, or so much of the
7 sum as may be necessary, to the department of human services for the purpose of establishing

8 and administering a voucher ~~system~~program by July 1, 2020, to address ~~underserved areas-~~
9 ~~and~~ gaps in the state's unified mental health delivery system pursuant to section 50-06-01.7 and

10 to assist in the payment of mental health services provided by ~~private~~ mental health providers,
11 excluding human service centers, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019, and ending June 30,

12 2021. The department may spend up to \$300,000 of the appropriation and is authorized one

13 full-time equivalent position for administering the voucher system. ~~Services~~Clinical services

14 eligible for the voucher program include only those ~~levels of care~~ for mental disorders

15 recognized by the "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders", American psychiatric

16 association, fifth edition, text revision (2017) ~~with particular emphasis given to underserved-~~

17 ~~areas and programs~~. The department of human services shall ensure that a ~~private~~ provider

18 accepting vouchers under this Act collects and reports process and outcome measures. The

19 department of human services shall ensure vouchers under this Act are only used for

20 individuals who are between seventeen and twenty-five years of age with serious emotional

21 disturbance or serious mental illness. The department of human services shall develop

22 requirements and provide training and technical assistance to a private provider accepting

23 vouchers under this Act. A private mental health provider accepting vouchers under this Act

24 shall provide evidence-based services. Before July 1, 2020, the department of human services

- 1 shall provide a report to the legislative management regarding the rules adopted to establish
- 2 and administer the voucher system to assist in the payment of mental health services provided
- 3 by ~~private~~ mental health providers.