

March 19, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO FIRST ENGROSSMENT

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2176

Introduced by

Senators Axtman, Hogan

Representatives O'Brien, Pyle

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-07 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to the children's cabinet and designated working groups; to repeal
3 section 50-06-43.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the children's cabinet; and to
4 provide for a legislative management report; ~~and to provide an appropriation.~~

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

6 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 54-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
7 and enacted as follows:

8 **Children's cabinet - Membership - Duties - Working groups - Report.**

- 9 1. The children's cabinet is created to assess, guide, and coordinate the care for children
10 and families across the state's branches of government and the tribal nations.
- 11 2. The children's cabinet is composed of:
- 12 a. The governor, or the governor's designee;
- 13 b. The chief justice of the supreme court, or the chief justice's designee;
- 14 c. Two members of the house of representatives, appointed by the majority leader
15 of the house of representatives to serve two-year terms;
- 16 d. Two members of the senate, appointed by the majority leader of the senate to
17 serve two-year terms;
- 18 e. The superintendent of public instruction, or the superintendent's designee;
- 19 f. The director of the committee on protection and advocacy, or the director's
20 designee;

g. The commissioner of the department of health and human services, or the commissioner's designee;

h. A representative of the tribal nations in the state, who is appointed by the governor; and

i. Five individuals, appointed by the governor to serve a term of two years at the pleasure of the governor, consisting of:

(1) A local school representative;

(2) A local special education representative;

(3) A human service zone director;

(4) A representative of a private agency that provides direct services to vulnerable children; and

(5) A parent.

3. The governor, in collaboration with the chairman of the legislative management, shall appoint as the presiding officer of the children's cabinet a member of the governor's cabinet or a legislator serving on the children's cabinet. The children's cabinet shall select one of its members to serve as the vice-presiding officer.

4. The children's cabinet shall meet at least quarterly. Additional meetings may be held at the discretion of the presiding officer.

5. The children's cabinet shall:

a. Coordinate broad-based leadership across programs, agencies, branches of government, and tribal nations to meet the needs of children and families;

b. Develop strategies to address gaps or needs regarding early care and education, medical and behavioral health, community, child welfare, and juvenile justice;

c. Develop strategies to provide for the full continuum of care in the delivery of services, including promotion, prevention, early identification and intervention, service delivery, and recovery;

d. Seek to engage cooperation across public and private service providers;

e. Provide a comprehensive vision for how and where children are best served, attending to children and families in a respectful and relevant manner;

f. Seek strategies to provide services to children without consideration of prior engagement with juvenile services;

- 1 g. Provide for the active participation of consumers and providers statewide on
- 2 advisory committees;
- 3 h. Receive information and recommendations from the department of health and
- 4 human services, department of corrections and rehabilitation, and other state
- 5 agencies;
- 6 i. Establish and oversee designated working groups to develop policies impacting
- 7 children and families; and
- 8 j. Provide an annual report to the legislative management and governor regarding
- 9 the activities and findings of:
- 10 (1) The children's cabinet; and
- 11 (2) Other designated working groups on children and family issues.
- 12 6. The office of the governor shall provide staffing and administrative services for the
- 13 children's cabinet and coordinate with other designated working groups on children
- 14 and family issues.
- 15 7. a. The presiding officer of the children's cabinet may designate working groups and
- 16 appoint or remove liaisons to serve on the working groups.
- 17 b. A member of the children's cabinet or working group who is not a state employee
- 18 is entitled to reimbursement for mileage and expenses as provided by law for
- 19 state officers and employees, to be paid by the office of the governor.
- 20 c. A state employee who is a member of the children's cabinet or working group is
- 21 entitled to receive that employee's regular salary and is entitled to reimbursement
- 22 for mileage and expenses to be paid by the employing agency.
- 23 d. A member of the children's cabinet or working group who is a member of the
- 24 legislative assembly is entitled to receive per diem compensation at the rate
- 25 provided under section 54-35-10 for each day performing official duties of the
- 26 children's cabinet or working group. The legislative council shall pay the per diem
- 27 compensation and reimbursement for travel and such expenses as provided by
- 28 law for any member of the children's cabinet or working group who is a member
- 29 of the legislative assembly.

30 **SECTION 2. REPEAL.** Section 50-06-43.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is repealed.

- 1 **~~SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION -- OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR -- CHILDREN'S CABINET.~~**
- 2 ~~There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise~~
- 3 ~~appropriated, the sum of \$220,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the office of~~
- 4 ~~the governor, for the purpose of administering the children's cabinet and coordinating~~
- 5 ~~designated working groups, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.~~