

FIRST ENGROSSMENT

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2357

Introduced by

Senators Roers, Axtman, Wobbema

Representatives Richter, Louser, O'Brien

- 1 A BILL for an Act to provide for a legislative management study regarding the feasibility,
2 benefits, and challenges of creating a composite mental health licensing board.

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

4 **SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - CREATION OF A COMPOSITE**
5 **MENTAL HEALTH LICENSING BOARD.**

- 6 1. During the 2025-26 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying the
7 feasibility, benefits, and challenges of creating a composite mental health licensing
8 board. The study must include:
- 9 a. An evaluation of the impact of the creation of a composite mental health licensing
10 board to oversee the licensing, regulation, and disciplinary procedures for
11 psychologists, social workers, addiction counselors, professional counselors, and
12 marriage and family therapists;
- 13 b. A consideration of the addition of peer support certification and participation in
14 the composite mental health licensing board;
- 15 c. An analysis of the regulatory efficiencies that would result from the consolidation
16 of multiple independent licensing boards into a single entity;
- 17 d. A consideration of the fiscal impact that would result from the creation of a
18 composite mental health licensing board, including administrative consolidation,
19 fee structures, and operational efficiencies;
- 20 e. An analysis of the effects of the creation of a composite mental health licensing
21 board on licensing requirements, professional standards, and the disciplinary
22 processes, including the maintenance and improvement of current oversight;

- 1 f. A consideration of the perspectives of affected professionals, board members,
2 industry associations, and the public regarding the creation of a composite
3 mental health licensing board;
- 4 g. A consideration of the influence of a composite mental health licensing board on
5 the state's participation in professional licensure compacts, multistate practice
6 agreements, and workforce mobility;
- 7 h. A consideration of the impact of a composite mental health licensing board on the
8 availability of qualified mental health professionals and public access to mental
9 health care; and
- 10 i. A review of best practices from other states that have created similar composite
11 licensing boards.
- 12 2. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations together
13 with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the seventieth
14 legislative assembly.