

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 by July 1, 2020, to address underserved areas and gaps in

9 the state's unified mental health delivery system pursuant to section 50-06-01.7 and to assist in

10 the payment of mental health services provided by private mental health providers, for the

11 biennium beginning July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2021. The department may spend up to

12 \$300,000 of the appropriation and is authorized one full-time equivalent position for

13 administering the voucher system. Services eligible for the voucher program include only those

14 levels of care for mental disorders recognized by the "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of

15 Mental Disorders", American psychiatric association, fifth edition, text revision (2017) with

16 particular emphasis given to underserved areas and programs. The department of human

17 services shall ensure that a private provider accepting vouchers under this Act collects and

18 reports process and outcome measures. The department of human services shall develop

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

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

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

22 shall provide a report to the legislative management regarding the rules adopted to establish

23 and administer the voucher system to assist in the payment of mental health services provided

24 by private mental health providers.