

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT
with Conference Committee Amendments**

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2327

Introduced by

Senator W. Stenehjem

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new subsection to section 30.1-28-03 and a new
2 subsection to section 30.1-28-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to authority of
3 guardians to make health care decisions and compensation for services in guardianship
4 proceedings; and to amend and reenact subsection 2 of section 30.1-28-04 of the North Dakota
5 Century Code, relating to authority of guardians to make health care decisions.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** A new subsection to section 30.1-28-03 of the North Dakota Century
8 Code is created and enacted as follows:

9 If the court approves a visitor, lawyer, physician, guardian, or temporary guardian
10 appointed in a guardianship proceeding, that person may receive reasonable
11 compensation from the ward's estate if the compensation will not unreasonably
12 jeopardize the ward's well-being.

13 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 2 of section 30.1-28-04 of the North Dakota
14 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15 2. At a hearing held under this chapter, the court shall:

- 16 a. Hear evidence that the proposed ward is an incapacitated person. Age,
17 eccentricity, poverty, or medical diagnosis alone is not sufficient to justify a
18 finding of incapacity;
- 19 b. Hear evidence and determine whether there are any existing general durable
20 powers of attorney and durable powers of attorney for health care. If there
21 are validly executed durable powers of attorney, the court shall consider the
22 appointed attorneys in fact and agents appointed thereunder when assessing
23 alternative resource plans and the need for a guardian; and

- 1 c. Appoint a guardian and confer specific powers of guardianship only after
2 finding in the record based on clear and convincing evidence that:
- 3 (1) The proposed ward is an incapacitated person;
- 4 (2) There is no available alternative resource plan that is suitable to
5 safeguard the proposed ward's health, safety, or habilitation which
6 could be used instead of a guardianship;
- 7 (3) The guardianship is necessary as the best means of providing care,
8 supervision, or habilitation of the ward; and
- 9 (4) The powers and duties conferred upon the guardian are appropriate as
10 the least restrictive form of intervention consistent with the ability of the
11 ward for self-care.

12 **SECTION 3.** A new subsection to section 30.1-28-04 of the North Dakota Century
13 Code is created and enacted as follows:

14 Unless a court of competent jurisdiction determines otherwise, a durable power of
15 attorney for health care executed pursuant to chapter 23-06.5 takes precedence
16 over any authority to make medical decisions granted to a guardian pursuant to
17 chapter 30.1-28.