

**SENATE BILL NO. 2150**

Introduced by

Industry, Business and Labor Committee

(At the request of the Insurance Commissioner)

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact chapter 26.1-33.2 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
2 relating to viatical settlement contracts; and to repeal chapter 26.1-33.1 of the North Dakota  
3 Century Code, relating to viatical settlement contracts; and to provide a penalty.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Chapter 26.1-33.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and  
6 enacted as follows:

7 **26.1-33.2-01. Definitions.**

- 8 1. "Advertising" means any written, electronic, or printed communication or any  
9 communication by means of recorded telephone messages or transmitted on radio,  
10 television, or the internet, disseminated, circulated, or placed before the public,  
11 directly or indirectly, for the purpose of creating an interest in or inducing a person  
12 to sell a life insurance policy pursuant to a viatical settlement contract.
- 13 2. "Business of viatical settlements" means an activity involved in, but not limited to,  
14 the offering, solicitation, negotiation, procurement, effectuation, purchasing,  
15 investing, financing, monitoring, tracking, underwriting, selling, transferring,  
16 assigning, pledging, hypothecating, or in any other manner, of viatical settlement  
17 contracts or purchase agreements.
- 18 3. "Chronically ill" means:  
19 a. Being unable to perform at least two activities of daily living, such as eating,  
20 toileting, transferring, bathing, dressing, or continence;  
21 b. Requiring substantial supervision to protect the individual from threats to  
22 health and safety due to severe cognitive impairment; or  
23 c. Having a level of disability similar to that described in subdivision a as  
24 determined by the secretary of health and human services.

- 1           4.   a.   "Financing entity" means an underwriter, placement agent, lender, purchaser  
2                   of securities, purchaser of a policy or certificate from a viatical settlement  
3                   provider, credit enhancer, or any entity that has a direct ownership in a policy  
4                   or certificate that is the subject of a viatical settlement contract, but:
- 5                   (1)   Whose principal activity related to the transaction is providing funds to  
6                   effect the viatical settlement or purchase of one or more viaticated  
7                   policies; and
- 8                   (2)   Who has an agreement in writing with one or more licensed viatical  
9                   settlement providers to finance the acquisition of viatical settlement  
10                  contracts.
- 11           b.   "Financing entity" does not include a nonaccredited investor or viatical  
12                  settlement purchaser.
- 13           5.   "Fraudulent viatical settlement act" includes:
- 14           a.   Acts or omissions committed by any person who, knowingly or with intent to  
15                  defraud, for the purpose of depriving another of property or for pecuniary gain,  
16                  commits, or permits its employees or its agents to engage in, acts including:
- 17                  (1)   Presenting, causing to be presented, or preparing with knowledge or  
18                  belief that it will be presented to or by a viatical settlement provider,  
19                  viatical settlement broker, viatical settlement purchaser, financing entity,  
20                  insurer, insurance producer or any other person, false material  
21                  information, or concealing material information, as part of, in support of,  
22                  or concerning a fact material to one or more of the following:
- 23                  (a)   An application for the issuance of a viatical settlement contract or  
24                  insurance policy;
- 25                  (b)   The underwriting of a viatical settlement contract or insurance  
26                  policy;
- 27                  (c)   A claim for payment or benefit pursuant to a viatical settlement  
28                  contract or insurance policy;
- 29                  (d)   Premiums paid on an insurance policy;

- 1 (e) Payments and changes in ownership or beneficiary made in  
2 accordance with the terms of a viatical settlement contract or  
3 insurance policy;
- 4 (f) The reinstatement or conversion of an insurance policy;
- 5 (g) In the solicitation, offer, effectuation, or sale of a viatical  
6 settlement contract or insurance policy;
- 7 (h) The issuance of written evidence of viatical settlement contract or  
8 insurance; or
- 9 (i) A financing transaction.
- 10 (2) Employing any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud related to  
11 viaticated policies.
- 12 b. In the furtherance of a fraud or to prevent the detection of a fraud, any person  
13 commits or permits its employees or its agents to:
- 14 (1) Remove, conceal, alter, destroy, or sequester from the commissioner  
15 the assets or records of a licensee or other person engaged in the  
16 business of viatical settlements;
- 17 (2) Misrepresent or conceal the financial condition of a licensee, financing  
18 entity, insurer, or other person;
- 19 (3) Transact the business of viatical settlements in violation of laws  
20 requiring a license, certificate of authority, or other legal authority for the  
21 transaction of the business of viatical settlements; or
- 22 (4) File with the commissioner or the chief insurance regulatory official of  
23 another jurisdiction a document containing false information or  
24 otherwise conceals information about a material fact from the  
25 commissioner.
- 26 c. Embezzlement, theft, misappropriation, or conversion of moneys, funds,  
27 premiums, credits, or other property of a viatical settlement provider, insurer,  
28 insured, viator, insurance policyowner, or any other person engaged in the  
29 business of viatical settlements or insurance.
- 30 d. Recklessly entering into, brokering, otherwise dealing in a viatical settlement  
31 contract, the subject of which is a life insurance policy that was obtained by

1                   presenting false information concerning any fact material to the policy or by  
2                   concealing, of the purpose of misleading another, information concerning any  
3                   fact material to the policy, when the viator or the viator's agent intended to  
4                   defraud the policy's issuer. "Recklessly" means engaging in the conduct of  
5                   conscious and clearly unjustifiable disregard of a substantial likelihood of the  
6                   existence of the relevant facts or risks, such disregard involving a gross  
7                   deviation from acceptable standards of conduct.

8                   e. Attempting to commit, assisting, aiding, or abetting in the commission of or  
9                   conspiracy to commit the acts or omissions specified in this subsection.

10               6. "Person" means a natural person or a legal entity, including an individual,  
11               partnership, limited liability company, association, trust, or corporation.

12               7. "Policy" means an individual or group policy, group certificate, contract, or  
13               arrangement of life insurance affecting the rights of a resident of this state or  
14               bearing a reasonable relation to this state, regardless of whether delivered or  
15               issued for delivery in this state.

16               8. "Related provider trust" means a titling trust or other trust established by a licensed  
17               viatical settlement provider or a financing entity for the sole purpose of holding the  
18               ownership or beneficial interest in purchased policies in connection with a financing  
19               transaction. The trust must have a written agreement with the licensed viatical  
20               settlement provider under which the licensed viatical settlement provider is  
21               responsible for ensuring compliance with all statutory and regulatory requirements  
22               and under which the trust agrees to make all records and files related to viatical  
23               settlement transactions available to the commissioner as if those records and files  
24               were maintained directly by the licensed viatical settlement provider.

25               9. "Special purpose entity" means a corporation, partnership, trust, limited liability  
26               company, or other similar entity formed solely to provide either directly or indirectly  
27               access to institutional capital markets to a financing entity or viatical settlement  
28               provider.

29               10. "Terminally ill" means having an illness or sickness that can reasonably be  
30               expected to result in death in twenty-four months or less.

- 1           11. "Viatical settlement broker" means a person who on behalf of a viator and for a fee,  
2                               commission, or other valuable consideration, offers or advertises the availability of  
3                               viatical settlements, introduces viators to viatical settlement providers, or offers or  
4                               attempts to negotiate viatical settlement contracts between a viator and one or  
5                               more viatical settlement providers. Notwithstanding the manner in which the  
6                               viatical settlement broker is compensated, a viatical settlement broker is deemed to  
7                               represent only the viator and owes a fiduciary duty to the viator to act according to  
8                               the viator's instructions and in the best interest of the viator. The term does not  
9                               include an attorney, certified public accountant, or a financial planner accredited by  
10                              a nationally recognized accreditation agency, who is retained to represent the  
11                              viator and whose compensation is not paid directly or indirectly by the viatical  
12                              settlement provider or purchaser.
- 13           12. "Viatical settlement contract" means a written agreement establishing the terms  
14                               under which compensation or anything of value will be paid, which compensation  
15                               or value is less than the expected death benefit of the insurance policy or  
16                               certificate, in return for the viator's assignment, transfer, sale, devise, or bequest of  
17                               the death benefit or ownership of any portion of the insurance policy or certificate  
18                               of insurance. A viatical settlement contract also includes a contract for a loan or  
19                               other financing transaction secured primarily by an individual or group life  
20                               insurance policy, other than a loan by a life insurance company pursuant to the  
21                               terms of the life insurance contract, or a loan secured by the cash value of a policy.  
22                               A viatical settlement contract includes an agreement to transfer ownership or  
23                               change the beneficiary designation at a later date regardless of the date that  
24                               compensation is paid to the viator.
- 25           13. "Viatical settlement provider" means a person, other than a viator, who enters into  
26                               or effectuates a viatical settlement contract. Viatical settlement provider does not  
27                               include:
- 28                              a. A bank, savings bank, savings and loan association, credit union, or other  
29                                 licensed lending institution that takes an assignment of a life insurance policy  
30                                 as collateral for a loan;
- 31                              b. The issuer of a life insurance policy providing accelerated benefits;

- 1 c. An authorized or eligible insurer that provides stop loss coverage to a viatical  
2 settlement provider, purchaser, financing entity, special purpose entity, or  
3 related provider trust;
- 4 d. A natural person who enters into or effectuates no more than one agreement  
5 in a calendar year for the transfer of life insurance policies for any value less  
6 than the expected death benefit;
- 7 e. A financing entity;
- 8 f. A special purpose entity;
- 9 g. A related provider trust;
- 10 h. A viatical settlement purchaser; or
- 11 i. An accredited investor or qualified institutional buyer as defined respectively  
12 in regulation D, rule 501 or rule 144A of the Federal Securities Act of 1933, as  
13 amended, and who purchases a viaticated policy from a viatical settlement  
14 provider.
- 15 14. "Viaticated policy" means a life insurance policy or certificate that has been  
16 acquired by a viatical settlement provider pursuant to a viatical settlement contract.
- 17 15. "Viator" means the owner of a life insurance policy or a certificate holder under a  
18 group policy who enters or seeks to enter into a viatical settlement contract. For  
19 the purposes of this chapter, a viator is not limited to an owner of a life insurance  
20 policy or a certificate holder under a group policy insuring the life of an individual  
21 with a terminal or chronic illness or condition except where specifically addressed.

22 **26.1-33.2-02. License requirements - Penalty.**

- 23 1. A person may not operate as a viatical settlement provider or viatical settlement  
24 broker without first obtaining a license from the commissioner of the state of  
25 residence of the viator. A person may not operate as a viatical settlement broker  
26 without first obtaining an insurance producer license from the commissioner.
- 27 2. Application for a viatical settlement provider must be made to the commissioner by  
28 the applicant on a form prescribed by the commissioner, and the application must  
29 be accompanied by a fee of two hundred fifty dollars.

- 1           3.   Application for a viatical settlement broker license must be made to the  
2                   commissioner by the applicant on a form prescribed by the commissioner and the  
3                   application must be accompanied by a fee of two hundred fifty dollars.
- 4           4.   Licenses must be renewed from year to year on the anniversary date upon  
5                   payment of the annual renewal fees of one hundred fifty dollars. Failure to pay the  
6                   fees by the renewal date results in expiration of the license.
- 7           5.   The applicant shall provide information on forms required by the commissioner. An  
8                   applicant shall fully disclose the identity of all stockholders, partners, officers,  
9                   members, and employees. The commissioner may refuse to issue a license in the  
10                  name of a legal entity if not satisfied that any officer, employee, stockholder,  
11                  partner, or member thereof who may materially influence the applicant's conduct  
12                  meets the standards of this chapter.
- 13          6.   A license issued to a legal entity authorizes all partners, officers, members, and  
14                  designated employees to act as viatical settlement providers or viatical settlement  
15                  brokers as applicable, under the license, and all those persons must be named in  
16                  the application and any supplements to the application.
- 17          7.   Upon the filing of an application and the payment of the license fee, the  
18                  commissioner shall issue a license if the commissioner finds that the applicant:  
19                  a.   If a viatical settlement provider, has provided a detailed plan of operation;  
20                  b.   Is competent and trustworthy and intends to act in good faith in the capacity  
21                  involved by the license applied for;  
22                  c.   Has a good business reputation and has had experience, training, or  
23                  education so as to be qualified in the business for which the license is applied  
24                  for;  
25                  d.   If a legal entity, provides a certificate of good standing from the state of its  
26                  domicile; and  
27                  e.   If a viatical settlement provider or viatical settlement broker has provided an  
28                  antifraud plan that meets the requirements of subsection 6 of section  
29                  26.1-33.2-10.
- 30          8.   The commissioner may not issue a license to a nonresident applicant, unless a  
31                  written designation of an agent for service of process is filed and maintained with

1 the commissioner or the applicant has filed with the commissioner, the applicant's  
2 written irrevocable consent that any action against the applicant may be  
3 commenced against the applicant by service of process on the commissioner.

4 9. A person may not act or hold oneself out to be a viatical settlement provider unless  
5 licensed under this chapter. Any person willfully violating this section is guilty of a  
6 class C felony.

7 **26.1-33.2-03. License revocation and denial.**

8 1. The commissioner may refuse to issue, suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew the  
9 license of a viatical settlement provider or viatical settlement broker if the  
10 commissioner finds that:

11 a. There was any material misrepresentation in the application for the license;

12 b. The licensee or any officer, partner, member, or key management personnel  
13 has been convicted of fraudulent or dishonest practices, is subject to a final  
14 administrative action, or is otherwise shown to be untrustworthy or  
15 incompetent;

16 c. The viatical settlement provider demonstrates a pattern of unreasonable  
17 payments to viators;

18 d. The licensee has been found guilty of, or has pleaded guilty or nolo  
19 contendere to, any felony, or to a misdemeanor involving fraud or moral  
20 turpitude, regardless of whether a judgment of conviction has been entered by  
21 the court;

22 e. The viatical settlement provider has entered into any viatical settlement  
23 contract that has not been approved pursuant to this chapter;

24 f. The viatical settlement provider has failed to honor contractual obligations set  
25 out in a viatical settlement contract;

26 g. The licensee no longer meets the requirements for initial licensure;

27 h. The viatical settlement provider has assigned, transferred, or pledged a  
28 viaticated policy to a person other than a viatical settlement provider licensed  
29 in this state, financing entity, special purpose entity, or related provider trust;



- 1           i.    The licensee knowingly has provided materially untrue information to a life  
2                    insurance company that issued a policy of life insurance that is the subject of  
3                    a viatical settlement contract; or  
4           j.    The licensee has violated any provision of this chapter.  
5        2.    If the commissioner denies a license application or suspends, revokes, or refuses  
6                    to renew the license of a viatical settlement provider or viatical settlement broker,  
7                    the commissioner shall conduct a hearing in accordance with chapter 28-32.

8           **26.1-33.2-04. Approval of viatical settlement contracts and disclosure statements.**

9    A person may not use a viatical settlement contract or provide to a viator a disclosure statement  
10 form in this state unless filed and approved by the commissioner. Any viatical settlement  
11 contract form filed with the commissioner must be deemed approved if it has not been  
12 disapproved within sixty days of filing. The commissioner may disapprove a viatical settlement  
13 contract form or disclosure statement form if the contract or provisions contained therein are  
14 unreasonable, contrary to the interests of the public, or otherwise misleading or unfair to the  
15 viator. All viatical settlement contracts and applications for viatical settlements issued or  
16 delivered in this state must contain the following statement:

17           Any person who knowingly presents false information in an application for insurance or  
18           viatical settlement contract is guilty of a crime and may be subject to fines and  
19           confinement in prison.

20    The lack of a statement as required in this section does not constitute a defense in any  
21    prosecution for a fraudulent viatical settlement act.

22           **26.1-33.2-05. Reporting requirements and confidentiality.**

- 23        1.    Each licensee shall file with the commissioner on or before March first of each year  
24                    an annual statement containing information regarding business transacted in this  
25                    state for the previous calendar year:  
26            a.    For each policy viaticated:  
27                    (1)   The date the viatical settlement was entered.  
28                    (2)   The life expectancy of the viator at time of contract.  
29                    (3)   The face amount of the policy.  
30                    (4)   The amount paid by the viatical settlement provider to viaticate the  
31                    policy and the percentage that amount represents of the face amount.

- 1 (5) If the viator has died:
  - 2 (a) The date of death.
  - 3 (b) The total insurance premiums paid by the viatical settlement  
4 provider to maintain the policy in force.
  - 5 b. A breakdown, by disease category, of applications received, accepted, and  
6 rejected.
  - 7 c. A breakdown of policies viaticated by issuer and policy type.
  - 8 d. The number of secondary market versus primary transactions.
  - 9 e. The total number of policies viaticated.
  - 10 f. The amount of outside borrowings.
- 11 2. Except as otherwise allowed or required by law, a viatical settlement provider,  
12 viatical settlement broker, insurance company, insurance producer, insurance  
13 broker, information bureau, rating agency, or company, or any other person with  
14 actual knowledge of an insured's identity, may not disclose the insured's identity or  
15 the insured's financial or medical information to any other person unless the  
16 disclosure:
  - 17 a. Is necessary to effect a viatical settlement between the viator and a viatical  
18 settlement provider and the viator and insured have provided prior written  
19 consent to the disclosure;
  - 20 b. Is provided in response to an investigation or examination by the  
21 commissioner or any other governmental officer or agency;
  - 22 c. Is a term of or condition to the transfer of a policy by one viatical settlement  
23 provider to another viatical settlement provider; or
  - 24 d. Is necessary to permit a financing entity, related provider trust, or special  
25 purpose entity to finance the purchase of policies by a viatical settlement  
26 provider or a viatical settlement purchaser and the insured has provided prior  
27 consent to the disclosure.

28 **26.1-33.2-06. Examination or investigations.**

- 29 1. When the commissioner deems it reasonably necessary to protect the interest of  
30 the public, the commissioner may examine any licensee or applicant for a license.  
31 In lieu of an examination under this chapter of any foreign or alien licensee

1 licensed in this state, the commissioner may accept an examination report on the  
2 licensee as prepared by the commissioner for the licensee's state of domicile or  
3 port-of-entry state. The expenses incurred in conducting any examination must be  
4 paid by the licensee or applicant. The commissioner may investigate suspected  
5 fraudulent viatical settlement acts and persons engaged in the business of viatical  
6 settlements.

- 7 2. a. Names and individual identification data for all viators are not subject to  
8 section 44-04-18 and are private and confidential information and may not be  
9 disclosed by the commissioner, unless required by law.  
10 b. Records of all transactions of viatical settlement contracts must be maintained  
11 by the licensee and must be made available to the commissioner for  
12 inspection during reasonable business hours.

13 **26.1-33.2-07. Disclosure.**

- 14 1. With each application for a viatical settlement, a viatical settlement provider or  
15 viatical settlement broker must provide the viator with at least the following  
16 disclosures no later than the time the application for the viatical settlement contract  
17 is signed by all parties. The disclosures must be provided in a separate document  
18 that is signed by the viator and the viatical settlement provider or viatical settlement  
19 broker and must provide the following information:  
20 a. Possible alternatives to viatical settlement contracts including any accelerated  
21 death benefits or policy loans offered under the viator's life insurance policy.  
22 b. Some or all of the proceeds of the viatical settlement may be taxable under  
23 federal income tax and state franchise and income taxes, and assistance  
24 should be sought from a professional tax advisor.  
25 c. Proceeds of the viatical settlement could be subject to the claims of creditors.  
26 d. Receipt of the proceeds of a viatical settlement may adversely affect the  
27 viator's eligibility for medicaid or other government benefits or entitlements,  
28 and advice should be obtained from the appropriate government agencies.  
29 e. The viator has the right to rescind a viatical settlement contract as provided in  
30 subsection 3 of section 26.1-33.2-08. If the insured dies during the rescission  
31 period, the settlement contract shall be deemed to have been rescinded,

- 1 subject to repayment of all viatical settlement proceeds and any premiums,  
2 loans, and loan interest to the viatical settlement provider or purchaser.
- 3 f. Funds will be sent to the viator within three business days after the viatical  
4 settlement provider has received the insurer or group administrator's  
5 acknowledgement that ownership of the policy or interest in the certificate has  
6 been transferred and the beneficiary has been designated.
- 7 g. Entering into a viatical settlement contract may cause other rights or benefits,  
8 including conversion rights and waiver of premium benefits that may exist  
9 under the policy or certificate, to be forfeited by the viator and that assistance  
10 should be sought from a financial adviser.
- 11 h. Disclosure to a viator must include distribution of a brochure describing the  
12 process of viatical settlements.
- 13 i. The disclosure document must contain the following language: "All medical,  
14 financial, or personal information solicited or obtained by a viatical settlement  
15 provider or viatical settlement broker about an insured, including the insured's  
16 identity, medical, and financial information or the identity of family members, a  
17 spouse, or significant other, may be disclosed as necessary to effect the  
18 viatical settlement between the viator and the viatical settlement provider. If  
19 you are asked to provide this information, you will be asked to consent to the  
20 disclosure. The information may be provided to someone who buys the policy  
21 or provides funds for the purchase."
- 22 j. The insured may be contacted by either the viatical settlement provider or  
23 broker or its authorized representative for the purpose of determining the  
24 insured's health status. This contact is limited to once every three months if  
25 the insured has a life expectancy of more than one year, and no more than  
26 once per month if the insured has a life expectancy of one year or less.
- 27 2. A viatical settlement provider must provide the viator with at least the following  
28 disclosures no later than the date the viatical settlement contract is signed by all  
29 parties. The disclosures must be conspicuously displayed in the viatical settlement  
30 contract or in a separate document signed by the viator and the viatical settlement  
31 provider or viatical settlement broker and provide the following information:

- 1 a. State the affiliation, if any, between the viatical settlement provider and the  
2 issuer of the insurance policy to be viaticated.
- 3 b. The document must include the name, address, and telephone number of the  
4 viatical settlement provider.
- 5 c. A viatical settlement broker shall disclose to a prospective viator the amount  
6 and method of calculating the broker's compensation.
- 7 d. If an insurance policy to be viaticated has been issued as a joint policy or  
8 involves family riders or any coverage of a life other than the insured under  
9 the policy to be viaticated, the viator must be informed of the possible loss of  
10 coverage on the other lives under the policy and must be advised to consult  
11 with the viator's insurance producer or the insurer issuing the policy for advice  
12 on the proposed viatical settlement.
- 13 e. State the dollar amount of the current death benefit payable to the viatical  
14 settlement provider under the policy or certificate. If known, the viatical  
15 settlement provider shall also disclose the availability of any additional  
16 guaranteed insurance benefits, the dollar amount of any accidental death and  
17 dismemberment benefits under the policy or certificate, and the viatical  
18 settlement provider's interest in those benefits.
- 19 f. State the name, business address, and telephone number of the independent  
20 third party escrow agent and the fact that the viator or owner may inspect or  
21 receive copies of the relevant escrow or trust agreements or documents.
- 22 3. If the viatical settlement provider transfers ownership or changes the beneficiary of  
23 the insurance policy, the provider shall communicate the change in ownership or  
24 beneficiary to the insured within twenty days after the change.

25 **26.1-33.2-08. General rules.**

- 26 1. a. A viatical settlement provider entering into a viatical settlement contract must  
27 first obtain:
  - 28 (1) If the viator is the insured, a written statement from a licensed attending  
29 physician that the viator is of sound mind and under no constraint or  
30 undue influence to enter into a viatical settlement contract;

- 1                   (2) A witnessed document in which the viator consents to the viatical  
2                   settlement contract, represents that the viator has a full and complete  
3                   understanding of the viatical settlement contract, that the viator has a  
4                   full and complete understanding of the benefits of the life insurance  
5                   policy, acknowledges that the viator has entered into the viatical  
6                   settlement contract freely and voluntarily, and, if applicable for the  
7                   purposes of determining payments for persons who are terminally or  
8                   chronically ill, acknowledges that the insured is terminally ill or is  
9                   chronically ill and that the terminal or chronic illness or condition was  
10                  diagnosed after the life insurance policy was issued; and
- 11                  (3) A document in which the insured consents to the release of the  
12                  insured's medical records to a viatical settlement provider, viatical  
13                  settlement broker, and the insurance company that issued the life  
14                  insurance policy covering the life of the insured.
- 15                  b. Within twenty days after a viator executes documents necessary to transfer  
16                  any rights under an insurance policy or within twenty days of entering any  
17                  agreement, option, promise, or any other form of understanding, expressed or  
18                  implied, to viaticate the policy, the viatical settlement provider must give  
19                  written notice to the insurer that issued that insurance policy that the policy  
20                  has or will become a viaticated policy. The notice must be accompanied by  
21                  the documents required by subdivision c in their entirety.
- 22                  c. The viatical provider must delivery a copy of the medical release required  
23                  under paragraph 3 of subdivision a and a copy of the viator's application for  
24                  the viatical settlement contract to the insurer that issued the life insurance  
25                  policy that is the subject of the viatical transaction along with the notice  
26                  required under subdivision b.
- 27                  2. All medical information solicited or obtained by any licensee is subject to the  
28                  applicable provision of state law relating to confidentiality of medical information.
- 29                  3. All viatical settlement contracts entered into in this state must provide the viator  
30                  with an unconditional right to rescind the contract for at least thirty calendar days  
31                  from the date of the contract or fifteen days from the receipt of the viatical

- 1 settlement proceeds, whichever is less. If the insured dies during the rescission  
2 period, the viatical settlement contract shall be deemed to have been rescinded,  
3 subject to repayment to the viatical settlement provider of all viatical settlement  
4 proceeds.
- 5 4. The viatical settlement provider must instruct the viator to send the executed  
6 documents required to effect the change in ownership, assignment, or change in  
7 beneficiary directly to the independent escrow agent. Within three business days  
8 after the date the escrow agent receives the document or from the date the viatical  
9 settlement provider receives the documents, if the viator erroneously provides the  
10 documents directly to the provider, the escrow agent shall pay or transfer the  
11 proceeds of the viatical settlement into an escrow or trust account maintained in a  
12 state or federally chartered financial institution whose deposits are insured by the  
13 federal deposit insurance corporation. Upon payment of the settlement proceeds  
14 into the escrow account, the escrow agent shall deliver the original change in  
15 ownership, assignment, or change in beneficiary forms to the viatical settlement  
16 provider. Upon the licensed provider's receipt of the acknowledgement of the  
17 transfer of ownership, assignment, or designation of beneficiary from the insurance  
18 company, the licensed provider shall instruct the escrow agent to pay the  
19 settlement proceeds to the viator. Payment must be made within three business  
20 days of the date the provider received the acknowledge forms from the insurance  
21 company.
- 22 5. Failure to tender consideration to the viator for the viatical settlement contract  
23 within the time disclosed pursuant to subdivision f of subsection 1 of section  
24 26.1-33.2-07 renders the viatical settlement contract voidable by the viator for lack  
25 of consideration until the time consideration is tendered to and accepted by the  
26 viator.
- 27 6. Contacts with the insured for the purpose of determining the health status of the  
28 insured by the viatical settlement provider or viatical settlement broker after the  
29 viatical settlement has occurred must only be made by the viatical settlement  
30 provider or broker licensed in this state or its authorized representatives and is  
31 limited to once every three months for insureds with a life expectancy of more than

1           one year and to no more than once per month for insureds with a life expectancy of  
2           one year or less. The provider or broker shall explain the procedure for these  
3           contacts at the time the viatical settlement contract is entered. Viatical settlement  
4           providers and viatical settlement brokers shall be responsible for the actions of  
5           their authorized representatives.

6           **26.1-33.2-09. Prohibited practices.** It is a violation of this chapter for any person to  
7           enter into a viatical settlement contract within a two-year period commencing with the date of  
8           issuance of the insurance policy or certificate unless the viator certifies to the viatical settlement  
9           provider that one or more of the following conditions have been met within the two-year period:

- 10           1. The policy was issued upon the owner's exercise of conversion rights arising out of  
11           a group policy;
- 12           2. The owner of the policy is a charitable organization exempt from taxation under  
13           26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3);
- 14           3. The owner of the policy is not a natural person, such as a corporation, limited  
15           liability company, or partnership;
- 16           4. a. The viator or owner submits independent evidence to the viatical settlement  
17           provider that one or more of the following conditions have been met within the  
18           two-year period:
  - 19           (1) The owner or insured is diagnosed with an illness or condition that is  
20           either life threatening or that requires a course of treatment for a period  
21           of at least two years or long-term care or home health care, or both;
  - 22           (2) The owner's or insured's spouse dies;
  - 23           (3) The owner or insured divorces that person's spouse;
  - 24           (4) The owner or insured retires from full-time employment;
  - 25           (5) The owner or insured becomes physically or mentally disabled and a  
26           physician determines that the disability prevents the owner or insured  
27           from maintaining full-time employment;
  - 28           (6) The owner of the policy was the insured's employer at the time the  
29           policy or certificate was issued and the employment relationship  
30           terminated;



- 1                   (7) A final order, judgment, or decree is entered by a court of competent  
2                   jurisdiction, on the application of a creditor of the owner or insured,  
3                   adjudicating the owner or insured bankrupt or insolvent, or approving a  
4                   petition seeking reorganization of the owner or insured or appointing a  
5                   receiver, trustee, or liquidator to all or a substantial part of the owner's  
6                   or insured's assets;
- 7                   (8) The owner of the policy experiences a significant decrease in income  
8                   that is unexpected by the owner and that impairs the owner's  
9                   reasonable ability to pay the policy premium; or
- 10                  (9) The independent evidence must be submitted to the insurer when the  
11                  viatical settlement provider submits a request to the insurer to effect  
12                  transfer of policy or certificate to the viatical settlement provider. The  
13                  insurer shall respond to the request in a timely manner. Nothing in this  
14                  section prohibits an insurer from exercising its right to contest the  
15                  validity of any policy on the grounds of fraud.
- 16                  5. If the viatical settlement provider submits to the insurer a copy of the owner's or  
17                  insured's certification described in subsection 4 when the viatical settlement  
18                  provider submits a request to the insurer to effect the transfer of the policy or  
19                  certificate to the viatical settlement provider, the copy must be deemed to  
20                  conclusively establish that the viatical settlement contract is valid and enforceable  
21                  and the insurer shall timely respond to the request.
- 22                  6. Every viatical settlement licensee shall establish and at all times maintain a system  
23                  of control over the content, form, and method of dissemination of all  
24                  advertisements of its contracts, products, and services. All advertisements must  
25                  be the responsibility of the viatical settlement licensee, as well as the individual  
26                  who created or presented the advertisement. Advertisements must be truthful and  
27                  not misleading in fact or by implication.
- 28                  **26.1-33.2-10. Fraud prevention and control.**
- 29                  1. A person may not commit a fraudulent viatical settlement act. A person may not  
30                  knowingly or intentionally interfere with the enforcement of the provisions of this  
31                  chapter or investigations of suspected or actual violations of this chapter. A person

- 1 in the business of viatical settlements may not knowingly or intentionally permit any  
2 person convicted of a felony involving dishonesty or breach of trust to participate in  
3 the business of viatical settlements.
- 4 2. A person engaged in the business of viatical settlements having knowledge or a  
5 reasonable belief that a fraudulent viatical settlement act is being, will be, or has  
6 been committed must notify the commissioner.
- 7 3. Any other person having knowledge or a reasonable belief that a fraudulent viatical  
8 settlement act is being, will be, or has been committed may provide to the  
9 commissioner the information required by, and in a manner prescribed by, the  
10 commissioner.
- 11 4. Civil liability may not be imposed on and a cause of action does not arise from a  
12 person acting without actual malice and furnishing information concerning  
13 suspected, anticipated, or completed fraudulent viatical settlement acts or  
14 suspected or completed fraudulent insurance acts if the information is provided to  
15 or received from:
- 16 a. The commissioner or the commissioner's employees, agents, or  
17 representatives;
- 18 b. Federal, state, or local law enforcement or regulatory officials or their  
19 employees, agents, or representatives;
- 20 c. A person involved in the prevention and detection of fraudulent viatical  
21 settlement act or that person's agents, employees, or representatives;
- 22 d. The national association of insurance commissioners, national association of  
23 securities dealers, North American securities administrators association, or  
24 their employees, agents, or representatives, or other regulatory body  
25 overseeing life insurance, viatical settlements, securities, or investment fraud;  
26 or
- 27 e. The life insurer that issued the life insurance policy covering the life of the  
28 insured.
- 29 5. The documents and evidence provided pursuant to subsection 4 or obtained by the  
30 commissioner in an investigation of suspected or actual fraudulent viatical  
31 settlement acts are private and confidential and are not subject to section 6 of

- 1 article XI of the Constitution of North Dakota or section 44-04-18 and are not  
2 subject to discovery or subpoena in a civil or criminal action.
- 3 6. Viatical settlement providers and viatical settlement brokers shall submit to the  
4 commissioner an antifraud plan that must reasonably detect, prosecute, and  
5 prevent fraudulent viatical settlement acts. Antifraud plans must include at least:
- 6 a. Fraud investigators, who may be viatical settlement provider employees or  
7 independent contractors.
- 8 b. A description of the procedures for detecting and investigating possible  
9 fraudulent viatical settlement acts and procedures for resolving material  
10 inconsistencies between medical records and insurance applications.
- 11 c. A description of the procedures for reporting possible fraudulent viatical  
12 settlement acts to the commissioner.
- 13 d. A description of the plan for antifraud education and training of underwriters  
14 and other personnel.
- 15 e. A description or chart outlining the organizational arrangement of the antifraud  
16 personnel who are responsible for the investigation and reporting of possible  
17 fraudulent viatical settlement acts and investigating unresolved material  
18 inconsistencies between medical records and insurance applications.
- 19 f. Antifraud plans submitted to the commissioner are privileged and confidential  
20 and are not subject to section 44-04-18 and are not subject to discovery or  
21 subpoena in a civil or criminal action.

22 **26.1-33.2-11. Injunctions - Civil remedies - Cease and desist.** In addition to the  
23 penalties and other enforcement provisions of this title, any person who violates this chapter is  
24 subject to civil penalties of up to fifty thousand dollars per violation. Imposition of civil penalties  
25 must be pursuant to an order of the commissioner issued under chapter 28-32. The  
26 commissioner's order may require a person found to be in violation of this chapter to make  
27 restitution to persons aggrieved by violations of this chapter.

28 **26.1-33.2-12. Unfair trade practices.** A violation of this chapter is an unfair trade  
29 practice under chapter 26.1-04 subject to the penalties contained in that chapter.

30 **26.1-33.2-13. Authority to adopt rules.** The commissioner may adopt rules  
31 implementing this chapter.

- 1           **SECTION 2. REPEAL.** Chapter 26.1-33.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
- 2 repealed.