

**SENATE BILL NO. 2360**

Introduced by

Senator Holmberg

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 50-25.1 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to child abuse and neglect records and information; and to amend and  
3 reenact section 50-25.1-10 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to privileged  
4 communications.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 50-25.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
7 created and enacted as follows:

8 **Access to records and information.** Upon the request of the department or its  
9 designee, in the course of an assessment for child abuse or neglect, any hospital, physician,  
10 medical professional, medical facility, mental health professional, or mental health facility shall  
11 disclose information and records of that entity regarding the child which are relevant to the  
12 assessment. The person submitting the request shall reimburse the disclosing entity for the  
13 actual costs of assembling and providing the information.

14 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-25.1-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
15 amended and reenacted as follows:

16 **50-25.1-10. Abrogation of privileged communications.** Any privilege of  
17 communication between husband and wife or between any professional person and the  
18 person's patient or client, except between attorney and client, is abrogated and does not  
19 constitute grounds for preventing a report to be made or for excluding evidence in any  
20 proceeding regarding child abuse, neglect, or death resulting from abuse or neglect resulting  
21 from a report made under this chapter. Privilege of communication between any health care  
22 professional and the professional's patient does not constitute grounds for refusing access to  
23 information and records requested under section 1 of this Act.