

Sixty-seventh
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2089

Introduced by

Human Services Committee

(At the request of the Department of Human Services)

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 17 of section 50-06-05.1 of the North
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to financing of welfare programs and housing stabilization
3 supports and rental assistance; to repeal sections 1-02-35 and 50-06-14 of the North Dakota
4 Century Code, relating to obsolete effective date language and financing of welfare programs;
5 to provide a statement of legislative intent; to provide for a legislative management study; to
6 provide an appropriation; and to declare an emergency.

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

8 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 17 of section 50-06-05.1 of the North Dakota
9 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

10 17. To administer, allocate, and distribute any funds made available for the making of
11 direct cash assistance payments, housing ~~assistance payments~~ stabilization supports,
12 and rental subsidies under any rental assistance programs initiated by the federal
13 government not otherwise by law made the responsibility of another state agency
14 possessing statewide jurisdiction and to promote cooperation and working agreements
15 with public agencies and including the housing finance agency and department of
16 commerce, and private human services agencies.

17 **SECTION 2. REPEAL.** Sections 1-02-35 and 50-06-14 of the North Dakota Century Code
18 are repealed.

19 **SECTION 3. LEGISLATIVE INTENT - AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER VOUCHER**

20 **PROGRAM.** The department of human services shall adopt rules to seek additional flexibility for
21 the administration of the autism spectrum disorder voucher program to ensure families can be
22 served within available appropriations. The administrative code changes should consider
23 changes that include reducing the amount of approved voucher funds available to each
24 household and the amount of time during which a household may use approved voucher funds.

1 ~~The department of human services shall request the legislative assembly to fund the autism-~~
2 ~~spectrum disorder voucher program with three hundred thousand dollars.~~

3 **SECTION 4. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER**

4 **WAIVER AND VOUCHER PROGRAMS AND TASK FORCE.** During the 2021-22 interim, the
5 legislative management shall consider studying the autism spectrum disorder waiver and
6 voucher programs and other programs designed to provide services to children who are
7 impacted by autism spectrum disorder and the elimination of the autism spectrum disorder task
8 force. The study may include consideration of the structure of the programs and whether there
9 are any gaps and unmet needs, including contracting with a private, nonprofit entity that does
10 not provide autism spectrum disorder services to facilitate and provide support services to the
11 autism spectrum disorder task force. The legislative management shall report its finding and
12 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to
13 the sixty-eighth legislative assembly.

14 **SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general
15 fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$300,000, or so much of the
16 sum as may be necessary, to the department of human services for the purpose of funding the
17 autism spectrum disorder voucher program, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, and
18 ending June 30, 2023.

19 **SECTION 6. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.