

Introduced by

Representatives Roers Jones, Dobervich, Guggisberg, O'Brien, Weisz

Senators Lee, Oban, K. Roers

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 23-01-44 of the North Dakota Century Code,
2 relating to the needle exchange program.

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

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 23-01-44 of the North Dakota Century Code is
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **23-01-44. Syringe or needle exchange program - Authorization.**

7 1. As used in this section:

8 a. "Program" means a syringe exchange program established and operated under
9 this section.

10 b. "Qualified entity" means:

11 (1) A local health department;

12 (2) A city that operates a program within the boundaries of the city; or

13 (3) An organization that has been authorized to operate a program by the state
14 department of health, the board of county commissioners, or the governing
15 body for the operation of a program within the boundaries of the city.

16 c. "Supplies" mean needles, syringes, stericups, danispoons, and cotton filters for
17 syringes.

18 2. The state department of health, in collaboration with the department of human
19 services behavioral health division, shall design a syringe exchange program. The
20 state department of health shall administer the program.

21 3. The state department of health may authorize a qualified entity to operate a program
22 in a county if:

23 a. The area to be served is at risk of an increase or potential increase in prevalence
24 of viral hepatitis or human immunodeficiency virus;

- 1 b. A syringe exchange program is medically appropriate as part of a comprehensive
2 public health response; and
- 3 c. The qualified entity conducted a public hearing and submitted a report of the
4 findings and an administration plan for the program to the state health officer.
- 5 4. A qualified entity operating a program under this chapter shall:
- 6 a. Register the program annually in the manner prescribed by the state department
7 of health;
- 8 b. Have a pharmacist, physician, or advanced practice registered nurse who is
9 licensed in the state to provide oversight for the program;
- 10 c. Store and dispose of all syringes ~~and~~, needles, and supplies collected in a safe
11 and legal manner;
- 12 d. Provide education and training on drug overdose response and treatment,
13 including the administration of an overdose reversal medication;
- 14 e. Provide education, referral, and linkage to human immunodeficiency virus, viral
15 hepatitis, and sexually transmitted disease prevention, treatment, and care
16 services;
- 17 f. Provide addiction treatment information and referrals to drug treatment programs,
18 including programs in the local area and programs that offer medication-assisted
19 treatment that includes a federal food and drug administration approved
20 long-acting, non-addictive medication for the treatment of opioid or alcohol use
21 disorder;
- 22 g. Provide syringe, needle, supply, and injection supply distribution and collection
23 without collecting or recording personally identifiable information;
- 24 h. Operate in a manner consistent with public health and safety; and
- 25 i. Ensure the program is medically appropriate and part of a comprehensive public
26 health response.
- 27 5. The state department of health may terminate a program for failure to comply with any
28 of the provisions in this section.
- 29 6. A state agency may not provide general fund moneys to a program to purchase or
30 otherwise acquire hypodermic syringes, needles, or injection supplies for a program
31 under this section.

- 1 7. A law enforcement officer may not stop, search, or seize an individual based on the
2 individual's participation in a program under this section. Syringes and needles, and
3 supplies appropriately collected under this section are not considered drug
4 paraphernalia as provided in chapter 19-03.4 or possession of a controlled substance
5 under section 19-03.1-23.
- 6 8. Each program shall file a semiannual report with the state department of health
7 containing the following information listed on a daily basis and by location, identified by
8 the postal zip code, where the program distributed and collected syringes and
9 needles, and supplies:
- 10 a. The number of individuals served;
- 11 b. The number of syringes and needles, and supplies collected;
- 12 c. The number of syringes and needles distributed; and
- 13 d. Any additional information requested by the state department of health.