

Introduced by

Representatives Satrom, Jones, Paulson, Schauer

Senator Clemens

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-12 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to the establishment of a school safety and crisis hotline program; and to  
3 provide for a continuing appropriation.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 54-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
6 and enacted as follows:

7 **School safety and crisis hotline program - Confidentiality of records - Continuing**  
8 **appropriation.**

9 1. The attorney general shall establish and administer a statewide program for receiving  
10 reports and other information related to school and student safety, including potential  
11 self-harm and potential harm or criminal acts directed at students, school employees,  
12 or schools. The program must:

13 a. Establish a method to ensure the identity of an individual providing information  
14 remains unknown to all persons, including law enforcement officers and  
15 employees of the program;

16 b. Establish a method whereby information obtained from an individual who  
17 voluntarily discloses that individual's own identity and which verifies the individual  
18 is willing to be identified may be shared with law enforcement officers, employees  
19 operating the program, and school officials;

20 c. Establish a method to ensure, if the identity of an individual who is providing  
21 information becomes known, whether through voluntary disclosure or other  
22 means, the identity is not further disclosed;

23 d. Assist law enforcement agencies and other public safety organizations in the  
24 detection of dangerous, violent, or criminal activities and in the apprehension of

- 1            offenders or at-risk persons by promptly forwarding information received to the  
2            appropriate law enforcement agency, public safety agency, and school officials;  
3            e. Encourage state and local media providers to promote the program by informing  
4            the public of its functions and benefits;  
5            f. Include a crisis hotline that must be available to receive reports and information  
6            twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week;  
7            g. Establish a means for an individual to anonymously report:  
8            (1) Incidents of bullying, cyber-bullying, harassment, or hazing; and  
9            (2) Incidents of physical or sexual abuse committed by a school employee or  
10           school volunteer;  
11           h. Include crisis intervention, including suicide prevention, to individuals  
12           experiencing emotional distress or psychiatric distress;  
13           i. Provide program awareness and education materials to all preschool,  
14           elementary, and secondary schools in the state at no charge to the schools; and  
15           j. Provide students and staff at a school that has experienced a crisis, emergency,  
16           or suicide access to counseling and other resources to assist in recovering from  
17           the crisis, emergency, or suicide.  
18           2. All records or information related to the operation of this program required under  
19           subsection 1 are exempt records as defined in section 44-04-18.1.  
20           3. The attorney general may seek and accept gifts, grants, and donations from any  
21           source for the purpose of carrying out its duties under this section. All moneys  
22           received as gifts, grants, and donations are appropriated to the attorney general on a  
23           continuing basis for the purpose of carrying out this section.  
24           4. The attorney general shall adopt rules necessary to administer the duties required to  
25           carry out this section.