

Sixty-sixth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2026

Introduced by

Legislative Management

(Health Services Committee)

1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of human services for improving
2 mental health services; and to provide for a report.

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

4 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES - REPORT TO**
5 **THE LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general
6 fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$1,050,000, or so much of the
7 sum as may be necessary, to the department of human services for the purpose of establishing
8 and administering a voucher program by July 1, 2020, to address gaps in the state's unified
9 mental health delivery system pursuant to section 50-06-01.7 and to assist in the payment of
10 mental health services provided by mental health providers, excluding human service centers,
11 for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2021. The department may spend
12 up to \$300,000 of the appropriation and is authorized one full-time equivalent position for
13 administering the voucher system. Clinical services eligible for the voucher program include
14 only those for mental disorders recognized by the "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental
15 Disorders", American psychiatric association, fifth edition, text revision (2017). The department
16 of human services shall ensure that a provider accepting vouchers under this Act collects and
17 reports process and outcome measures. The department of human services shall ensure
18 vouchers under this Act are only used for individuals who are between seventeen and
19 twenty-five years of age with serious emotional disturbance or serious mental illness. The
20 department of human services shall develop requirements and provide training and technical
21 assistance to a private provider accepting vouchers under this Act. A private mental health
22 provider accepting vouchers under this Act shall provide evidence-based services. Before July
23 1, 2020, the department of human services shall provide a report to the legislative management

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- 1 regarding the rules adopted to establish and administer the voucher system to assist in the
- 2 payment of mental health services provided by mental health providers.