

**Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly, State of North Dakota, begun in the
Capitol in the City of Bismarck, on Monday, the sixth day of January,
one thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven**

SENATE BILL NO. 2149
(Senator Nething)

AN ACT to amend and reenact sections 25-01-03 and 25-02-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the qualifications and appointment of the superintendent of the state hospital.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 25-01-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

25-01-03. Supervising officer to appoint superintendent of institutions - Salaries - Removal. The supervising officer shall appoint a superintendent for each of the institutions under its control, except for the state hospital, where the supervising officer shall appoint a superintendent ~~and a medical director~~ in consultation with a state hospital governing body. The tenure of office of each superintendent is two years from the date of the superintendent's appointment, and the superintendent must possess qualifications required by this title. Any superintendent may be removed by the supervising officer for misconduct, neglect of duty, incompetency, or other proper cause showing the superintendent's inability or refusal properly to perform the duties of office, ~~but a~~. A removal at a time other than a termination of the superintendent's two-year tenure may be had only after an opportunity is given to the person to be heard before a board consisting of the governor, attorney general, and supervising officer of the institution on preferred written charges. A removal when made, however, is final. The supervising officer shall fix the compensation of each superintendent within the limits prescribed in this title and within the appropriations made by the legislative assembly for compensation.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 25-02-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

25-02-04. Superintendent to possess certain qualifications - Medical director - Employees. The superintendent of the state hospital must be a skilled health care administrator with professional training and experience relating to the management of facilities for mentally ill and chemically dependent persons and relating to the needs of the mentally ill and chemically dependent persons. ~~A~~ The medical director, who must be a licensed physician and board-certified psychiatrist, shall ~~appoint and employ~~ recommend appointment of all physicians and clinical staff, define their qualifications and duties, and ~~be responsible~~ have final authority for the organization and delivery of all medical and clinical services delivered to patients at the state hospital. The state hospital governing body has final approval of all physician and clinical staff appointments to the state hospital. The superintendent shall appoint the medical director in consultation with the supervising officer and with the approval of the governing body. If the superintendent is not a licensed physician and board-certified psychiatrist, the medical director, or a qualified designee of the medical director, shall act as the superintendent's designee in all matters in which the superintendent's opinion on medical or clinical treatment is required by law. Every physician on the professional staff must have a license issued by the state board of medical examiners. ~~The superintendent shall employ such other personnel as may be necessary and shall define their qualifications and duties.~~

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2149.

Senate Vote: Yeas 46 Nays 0 Absent 3

House Vote: Yeas 96 Nays 0 Absent 1

Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 1997.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 1997.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 1997,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State