

HOUSE BILL NO. 1034

Introduced by

Legislative Council

(Higher Education Committee)

1 A BILL for an Act to provide for a legislative council study of the provision of services to children
2 and adults who are deaf or hearing-impaired; to provide an appropriation; and to declare an
3 emergency.

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

5 **SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STUDY - SERVICES TO CHILDREN AND**
6 **ADULTS WHO ARE DEAF OR HEARING-IMPAIRED.** The legislative council shall consider
7 studying, during the 2009-10 interim, the provision of services to children and adults who are
8 deaf or hearing-impaired, including the role of the North Dakota school for the deaf in the
9 provision of educational and rehabilitative services, the short-term and long-term viability of
10 existing state facilities, and alternative approaches that might enhance the scope and breadth
11 of service availability. The study, if conducted, must include the feasibility of providing
12 instruction through interactive video, potential collaborative efforts with other states'
13 departments of education, additional revenue-generating activities of the school for the deaf,
14 alternative uses for buildings on the school campus, and the feasibility of educating deaf or
15 hearing-impaired students in local school districts. The legislative council shall report its
16 findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the
17 recommendations, to the sixty-second legislative assembly.

18 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the
19 general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$100,000, or so much
20 of the sum as may be necessary, to the legislative council for the purpose of contracting with a
21 consultant to study the provision of services to children and adults who are deaf or
22 hearing-impaired as provided in section 1 of this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2009,
23 and ending June 30, 2011.

24 **SECTION 3. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.