

Introduced by

Senators Wardner, Nelson

Representative N. Johnson

1 A BILL for an Act to provide for a regional autism spectrum disorder centers of achievement pilot
2 program; to provide for a department of human services report to the legislative management;
3 to provide for a legislative management study; and to provide an appropriation.

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

5 **SECTION 1. REGIONAL AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER CENTERS OF**
6 **ACHIEVEMENT PILOT PROGRAM - DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES STUDY -**
7 **REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.**

- 8 1. During the 2011-13 biennium, the department of human services shall establish and
9 operate a regional autism spectrum disorder centers of achievement pilot program.
- 10 a. The pilot program must provide a matching grant to a qualified applicant that is a
11 nonprofit intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded which is licensed by
12 the department of human services.
- 13 b. A qualified applicant shall establish the availability of one dollar of nonstate, cash
14 matching funds for each grant dollar awarded under this section. The source of
15 the matching funds may not be a gift or grant, but must be funds of the applicant.
- 16 c. A qualified applicant shall submit a plan for the funding, development, and
17 delivery of skilled services to individuals with autism spectrum disorder who
18 reside within the applicant's service region. The plan must provide for the
19 establishment of a regional autism spectrum disorder center of achievement in a
20 city with a population of more than ten thousand.
- 21 d. As a condition of award of a grant under this program, a qualified applicant shall
22 agree to collaborate with the department of human services in developing and
23 implementing the plan as well as postaward monitoring by the department of
24 human services.

- 1 2. During the 2011-13 biennium, the department of human services shall work with public
2 and private stakeholders to study the feasibility of establishing a network of regional
3 autism spectrum disorder centers of achievement. The study must include:
 - 4 a. Consideration of funding needs and sources for startup as well as ongoing
5 financial sustainability of a network of regional autism spectrum disorder centers
6 of achievement;
 - 7 b. Evaluation of the unmet needs in the state related to the regional delivery of
8 skilled services to individuals with autism spectrum disorder, consideration of the
9 most effective and efficient delivery system for these skilled services, and
10 evaluation of whether the skilled services provided by the qualified applicant
11 under subsection 1 is part of a viable plan to increase availability of these
12 services; and
 - 13 c. Evaluation of the funding, development, and delivery of the skilled services
14 provided by a qualified applicant under subsection 1, including recommendations
15 regarding the feasibility and desirability of implementing the pilot program on a
16 broader scale.
- 17 3. During the 2011-13 biennium, the department of human services shall provide regular
18 status reports to and work in cooperation with the legislative management as the
19 legislative management conducts the study provided for under section 2 of this Act.
- 20 4. Before September 1, 2012, the department of human services shall report to the
21 legislative management on the preliminary findings and recommendations of the
22 regional autism spectrum disorder centers of achievement pilot program and study.
23 During the 2013 legislative session, the department of human services shall introduce
24 any legislation that may be necessary to implement the study recommendations.

25 **SECTION 2. AUTISM STUDY - LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.** During the 2011-12
26 interim, the legislative management shall conduct a comprehensive study of the current system
27 for the diagnosis of, treatment of, care for, and education of individuals with autism spectrum
28 disorder and shall make recommendations regarding how this system can be improved to better
29 meet the needs of individuals with autism spectrum disorder. The study must consider the
30 recommendations of the autism spectrum disorder task force and must seek input from
31 stakeholders in the private and public sectors, including families impacted by autism spectrum

1 disorder, insurers, educators, treatment providers, early childhood service providers, caretakers,
2 and nonprofit intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded. The legislative management
3 shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to
4 implement the recommendations, to the sixty-third legislative assembly.

5 **SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general
6 fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$600,000, or so much of the
7 sum as may be necessary, to the department of human services for the purpose of
8 implementing the regional autism spectrum disorder centers of achievement pilot program and
9 study provided for under section 1 of this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2011, and
10 ending June 30, 2013.