

Sixty-second  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2024

Introduced by

Legislative Management

(Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations)

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 12-44.1 and two new sections to  
 2 chapter 50-24.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to inmate medical care costs,  
 3 inmate medical claims processing, and to provide medicaid coverage to inmates in certain  
 4 situations; ~~and~~ to amend and reenact subsection 4 of section 12-44.1-01 and sections  
 5 12-44.1-12.1 and 12-44.1-14 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to adequate medical  
 6 care and payment of medical costs of inmates; to provide an appropriation; and to provide an  
 7 effective date.

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

9 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 4 of section 12-44.1-01 of the North Dakota  
 10 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

11 4. "Inmate" means any person, whether sentenced or unsentenced, who is detained or  
 12 confined in a correctional facility. The term does not include an individual who is under  
 13 the supervision of the correctional facility and is supervised under home detention,  
 14 electronic monitoring, or a similar program that does not involve physical detention or  
 15 confinement in the facility.

16 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 12-44.1-12.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
 17 amended and reenacted as follows:

18 **12-44.1-12.1. Establishment of inmate accounts - Withholding funds for inmate**  
 19 **financial obligations - Health care costs - Payment of funds to inmate upon release.**

20 1. The correctional facility administrator shall establish an inmate account for each  
 21 inmate.  
 22 2. The correctional facility administrator may withdraw funds from an inmate's account to  
 23 meet the inmate's legitimate financial obligations, including child support and  
 24 restitution. ~~The correctional facility administrator may withdraw funds from the inmate's~~

1           ~~account to pay and for the inmate's medical, dental, and eye care costs while the~~  
2           ~~inmate is incarcerated in the correctional facility, and establish an administrative~~  
3           ~~procedure for an inmate to appeal the withdrawal of the funds. Before the funds may~~  
4           ~~be withdrawn, the inmate must first receive written notice and be provided a hearing~~  
5           ~~with the right to correctional facility staff assistance and the right to review by the~~  
6           ~~correctional facility administrator. No written notice or hearing is required if the~~  
7           ~~withdrawal of funds is being made to meet the inmate's child support obligation.~~

8           3. ~~A correctional facility administrator may collect fees from inmates to offset health care~~  
9           ~~costs as follows:~~

- 10           a. ~~For a medical visit, up to ten dollars per medical visit made at the request of an~~  
11           ~~inmate.~~
- 12           b. ~~For self-inflicted injuries, the total amount of medical costs incurred.~~
- 13           c. ~~For necessary health care services, the correctional facility may seek~~  
14           ~~reimbursement from the inmate up to the total amount of health care costs~~  
15           ~~incurred. If the inmate has health insurance coverage, a medical or health care~~  
16           ~~provider must file a claim for reimbursement from the health insurance coverage~~  
17           ~~carrier. A correctional facility may not assess an inmate for any costs associated~~  
18           ~~with an intake health care assessment and related testing or for an examination~~  
19           ~~of an inmate made at the request of the facility.~~
- 20           d. ~~For elective health care requested by an inmate and as allowed by correctional~~  
21           ~~facility policy, the inmate is responsible for the amount of the costs incurred.~~
- 22           e. ~~A correctional facility may not deny necessary and nonelective medical and~~  
23           ~~health care to an inmate who does not have health insurance or does not have~~  
24           ~~the ability to pay the costs of the medical or health care.~~

25           4.2. ~~The correctional facility administrator shall pay an inmate all funds in the inmate's~~  
26           ~~account when the inmate is discharged from the correctional facility or when the~~  
27           ~~inmate is transferred to another correctional facility, less the inmate's outstanding~~  
28           ~~obligations to the correctional facility.~~

29           5.3. ~~This section does not limit or alter the provisions of chapter 14-09 relating to income~~  
30           ~~withholding orders for child support.~~

1       **SECTION 3.** A new section to chapter 12-44.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
2 and enacted as follows:

3       **Inmate medical care costs.**

4       An inmate is financially responsible for the costs of medical or health care, except for an  
5 intake health care assessment and related testing for an examination of the inmate made at the  
6 request of the facility. The correctional facility may seek reimbursement from the inmate up to  
7 the total amount of incurred medical or health care costs. If the inmate has health insurance  
8 coverage, a medical or health care provider shall file a claim for reimbursement from the health  
9 insurance provider. If the inmate does not have health insurance coverage and the inmate's  
10 medical or health care costs are the responsibility of the correctional facility, the correctional  
11 facility's responsibility may not exceed the rates paid under the federal medicare program. If  
12 elective medical or health care is allowed by a correctional facility policy, the inmate must  
13 arrange payment for elective medical or health care before receiving care.

14       **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 12-44.1-14 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
15 amended and reenacted as follows:

16       **12-44.1-14. Inmate rights.**

17       Subject to reasonable safety, security, discipline, and correctional facility administration  
18 requirements, the administrator of each correctional facility shall:

- 19       1. Ensure inmates have confidential access to attorneys and their authorized  
20       representatives.
- 21       2. Ensure that inmates are not subjected to discrimination based on race, national origin,  
22       color, creed, sex, economic status, or political belief.
- 23       3. Ensure equal access by male and female inmates to programs and services available  
24       through the correctional facility.
- 25       4. Ensure access to mail, telephone use, and visitors.
- 26       5. Ensure that inmates are properly fed, clothed, and housed.
- 27       6. Ensure that inmates have adequate medical care. Adequate medical care means  
28 necessary treatment for a medical or health condition for which serious pain or  
29 hardship would occur if care is not given. A correctional facility may not deny adequate  
30 medical care to an inmate who does not have health insurance or does not have the  
31 ability to pay the costs of the medical or health care.

1       7. Ensure that inmates may reasonably exercise their religious beliefs.

2       **SECTION 5.** Two new sections to chapter 50-24.1 of the North Dakota Century Code are  
3 created and enacted as follows:

4       **Processing of claims submitted on behalf of inmates.**

5       The department of human services shall process claims submitted by enrolled medical  
6 providers on behalf of inmates at county jails. Each county shall pay the department a  
7 processing fee for each claim submission. The department shall establish the processing fee  
8 and shall update the fee annually on July first. The processing fee must be based on the annual  
9 costs to the department of the claims processing operations divided by the annual volume of  
10 claims submitted. The department shall invoice each county for payment of the processing fee.  
11 Beginning July 1, 2011, the department of human services shall increase the claims processing  
12 fee to recover the cost of the medicaid claims system changes. The department shall deposit  
13 the portion of the fee associated with recovering the costs of the medicaid claims system  
14 changes in the general fund.

15       **Department to expand medicaid coverage.**

16       After implementation of the medicaid management information system, the department of  
17 human services shall expand medicaid coverage to include medicaid-covered services provided  
18 to an inmate of the state penitentiary or a county jail who would be eligible for medicaid if the  
19 inmate were not incarcerated and who is admitted to an inpatient hospital setting.

20       **SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general  
21 fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$149,094, or so much of the  
22 sum as may be necessary, to the department of human services for the purpose of modifying  
23 the department's medicaid claims system to process claims submitted by enrolled medicaid  
24 providers on behalf of inmates of county jails under section 5 of this Act, for the biennium  
25 beginning July 1, 2011, and ending June 30, 2013.

26       **SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general  
27 fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$36,162, or so much of the  
28 sum as may be necessary, and from special funds derived from federal funds and other income,  
29 the sum of \$36,162, to the department of human services for the purpose of modifying the  
30 department's eligibility systems to process inpatient hospital claims for inmates of the state

1 penitentiary and county jails under section 5 of this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2011,  
2 and ending June 30, 2013.

3 **SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.** Section 5 of this Act becomes effective upon the  
4 completion of the necessary changes to the department of human services' medicaid claims  
5 processing and eligibility systems.