

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1136**

Introduced by

Human Services Committee

(At the request of the Department of Human Services)

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 50-06 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to substance use disorder treatment voucher system; to amend and  
3 reenact subsections 4 and 5 of section 50-01.2-03, subsection 1 of section 50-06-01.4, sections  
4 50-06-05.1 and 50-06-05.2, subsection 1 of section 50-06-05.3, sections 50-06-05.5 and  
5 50-06-06.6, subsection 1 of section 50-06-20, sections 50-06-23, 50-06-24, and 50-06-29, and  
6 subsection 1 of section 50-06-34 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to departmental  
7 updates for statutory consistency, technical corrections, powers and duties of the department,  
8 department structure, program activities, regional human service centers, leases, and aging and  
9 disability resource center funding; and to repeal sections 50-06-01.5, 50-06-36, 50-06-39, and  
10 50-08.1-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to office and office equipment,  
11 developmental disability provider review, expedited ratesetting process, and coordinating  
12 services for pregnant women; and to declare an emergency.

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

14 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 4 of section 50-01.2-03 of the North Dakota  
15 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 16 4. Subject to subsection ~~47~~16 of section 50-06-05.1, administer the supplemental  
17 nutrition assistance program in the county under the direction and supervision of the  
18 department of human services in conformity with the Food Stamp Act of 1964, as  
19 amended, and enter into an agreement for administering the supplemental nutrition  
20 assistance program with the department of human services.
- 21 5. Subject to subsection ~~49~~18 of section 50-06-05.1, administer the home energy  
22 assistance program in the county under the direction and supervision of the  
23 department of human services and to enter into an agreement for administering the  
24 home energy assistance program with the department of human services.

1           **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 50-06-01.4 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

3           1. The department includes the state hospital, the regional human service centers, a  
4 vocational rehabilitation unit, and other units or offices and administrative and fiscal  
5 support services as the executive director determines necessary. The department  
6 must be structured to promote efficient and effective operations and, consistent with  
7 fulfilling its prescribed statutory duties, shall act as the official agency of the state in  
8 the discharge of the following functions not otherwise by law made the responsibility of  
9 another state agency:

- 10           a. Administration of programs for children and families, including adoption services  
11 and the licensure of child-placing agencies, foster care services and the licensure  
12 of foster care arrangements, child protection services, children's trust fund, state  
13 youth authority, licensure of ~~day care homes and facilities~~early childhood  
14 programs, services to unmarried parents, refugee services, in-home  
15 community-based services, and administration of the interstate compacts on the  
16 placement of children and juveniles.
- 17           b. Administration of programs for individuals with developmental disabilities,  
18 including licensure of facilities and services, and the design and implementation  
19 of a community-based service system for persons in need of habilitation.
- 20           c. Administration of aging service programs, including nutrition, transportation,  
21 advocacy, social, ombudsman, recreation, and related services funded under the  
22 Older Americans Act of 1965 [42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.], home and  
23 community-based services, licensure of adult ~~family~~foster care homes, and the  
24 committee on aging, ~~and the fund matching program for city or county tax levies~~  
25 ~~for senior citizen activities and services~~.
- 26           d. Administration of mental health programs, including planning and implementing  
27 preventive, consultative, diagnostic, treatment, and rehabilitative services for  
28 persons with mental or emotional disorders and psychiatric conditions.
- 29           e. Administration of alcohol and drug abuse programs, including establishing quality  
30 assurance standards for the licensure of programs, services, and facilities,  
31 planning and coordinating a system of prevention, intervention, and treatment

- 1 services, providing policy leadership in cooperation with other public and private  
2 agencies, and disseminating information to local service providers and the  
3 general public.
- 4 f. Administration of economic assistance programs, including temporary assistance  
5 for needy families, the supplemental nutrition assistance program, ~~fuel~~home  
6 energy assistance, child support ~~enforcement~~, refugee assistance, work  
7 experience, work incentive, and quality control.
- 8 g. Administration of medical service programs, including medical assistance ~~for~~  
9 ~~needy persons~~, children's health insurance program, Medicaid waivers, early and  
10 periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment, utilization control, autism services,  
11 and claims processing.

12 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-06-05.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
13 amended and reenacted as follows:

14 **50-06-05.1. Powers and duties of the department.**

15 The department has the following powers and duties to be administered by the department  
16 through its state office or through regional human service centers or otherwise as directed by it:

- 17 1. To act as the official agency of the state in any social welfare or human service activity  
18 initiated by the federal government not otherwise by law made the responsibility of  
19 another state agency.
- 20 2. To administer, allocate, and distribute any state and federal funds that may be made  
21 available for the purpose of providing financial assistance, care, and services to  
22 eligible persons and families who do not have sufficient income or other resources to  
23 provide a reasonable subsistence compatible with decency and health.
- 24 3. To provide preventive, rehabilitative, and other human services to help families and  
25 individuals to retain or attain capability for independence or self-care.
- 26 4. To do needed research and study in the causes of social problems and to define  
27 appropriate and effective techniques in providing preventive and rehabilitative  
28 services.
- 29 5. To provide for the study, and to promote the well-being, of deprived, unruly, and  
30 delinquent children.

Sixty-fifth  
Legislative Assembly

- 1           6.    To provide for the placing and supervision of children in need of substitute parental  
2           care, subject to the control of any court having jurisdiction and control of any such  
3           child.
- 4           7.    To recommend appropriate ~~social~~human services related legislation to the legislative  
5           assembly.
- 6           8.    To direct and supervise county social service board activities as may be financed in  
7           whole or in part by or with funds allocated or distributed by the department.
- 8           9.    ~~To inform the public as to social conditions and ways of meeting social needs.~~
- 9           ~~10.~~  To secure, hold, and administer for the purpose for which it is established any property  
10          and any funds donated to it either by will or deed, or otherwise, or through court order  
11          or otherwise available to the department, and to administer those funds or property in  
12          accordance with the instructions in the instrument creating them or in accordance with  
13          the instructions in the court order or otherwise.
- 14       ~~11.~~  To formulate standards and make appropriate inspections and investigations in  
15          accordance with such standards in connection with all licensing activities delegated by  
16          law to the department including ~~child care facilities~~early childhood programs,  
17          nonmedical adult care facilities and maternity homes, and persons or organizations  
18          receiving and placing children, and to require those facilities, persons, and  
19          organizations to submit reports and information as the department may determine  
20          necessary.
- 21       ~~12.~~  To permit the making of any surveys of human service needs and activities if  
22          determined to be necessary.
- 23       ~~13.~~  To issue subpoenas, administer oaths, and compel attendance of witnesses and  
24          production of documents or papers whenever necessary in making the investigations  
25          provided for herein or in the discharge of its other duties. A subpoena may not be  
26          issued to compel the production of documents or papers relating to any private  
27          child-caring or child-placing agency or maternity hospital or to compel the attendance  
28          as a witness of any officer or employee of those facilities except upon the order of a  
29          judge of the district court of the judicial district in which the facilities are located.
- 30       ~~14.~~  To provide insofar as staff resources permit appropriate human services, including  
31          social histories, social or social-psychological evaluations, individual, group, family,

- 1 and marital counseling, and related consultation, when referred by self, parent,  
2 guardian, county social service board, court, physician, or other individual or agency,  
3 and when application is made by self (if an adult or emancipated youth), parent,  
4 guardian, or agency having custody; also, on the same basis, to provide human  
5 services to children and adults in relation to their placement in or return from the life  
6 skills and transition center, state hospital, or North Dakota youth correctional center.
- 7 ~~15-14.~~ To provide insofar as staff resources permit social services, including  
8 social-psychological evaluations, predisposition reports, treatment, probation, and  
9 aftercare services when requested by the judge of a juvenile court, ~~all reports to be~~  
10 ~~kept confidential for the use of the judge except as may be disclosed by the judge.~~
- 11 ~~16-15.~~ To provide insofar as staff resources permit social services, including  
12 social-psychological evaluations, predisposition reports, treatment, and probation and  
13 parole services, when requested by the judge in a criminal case, ~~all reports to be kept~~  
14 ~~confidential for use by the judge except as may be disclosed by the judge.~~
- 15 ~~17-16.~~ To act as the official agency of the state in the administration of the supplemental  
16 nutrition assistance program and to direct and supervise county administration of that  
17 program. Provided, however, that the department with the consent of the budget  
18 section of the legislative management may terminate the program if the rate of federal  
19 financial participation in administrative costs provided under Public Law 93-347 is  
20 decreased or limited, or if the state or counties become financially responsible for all or  
21 a portion of the coupon bonus payments under the Food Stamp Act. Unless at least  
22 seven years has elapsed since the most recent felony conviction that has as an  
23 element the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance, the department  
24 shall deny assistance under the supplemental nutrition assistance program to any  
25 individual who has been convicted of a felony offense that has as an element the  
26 possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance as defined in section 102(6)  
27 of the Controlled Substances Act [21 U.S.C. 802(6)].
- 28 ~~18-17.~~ To administer, allocate, and distribute any funds made available for the making of  
29 direct cash assistance payments, housing assistance payments, and rental subsidies  
30 under any rental assistance programs initiated by the federal government not

1 otherwise by law made the responsibility of another state agency possessing  
2 statewide jurisdiction.

3 ~~19-18.~~ To act as the official agency of the state in the administration of the home energy  
4 assistance program; to direct and supervise county administration of that program;  
5 and to take such actions, give such directions, and adopt such rules, subject to review  
6 in the courts of this state, as may be necessary or desirable to carry out this  
7 subsection. For purposes of the administration of the energy assistance program,  
8 funds are obligated at the earlier of the time a written commitment is made to pay a  
9 vendor or contractor for services or supplies delivered or to be delivered, or at the time  
10 payment is made to a vendor or contractor for services or supplies delivered or to be  
11 delivered. The provisions of this subsection concerning obligation of funds apply to  
12 payments and commitments made on or after July 1, 1991. The department with the  
13 consent of the budget section of the legislative management may terminate the  
14 program if the rate of federal financial participation in administrative costs is decreased  
15 or limited to less than fifty percent of total administrative costs, or if the state or  
16 counties become financially responsible for all or a portion of the cost of energy  
17 assistance program benefits.

18 ~~20-19.~~ To administer, allocate, and distribute any funds made available for the payment of the  
19 cost of the special needs of any child under the age of twenty-one years, who is living  
20 in an adoptive home and would probably go without adoption except for acceptance by  
21 the adopted family, and whose adopted family does not have the economic ability and  
22 resources, as established by the department, to take care of the special needs of the  
23 child, including legal fees, maintenance costs, medical and dental expenses, travel  
24 costs, and other costs incidental to the care of the child.

25 ~~21-20.~~ To exercise and carry out any other powers and duties granted the department under  
26 state law.

27 ~~22.~~ ~~To coordinate services for pregnant women.~~

28 ~~23-21.~~ To administer, allocate, and distribute any funds made available for the payment of  
29 transitional living services, to develop standards and conduct needs assessments  
30 regarding transitional living services, to develop or approve and to evaluate  
31 demonstration projects offering transitional living programs, to approve transitional

- 1 living facilities for the purpose of providing foster care, and to apply for and administer  
2 federal and other funds that may be made available to undertake any of the activities  
3 described in this subsection. For purposes of this subsection:
- 4 a. "Transitional living facility" means a specific site, identified by a licensed  
5 child-placing agency and approved by the department, for the provision of  
6 transitional living services.
- 7 b. "Transitional living program" means a program that provides transitional living  
8 services and may include an identified program operations location approved by  
9 the department.
- 10 c. "Transitional living services" may include housing, supervision, and supportive  
11 services intended and designed to assist persons who have received foster care  
12 services and who have reached age seventeen, but who have not reached age  
13 twenty-one, to achieve independence and self-sufficiency.
- 14 ~~24-22.~~ With the approval of the governor, to lease or transfer use of any part of the life skills  
15 and transition center facilities or properties, located in section thirteen, township one  
16 hundred fifty-seven north, range fifty-three west, located in Walsh County, North  
17 Dakota, to the federal government, or any public or private agency, organization, or  
18 business enterprise, or any worthy undertaking, under the following provisions:
- 19 a. The department determines that the facility or property is not needed to serve  
20 any present or reasonably foreseeable need of the life skills and transition center.
- 21 b. The transaction is exempt from the provisions of section 50-06-06.6.
- 22 c. The term of any lease may not exceed ninety-nine years.
- 23 d. All required legal documents, papers, and instruments in any transaction must be  
24 reviewed and approved as to form and legality by the attorney general.
- 25 e. Any funds realized by any transaction must be deposited in the state's general  
26 fund.
- 27 ~~25-23.~~ To act as a decedent's successor for purposes of collecting amounts due to the  
28 department. Any affidavit submitted by the department under section 30.1-23-01 must  
29 conform to the requirements of that section except that the affidavit may state that  
30 twenty days have elapsed since the death of the decedent.

1 ~~26-24.~~ To provide those services necessary for the department and for county social service  
2 boards to comply with the provisions of any law, rule, order, or regulation of the United  
3 States or any federal agency or authority requiring civil service or merit standards or  
4 classifications as a condition for providing funds administered by the department.

5 ~~27-25.~~ For purposes of administration of programs, and subject to legislative appropriation,  
6 funds are obligated at the time a written commitment is made to pay a vendor or  
7 contractor for services or supplies either delivered or to be delivered. This subsection  
8 applies to payments and commitments made on or after January 1, 1997.

9 ~~28-26.~~ Notwithstanding section 50-01.2-00.1, to determine eligibility for medical assistance  
10 and children's health insurance program benefits when the department receives a joint  
11 application for these benefits.

12 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-06-05.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
13 amended and reenacted as follows:

14 **50-06-05.2. Regional human service centers - Licensure - Collocation with county**  
15 **social service boards.**

16 Human services must be delivered through regional human service centers in the areas  
17 designated by the governor's executive order 1978-12 dated October 5, 1978. Services  
18 provided by regional human service centers must include those services formerly provided by  
19 mental health and retardation service units and area social service centers. The regional human  
20 service centers are subject to licensing by the department. The department shall adopt rules  
21 and standards for the licensing and operation of the regional human service centers. No human  
22 service center may operate without a license issued hereunder. Regional human service  
23 centers are authorized to receive federal and other funds available to finance, in whole or in  
24 part, the services and operations of the centers. ~~Any county social service board collocating its~~  
25 ~~offices with a regional human service center must, within the limits of legislative appropriations,~~  
26 ~~be reimbursed up to fifty percent of the amount expended for space costs in excess of the~~  
27 ~~amount provided by the federal government.~~

28 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 50-06-05.3 of the North Dakota  
29 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

30 1. Regional human service centers organized under this chapter are those centers  
31 established to provide human services as authorized by law. The term "human



1 service" means service provided to individuals or their families in need thereof to help  
2 them achieve, maintain, or support the highest level of personal independence and  
3 economic self-sufficiency, including health, mental health, education, manpower,  
4 social, food and nutrition, and housing service. Regional human service centers shall  
5 function as regional administrative units established, within the multicounty areas  
6 designated by the governor's executive order 1978-12 dated October 5, 1978, to  
7 provide for the planning and delivery of human services.

8 **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-06-05.5 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
9 amended and reenacted as follows:

10 **50-06-05.5. Director of regional center - Medical director.**

11 Each regional human service center must be headed by a regional director appointed by  
12 the executive director of the department. The regional director must be accountable to the  
13 executive director or the director's designee. Each regional director may employ the staff  
14 necessary to discharge the center's responsibilities. A regional director, subject to the approval  
15 of the executive director of the department or the director's designee, and within the limit of  
16 legislative appropriations, may make contractual arrangements with public or private agencies  
17 or with individuals and organizations to discharge the regional human service center's service  
18 delivery responsibilities. Each regional director shall hire a qualified medical professional who  
19 must be designated as the medical director of the center. The medical director is responsible for  
20 coordinating mental health and medically related services. The medical director's position may  
21 be part time or full time as determined appropriate by the regional director, with the concurrence  
22 of the executive director or the director's designee. ~~The executive director or the director's~~  
23 ~~designee may appoint the regional director of a center to be the medical director of that center,~~  
24 ~~provided the regional director is qualified to be the medical director.~~ As used in this section,  
25 "qualified medical professional" means ~~an individual possessing a degree of doctor of~~  
26 ~~psychiatry~~ a board-eligible or board-certified psychiatrist, when such an individual can be  
27 employed, and when this is not possible, an individual possessing at least a medical degree.

28 **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-06-06.6 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
29 amended and reenacted as follows:

1           **50-06-06.6. Department of human services may lease real and personal property.**

2           The executive director of the department of human services may lease surplus farm and  
3 pastureland at the state hospital and the life skills and transition center. The executive director  
4 also may enter into further leases of real or personal property at the life skills and transition  
5 center or the state hospital upon a specific finding that the granting of each such leasehold  
6 interest, ~~except those relating to child care services,~~ will result in a net economic gain for the  
7 department, taking into account all identifiable costs. Any lease of space for the purpose of  
8 providing child care services must meet requirements as determined by the department. The  
9 executive director may prescribe the terms and conditions of any leases entered into pursuant  
10 to this section and may renew existing leases. Any lease entered into must be subject to  
11 renewal or cancelable each biennium. ~~Any lease or lease renewal of unneeded building or~~  
12 ~~building space may be made only after consultation with the administrator of the state fire and~~  
13 ~~tornado fund.~~

14           **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 50-06-20 of the North Dakota Century  
15 Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 16           1. The state shall bear the cost, in excess of the amount provided by the federal  
17 government, of:
- 18           a. As provided in section 50-24.1-14, medical assistance services provided under  
19 chapter 50-24.1;
  - 20           b. Energy assistance program benefits provided under subsection ~~19~~18 of section  
21 50-06-05.1;
  - 22           c. Supplements provided under chapter 50-24.5 as basic care services;
  - 23           d. Services, programs, and costs listed in section 50-09-27;
  - 24           e. Welfare fraud detection programs; and
  - 25           f. Special projects approved by the department and agreed to by any affected  
26 county social service board.

27           **SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-06-23 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
28 amended and reenacted as follows:

29           **50-06-23. Placement of children - Least restrictive care.**

30           The department and county social service boards shall thoroughly explore the option of kinship  
31 care when a child is unable to return home due to safety concerns. Absent

1 kinship options, the department and county social service boards shall provide  
2 permanency options that are in the least restrictive care and near the family's  
3 home as required by the federal Adoption and Safe Family Act of 1997 [Pub. L.  
4 105-89; 111 Stat. 2115; 42 U.S.C. 671]. ~~Before January 1, 2006, the department~~  
5 ~~of human services shall issue a request for proposal for the provision of~~  
6 ~~residential treatment services to meet the needs of youth with a history of sexual~~  
7 ~~offenses within the state and explore options of therapeutic foster care for those~~  
8 ~~youth who would benefit from this service level.~~

9 **SECTION 10. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-06-24 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
10 amended and reenacted as follows:

11 **50-06-24. Guardianship services.**

12 The department of human services may create and coordinate a unified system for the  
13 provision of guardianship services to vulnerable adults who are ineligible for developmental  
14 disabilities ~~ease~~program management services. The system must include a base unit funding  
15 level at the same level as developmental disability corporate guardianship rates, provider  
16 standards, staff competency requirements, and guidelines and training for guardians. The  
17 department shall adopt rules for guardianship services to vulnerable adults which are consistent  
18 with chapters 30.1-26, 30.1-28, and 30.1-29.

19 **SECTION 11. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-06-29 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
20 amended and reenacted as follows:

21 **50-06-29. Application for aging and disability resource center funding.**

22 ~~No later than December 31, 2007, the~~The department of human services shall seek federal  
23 ~~funds for the planning and implementation of~~operate an aging and disability resource center for  
24 the state. The resource center will be a single point of information program at the community  
25 level which will help people make informed decisions about the full range of long-term care  
26 service and support options, including both institutional and home and community-based care,  
27 and which will provide unbiased information and assistance to individuals needing either public  
28 or private resources, to professionals seeking assistance on behalf of their clients, and to  
29 individuals planning for their future long-term care needs. ~~Upon receipt of federal funds, the~~  
30 ~~department of human services may establish the aging and disability resource center or it may~~  
31 ~~request bids and award a contract for the provision of this service. The duties of the aging and~~

1 ~~disability resource center must include all duties required to receive federal funds, including~~  
2 ~~providing information about the full range of long-term care service and support options~~  
3 ~~available in the state to assure that consumers may make informed decisions about their care.~~  
4 The resource center must be free from a conflict of interest which would inappropriately  
5 influence or bias the actions of a contractor, staff member, board member, or volunteer of the  
6 resource center to limit the information given to a consumer to steer the consumer to services  
7 that may also be provided by the resource center.

8 **SECTION 12. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 50-06-34 of the North Dakota  
9 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 10 1. The department shall develop, within current appropriations, a program for services to  
11 transition-aged youth at risk. The department shall use a wraparound planning  
12 process. The department shall adopt rules to establish eligibility, services, and a  
13 distinct statewide interagency advisory council on transition-aged youth at risk, with  
14 youth and family representation, and with regional subcommittees. For the purposes of  
15 this section, "transition-aged youth" means children and young adults at risk due to:
- 16 a. Deprivation or other activities resulting in youth being involved with the foster  
17 care or juvenile justice system;
  - 18 b. Serious mental illness or serious disabilities that do not qualify the youth for  
19 developmental disabilities ~~ease~~program management; or
  - 20 c. Suicidal tendencies.

21 **SECTION 13.** A new section to chapter 50-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
22 and enacted as follows:

23 The department shall establish and administer, within the limits of legislative appropriations,  
24 a voucher system to address underserved areas and gaps in the state's substance abuse  
25 treatment system and to assist in the payment of addiction treatment services provided by  
26 private licensed substance abuse treatment programs and hospital or medical clinic based  
27 programs for medical management of withdrawal. Services eligible for the voucher program  
28 include only those levels of care recognized by the American society of addiction medicine, with  
29 particular emphasis given to underserved areas and programs. The department shall ensure  
30 that a private licensed substance abuse treatment program, hospitals, and medical clinic  
31 programs accepting vouchers collects and reports process and outcome measures. The

1 department shall develop requirements and provide training and technical assistance to a  
2 private licensed substance abuse treatment program, hospitals, and medical clinic programs  
3 accepting vouchers. A private licensed substance abuse treatment program, hospital, and  
4 medical clinic program accepting vouchers shall provide evidence-based services.

5       **SECTION 14. REPEAL.** Sections 50-06-01.5, 50-06-36, 50-06-39, and 50-08.1-01 of the  
6 North Dakota Century Code are repealed.

7       **SECTION 14. EMERGENCY.** Section 13 of this Act is declared to be an emergency  
8 measure.