

Introduced by

Representatives Satrom, Jones, Paulson, Schauer

Senator Clemens

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-12 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to the establishment of a school safety and crisis hotline program; and to
3 provide for a continuing appropriation.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 54-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
6 and enacted as follows:

7 **School safety and crisis hotline program - Confidentiality of records - Continuing**
8 **appropriation.**

9 1. The attorney general shall establish and administer a statewide program for receiving
10 reports and other information related to school and student safety, including potential
11 self-harm and potential harm or criminal acts directed at students, school employees,
12 or schools. The program must:

13 a. Establish a method to ensure the identity of an individual providing information
14 remains unknown to all persons, including law enforcement officers and
15 employees of the program;

16 b. Establish a method whereby information obtained from an individual who
17 voluntarily discloses that individual's own identity and which verifies the individual
18 is willing to be identified may be shared with law enforcement officers, employees
19 operating the program, and school officials;

20 c. Establish a method to ensure, if the identity of an individual who is providing
21 information becomes known, whether through voluntary disclosure or other
22 means, the identity is not further disclosed;

23 d. Assist law enforcement agencies and other public safety organizations in the
24 detection of dangerous, violent, or criminal activities and in the apprehension of

- 1 offenders or at-risk persons by promptly forwarding information received to the
2 appropriate law enforcement agency, public safety agency, and school officials;
3 e. Encourage state and local media providers to promote the program by informing
4 the public of its functions and benefits;
5 f. Include a crisis hotline that must be available to receive reports and information
6 twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week;
7 g. Establish a means for an individual to anonymously report:
8 (1) Incidents of bullying, cyber-bullying, harassment, or hazing; and
9 (2) Incidents of physical or sexual abuse committed by a school employee or
10 school volunteer;
11 h. Include crisis intervention, including suicide prevention, to individuals
12 experiencing emotional distress or psychiatric distress;
13 i. Provide program awareness and education materials to all preschool,
14 elementary, and secondary schools in the state at no charge to the schools; and
15 j. Provide students and staff at a school that has experienced a crisis, emergency,
16 or suicide access to counseling and other resources to assist in recovering from
17 the crisis, emergency, or suicide.
18 2. All records or information related to the operation of this program required under
19 subsection 1 are exempt records as defined in section 44-04-18.1.
20 3. The attorney general may seek and accept gifts, grants, and donations from any
21 source for the purpose of carrying out its duties under this section. All moneys
22 received as gifts, grants, and donations are appropriated to the attorney general on a
23 continuing basis for the purpose of carrying out this section.
24 4. The attorney general shall adopt rules necessary to administer the duties required to
25 carry out this section.