

Introduced by

Senators J. Lee, Hogan, Poolman

Representatives Rohr, Westlind

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new subsection to section 50-06-05.1 and a new section
2 to chapter 50-06 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to duties of the department of
3 human services and creation of a children's commission; and to repeal section 50-06-43 of the
4 North Dakota Century Code, relating to the children's behavioral health task force.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** A new subsection to section 50-06-05.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
7 created and enacted as follows:

8 To develop a system of services and supports to provide behavioral health services
9 and supports in the community for children at risk of or identified as having a
10 behavioral health condition and for the families of these children. This system must
11 include early intervention, treatment, and recovery services and supports and must
12 interface with, but not include, child protective services or juvenile court.

13 **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 50-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
14 and enacted as follows:

15 **Children's commission - Membership - Duties.**

- 16 1. The children's commission is created to assess, guide, and coordinate the care for
17 children across the state's branches of government and the tribal nations.
- 18 2. The children's commission consists of the following members:
- 19 a. The governor, or the governor's designee;
- 20 b. The chief justice of the supreme court, or the chief justice's designee;
- 21 c. The speaker of the house of representatives, or the speaker's designee;
- 22 d. The president pro tempore of the senate, or the president pro tempore's
23 designee;
- 24 e. The superintendent of public instruction, or the superintendent's designee;

- 1 f. The executive director of the department of human services, or the executive
2 director's designee;
- 3 g. The state health officer, or the state health officer's designee;
- 4 h. The executive director of the Indian affairs commission, or the executive
5 director's designee;
- 6 i. The executive director of the department of corrections and rehabilitation, or the
7 executive director's designee;
- 8 j. The director of the committee on protection and advocacy, or the director's
9 designee;
- 10 k. A representative of each of the tribal nations in the state, who are appointed by
11 the governor; and
- 12 l. Four individuals representing parents, private service providers, or other
13 community interests, who are appointed by the governor to serve a term of two
14 years, at the pleasure of the governor, and who are entitled to reimbursement
15 from the department of human services for travel and lodging at the same rate as
16 provided for state officers and employees.
- 17 3. The governor, or the governor's designee, shall serve as the presiding officer of the
18 commission. The commission shall meet at least quarterly. Additional meetings may
19 be held at the discretion of the presiding officer.
- 20 4. The children's commission shall:
- 21 a. Coordinate broad-based leadership across programs, agencies, branches of
22 government, and tribal nations to meet the needs of children;
- 23 b. Develop strategies to address gaps or needs regarding education, medical and
24 behavioral health, community, child welfare, and juvenile justice;
- 25 c. Develop strategies to provide for the full continuum of care in the delivery of
26 services, including promotion, prevention, early identification and intervention,
27 service delivery, and recovery;
- 28 d. Seek to engage cooperation across public and private service providers;
- 29 e. Provide a comprehensive vision for how and where children are best served,
30 attending to children in a respectful and relevant manner;

- 1 f. Seek strategies to provide services to children without consideration of prior
2 engagement with juvenile services; and
3 g. Provide for the active participation of consumers and providers statewide on
4 advisory committees.
5 5. The department of human services shall provide the children's commission with
6 staffing and administrative services.

7 **SECTION 3. REPEAL.** Section 50-06-43 of the North Dakota Century Code is repealed.