

MENTAL AND PHYSICAL ILLNESS OR DISABILITY

CHAPTER 241

SENATE BILL NO. 2149

(Senator Nething)

SUPERINTENDENT OF STATE HOSPITAL APPOINTMENTS

AN ACT to amend and reenact sections 25-01-03 and 25-02-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the qualifications and appointment of the superintendent of the state hospital.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

¹ **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-01-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

25-01-03. Supervising officer to appoint superintendent of institutions - Salaries - Removal. The supervising officer shall appoint a superintendent for each of the institutions under its control, except for the state hospital, where the supervising officer shall appoint a superintendent ~~and a medical director~~ in consultation with a state hospital governing body. The tenure of office of each superintendent is two years from the date of the superintendent's appointment, and the superintendent must possess qualifications required by this title. Any superintendent may be removed by the supervising officer for misconduct, neglect of duty, incompetency, or other proper cause showing the superintendent's inability or refusal properly to perform the duties of office; ~~but a.~~ A removal at a time other than a termination of the superintendent's two-year tenure may be had only after an opportunity is given to the person to be heard before a board consisting of the governor, attorney general, and supervising officer of the institution on preferred written charges. A removal when made, however, is final. The supervising officer shall fix the compensation of each superintendent within the limits prescribed in this title and within the appropriations made by the legislative assembly for compensation.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 25-02-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

¹ Section 25-01-03 was also amended by section 22 of House Bill No. 1013, chapter 13.

25-02-04. Superintendent to possess certain qualifications - Medical director - Employees. The superintendent of the state hospital must be a skilled health care administrator with professional training and experience relating to the management of facilities for mentally ill and chemically dependent persons and relating to the needs of the mentally ill and chemically dependent persons. ~~A~~ The medical director, who must be a licensed physician and board-certified psychiatrist, shall appoint and employ ~~recommend appointment of~~ all physicians and clinical staff, define their qualifications and duties, and ~~be responsible~~ have final authority for the organization and delivery of all medical and clinical services delivered to patients at the state hospital. The state hospital governing body has final approval of all physician and clinical staff appointments to the state hospital. The superintendent shall appoint the medical director in consultation with the supervising officer and with the approval of the governing body. If the superintendent is not a licensed physician and board-certified psychiatrist, the medical director, or a qualified designee of the medical director, shall act as the superintendent's designee in all matters in which the superintendent's opinion on medical or clinical treatment is required by law. Every physician on the professional staff must have a license issued by the state board of medical examiners. ~~The superintendent shall employ such other personnel as may be necessary and shall define their qualifications and duties.~~

Approved April 8, 1997
Filed April 8, 1997

CHAPTER 242

SENATE BILL NO. 2059

(Senators Nalewaja, Robinson, W. Stenehjem)
(Representatives Brown, Grande)

DISCLOSURE OF COMMITMENT RECORDS

AN ACT to amend and reenact section 25-03.1-43 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to making confidential commitment records of the department of human services available to law enforcement in limited circumstances.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 25-03.1-43 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

25-03.1-43. Confidential records. All information and records obtained in the course of an investigation, evaluation, examination, or treatment under this chapter and the presence or past presence of a patient in a treatment facility must be kept confidential and not as public records, except as the requirements of a hearing under this chapter may necessitate a different procedure. All information and records are available to the court and, under regulations established by the department, may be disclosed only to:

1. Physicians and providers of health, mental health, or social and welfare services involved in caring for, treating, or rehabilitating the patient to whom the patient has given written consent to have information disclosed.
2. Individuals to whom the patient has given written consent to have information disclosed.
3. Persons legally representing the patient, including attorneys representing the patient in commitment proceedings, upon proper proof of representation.
4. Persons authorized by a court order.
5. Persons doing research or maintaining health statistics, if the anonymity of the patient is assured and the facility recognizes the project as a bona fide research or statistical undertaking.
6. The department of corrections and rehabilitation in cases in which prisoners sentenced to the state prison are patients in the state hospital on authorized transfers either by voluntary admissions or by court order.
7. Governmental or law enforcement agencies when necessary to secure the return of a patient who is absent without authorization from the facility where the patient was undergoing evaluation or treatment, or when necessary to report a crime committed on facility premises or against facility staff or patients, or threats to commit such a crime. The disclosures must be directly related to a patient's commission of a crime or threats to commit such a crime and are limited to the circumstances

of the incident, the name and address of the patient involved, and the patient's last known whereabouts.

8. Qualified service organizations and third-party payers to the extent necessary to perform their functions.
9. Victims and witnesses of a crime to the extent necessary to comply with the notification requirements of subsection 16 of section 12.1-34-02.
10. Law enforcement agencies to confirm and investigate the address of a person required to register under section 12.1-32-15.

Approved March 5, 1997

Filed March 6, 1997

CHAPTER 243

HOUSE BILL NO. 1047

(Legislative Council)

(Criminal Justice Committee)

(Representatives Mahoney, Kretschmar, R. Kelsch, Brown, Bernstein)

(Senator Nalewaja)

CIVIL COMMITMENT OF SEXUALLY DANGEROUS INDIVIDUAL

AN ACT to create and enact chapter 25-03.3 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to civil commitment of sexually dangerous individuals.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. Chapter 25-03.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

25-03.3-01. Definitions. In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Committed individual" means an individual committed for custody and treatment pursuant to this chapter.
2. "Executive director" means the executive director of the department of human services or the executive director's designee.
3. "Qualified expert" means an individual who has an expertise in sexual offender evaluations and who is a psychiatrist or psychologist trained in a clinical program and licensed pursuant to this state's law, or a psychologist approved for exemption by the North Dakota board of psychology examiners.
4. "Respondent" means an individual subject to commitment pursuant to this chapter.
5. "Sexual act" means sexual contact between human beings, including contact between the penis and the vulva, the penis and the anus, the mouth and the penis, the mouth and the vulva, or the vulva and the vulva; or the use of an object that comes in contact with the victim's anus, vulva, or penis. Sexual contact between the penis and the vulva, or between the penis and the anus, or an object and the anus, vulva, or penis of the victim, occurs upon penetration, however slight. Emission is not required.
6. "Sexual contact" means any touching of the sexual or other intimate parts of an individual for the purpose of arousing or satisfying sexual or aggressive desires.
7. "Sexually dangerous individual" means an individual who is shown to have engaged in sexually predatory conduct and who has a congenital or acquired condition that is manifested by a sexual disorder, a personality

disorder, or other mental disorder or dysfunction that makes that individual likely to engage in further acts of sexually predatory conduct which constitute a danger to the physical or mental health or safety of others. It is a rebuttable presumption that sexually predatory conduct creates a danger to the physical or mental health or safety of the victim of the conduct. The term does not include an individual with mental retardation.

8. "Sexually predatory conduct" means:
 - a. Engaging or attempting to engage in a sexual act or sexual contact with another individual, or causing or attempting to cause another individual to engage in a sexual act or sexual contact, if:
 - (1) The victim is compelled to submit by force or by threat of imminent death, serious bodily injury, or kidnapping directed toward the victim or any human being, or the victim is compelled to submit by any threat that would render an individual of reasonable firmness incapable of resisting;
 - (2) The victim's power to appraise or control the victim's conduct has been substantially impaired by the administration or employment, without the victim's knowledge, of intoxicants or other means for purposes of preventing resistance;
 - (3) The actor knows or should have known that the victim is unaware that a sexual act is being committed upon the victim;
 - (4) The victim is less than fifteen years old;
 - (5) The actor knows or should have known that the victim suffers from a mental disease or defect that renders the victim incapable of understanding the nature of the sexual act or contact;
 - (6) The victim is in official custody or detained in a hospital, prison, or other institution and is under the supervisory authority or disciplinary control of the actor; or
 - (7) The victim is a minor and the actor is an adult; or
 - b. Engaging in or attempting to engage in sexual contact with another individual or causing or attempting to cause another individual to have sexual contact, if:
 - (1) The actor knows or should have known that the contact is offensive to the victim; or
 - (2) The victim is a minor, fifteen years of age or older, and the actor is the minor's parent, guardian, or is otherwise responsible for general supervision of the victim's welfare.
9. "Should have known" means a reasonable individual without a congenital or acquired condition that is manifested by a sexual disorder, a personality disorder, or other mental disorder or dysfunction in the actor's circumstances would have known.

10. "Superintendent" means the superintendent of the state hospital or the superintendent's designee.
11. "Treatment facility" means any hospital, including the state hospital, or any treatment facility that can provide directly, or by direct arrangement with other public or private agencies, evaluation and treatment of sexually dangerous individuals.

25-03.3-02. Jurisdiction and venue. The district court has original jurisdiction over the proceedings governed by this chapter. A proceeding pursuant to this chapter must be tried in the county in which the respondent resides or is located.

25-03.3-03. Sexually dangerous individual - Petition. If it appears that an individual is a sexually dangerous individual, the state's attorney may file a petition in the district court alleging that the individual is a sexually dangerous individual and stating sufficient facts to support the allegation.

25-03.3-04. Retention of records. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all adult and juvenile case files and court records of an alleged offense defined by section 12.1-20-03, 12.1-20-04, 12.1-20-05, 12.1-20-06, or 12.1-20-07 must be retained for fifty years and made available to any state's attorney for purposes of investigation or proceedings pursuant to this chapter.

25-03.3-05. Abrogation of confidentiality statutes and privileges. Notwithstanding any other provision of law requiring confidentiality of information about individuals receiving care, custody, education, treatment, or any other services from the state or any political subdivision, any confidential information about a respondent or committed individual must be released to a state's attorney for proceedings pursuant to this chapter unless release results in the loss of federal funds. The physician-patient privilege and psychotherapist-patient privilege do not apply to communications relevant to an issue in proceedings to commit an individual as a sexually dangerous person if the physician or psychotherapist in the course of diagnosis or treatment determines the patient is in need of commitment and to communications with a committed individual. The provision of any confidential or privileged information to the state's attorney does not render the state, any political subdivision, or any state or political subdivision official or employee, or other person liable pursuant to any criminal or civil law relating to confidentiality or privilege.

25-03.3-06. Use of confidential records. Upon request, any confidential records provided to the state's attorney pursuant to this chapter must be made available to the respondent or committed individual, the attorney of the respondent or committed individual, a qualified expert charged with examining the respondent or committed individual, the court, and any treatment facility in which the respondent or committed individual is being evaluated or treated pursuant to this chapter.

25-03.3-07. Appointment of guardian ad litem. At any stage of a proceeding under this chapter, on application of a party or on its own motion, the court may appoint a guardian ad litem for a minor who is a witness or otherwise involved in the proceeding, if the minor has no parent, guardian, or custodian appearing on the minor's behalf or the interests of those persons conflict with those of the minor. The department of human services shall pay the expense of the guardian ad litem fee as established by the court.

25-03.3-08. Sexually dangerous individual - Procedure on petition - Detention.

Upon the filing of a petition pursuant to this chapter, the court shall determine whether to issue an order for detention of the respondent named in the petition. The petition may be heard ex parte. The court shall issue an order for detention if there is cause to believe that the respondent is a sexually dangerous individual. If the court issues an order for detention, the order must direct that the respondent be taken into custody and transferred to an appropriate treatment facility to be held for evaluation and subsequent hearing pursuant to this chapter. Under this section, the department of human services shall pay for any expense incurred in the detention or evaluation of the respondent.

25-03.3-09. Right to counsel - Waiver.

1. Every respondent is entitled to legal counsel. Unless an appearance has been entered on behalf of the respondent, the court, within twenty-four hours from the time the petition was filed, exclusive of weekends or holidays, shall appoint counsel to represent the respondent. If a respondent retains counsel, the retained counsel immediately shall notify the court of that fact.
2. After consultation with counsel, the respondent may waive the right to counsel or the right to any hearing provided pursuant to this chapter by notifying the court in writing. The notification must clearly state the respondent's reasons for the waiver and be signed by counsel for the respondent.
3. If the court determines that the respondent is indigent, the court shall appoint counsel and order that appointed counsel be compensated by the county that is the respondent's place of residence in a reasonable amount based upon time and expenses.
4. The state's attorney of a county that has expended sums pursuant to subsection 3 may seek civil recovery of those sums from property of the respondent. Commencement of the action must occur within six years after the date the sums were paid. After notice and hearing, the court may order an individual to reimburse the county for expenditures made on that individual's behalf pursuant to this chapter.

25-03.3-10. Notice. If a respondent is detained pursuant to section 25-03.3-08, the state's attorney shall provide the respondent, or the respondent's guardian, if appropriate, with a copy of the petition filed with the court. The state's attorney shall provide the respondent with written notice of the respondent's right to a preliminary hearing and a commitment hearing, if probable cause is found to exist; the right to counsel and that counsel will be appointed for the respondent, if the respondent is indigent; and the right to have an expert of the respondent's choosing conduct an evaluation and testify on the respondent's behalf or, if the respondent is indigent, that the court will appoint a qualified expert for the respondent. The notice must state the date, time, and place for the preliminary hearing.

25-03.3-11. Preliminary hearing - Probable cause. The respondent is entitled to a preliminary hearing within seventy-two hours of being taken into custody pursuant to an order of the court, excluding weekends and holidays, unless the respondent chooses to waive the preliminary hearing pursuant to section 25-03.3-09. The respondent has a right to be present, to testify, and to present and cross-examine witnesses at any preliminary hearing. Every individual not necessary must be excluded, except that the court may admit any individual having a legitimate

interest in the proceeding. If the court determines after a preliminary hearing that there is probable cause to believe the respondent is a sexually dangerous individual, the court shall order that the respondent be transferred to an appropriate treatment facility for an evaluation as to whether the respondent has a congenital or acquired condition that is manifested by a sexual disorder, a personality disorder, or other mental disorder or dysfunction that makes the respondent likely to engage in further acts of sexually predatory conduct. If the court determines that probable cause does not exist to believe that the respondent is a sexually dangerous individual, the court shall dismiss the petition. If the respondent waives the preliminary hearing, then the respondent must be immediately transferred to an appropriate treatment facility for an evaluation as to whether the respondent has a congenital or acquired condition that is manifested by a sexual disorder, a personality disorder, or other mental disorder or dysfunction that makes the respondent likely to engage in further acts of sexually predatory conduct.

25-03.3-12. Sexually dangerous individual - Evaluation. The evaluation must be conducted by one or more experts chosen by the executive director. Whenever a respondent is subject to an evaluation pursuant to this chapter, the respondent may retain an expert to perform an evaluation or testify on the respondent's behalf. In the case of a respondent who is indigent, the court shall appoint a qualified expert to perform an examination or participate in the commitment proceeding on the respondent's behalf. The department of human services shall compensate any qualified expert appointed by the court on behalf of an indigent respondent in a reasonable amount based on time and expenses. An expert retained on behalf of the respondent must have reasonable access to the respondent for the purpose of the examination and to all relevant medical, psychological, and court records and reports.

25-03.3-13. Sexually dangerous individual - Commitment proceeding - Report of findings. Within thirty days after the finding of probable cause, the court shall conduct a commitment proceeding to determine whether the respondent is a sexually dangerous individual. The court may extend the time for good cause. At the commitment proceeding, any testimony and reports of an expert who conducted an examination are admissible, including risk assessment evaluations. Any proceeding pursuant to this chapter must be tried to the court and not a jury. At the commitment proceeding, the state's attorney shall present evidence in support of the petition and the burden is on the state to show by clear and convincing evidence that the respondent is a sexually dangerous individual. An individual may not be committed unless evidence is admitted establishing that at least two experts have concluded the individual has a congenital or acquired condition that is manifested by a sexual disorder, a personality disorder, or other mental disorder or dysfunction that makes that individual likely to engage in further acts of sexually predatory conduct. The respondent has a right to be present, to testify, and to present and cross-examine witnesses. Every person not necessary must be excluded, except that the court may admit any person having a legitimate interest in the proceeding. If the respondent is found to be a sexually dangerous individual, the court shall commit the respondent to the care, custody, and control of the executive director. The executive director shall place the respondent in an appropriate facility or program at which treatment is available. The appropriate treatment facility or program must be the least restrictive available treatment facility or program necessary to achieve the purposes of this chapter. The executive director may not be required to create a less restrictive treatment facility or treatment program specifically for the respondent or committed individual. Unless the respondent has been committed to the legal and physical custody of the department of corrections and rehabilitation, the respondent may not be placed at and the treatment program for the respondent may not be provided at the state penitentiary or an affiliated penal facility. If the respondent is

found not to be a sexually dangerous individual, the court shall discharge the respondent.

25-03.3-14. Interagency placement. If a committed individual also has been committed to the legal and physical custody of the department of corrections and rehabilitation, the director of the department of corrections and rehabilitation and the executive director may consult one another and determine the appropriate placement of the individual and may transfer the individual between placements.

25-03.3-15. Evidence of prior acts. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in any proceeding pursuant to this chapter, evidence of prior sexually predatory conduct or criminal conduct, including a record of the juvenile court, is admissible.

25-03.3-16. Limitation on findings as evidence in criminal proceedings. Any determination made pursuant to this chapter regarding whether a respondent is a sexually dangerous individual or has a congenital or acquired condition that is manifested by a sexual disorder, a personality disorder, or other mental disorder or dysfunction is inadmissible in any criminal proceeding against the respondent, including any criminal proceeding to determine whether the respondent is fit to stand trial, incapable of forming requisite intent, or not guilty by reason of lack of responsibility because of mental disease or defect.

25-03.3-17. Postcommitment proceeding, discharge, and further disposition.

1. A committed individual must remain in the care, custody, and control of the executive director until, in the opinion of the executive director, the individual is safe to be at large and has received the maximum benefit of treatment.
2. Each committed individual must have an examination of that individual's mental condition at least once a year. A report regarding the examination must be provided to the court that committed the individual. At the time of the annual examination, the committed individual has the right to have an expert examine the individual, and, upon the request of an indigent committed individual, the court shall appoint a qualified expert to examine the committed individual and report to the court. The department of human services shall compensate a qualified expert appointed by the court in a reasonable amount based on time and expenses. That expert must have reasonable access to the committed individual and to all records relating to the committed individual, including confidential records.
3. If a committed individual has been committed to an out-of-state facility by the executive director for purposes of treatment, an expert from that state may be appointed by the court as a qualified expert for an indigent committed individual for any postcommitment proceeding.
4. After any report pursuant to this section is provided to the court, the court may order further examination and investigation of the committed individual as the court considers necessary. The court may set the matter for a hearing. At the hearing, the committed individual is entitled to be present and to the benefit of the protections afforded at the commitment proceeding. The state's attorney shall represent the state at the hearing. After the hearing, the court shall determine whether the committed individual is to be discharged or to be retained as a sexually

dangerous individual in the care, custody, and control of the executive director.

5. The executive director may only discharge a sexually dangerous individual from commitment pursuant to a court order. The executive director may petition the committing court at any time for the discharge of the committed individual. The executive director shall give the state's attorney notice of any petition for discharge the executive director files with the court. Before the petition is granted, the state's attorney has the right to be heard by the court on the petition. The state's attorney may waive this right.

25-03.3-18. Petition for discharge - Notice.

1. Annually, the executive director shall provide the committed individual with written notice that the individual has a right to petition the court for discharge. The notice must explain to the committed person when the committed person has a right to a hearing on the petition. The notice must inform the committed person of the rights this chapter affords the committed person at a discharge hearing. The executive director shall forward a copy of the notice to the committing court.
2. If the committed individual files a petition for discharge and has not had a hearing pursuant to section 25-03.3-17 or this section during the preceding twelve months, the committed individual has a right to a hearing on the petition.
3. At the hearing on the petition for discharge, the committed individual is entitled to be present and to the benefit of the protections afforded at the commitment proceeding. The state's attorney shall represent the state and may have the committed individual evaluated by experts chosen by the state. The committed individual is entitled to have an expert of the committed individual's choice conduct an evaluation. The court shall appoint a qualified expert, if the committed individual is indigent and requests an appointment. The department of human services shall compensate a qualified expert appointed by the court in a reasonable amount based on time and expenses. That expert must have reasonable access to the committed individual and to all records relating to the committed individual, including confidential records.
4. At any hearing held pursuant to a petition for discharge, the burden of proof is on the state to show by clear and convincing evidence that the committed individual remains a sexually dangerous individual.

25-03.3-19. Appeal. The respondent has the right to an appeal from an order of commitment or an order denying a petition for discharge. Upon entry of an appealable order, the court shall notify the respondent of the right to appeal and the right to counsel. The notice of appeal must be filed within thirty days after entry of the order. The appeal must be limited to a review of the procedures, findings, and conclusions of the committing court. Pending a decision on appeal, the order appealed from remains in effect.

25-03.3-20. Limitation of liability. A person acting in good faith upon either actual knowledge or reliable information, who provides information to the state's attorney or the court pursuant to this chapter, is not subject to civil or criminal liability.

25-03.3-21. Recovery of expense. The department of human services, to the extent it has expended sums or provided services pursuant to this title, may seek civil recovery from the property of the respondent or committed individual. The department of human services must commence the action within six years after the department paid the sums or provided the services to the respondent or committed individual. After notice and hearing, the court may order an individual to reimburse the department of human services for all or part of the expenditures made for that individual pursuant to this chapter. In establishing the amount of reimbursement ordered under this section, the court shall consider the ability of the respondent or committed individual to pay.

Approved April 8, 1997

Filed April 8, 1997

CHAPTER 244**SENATE BILL NO. 2120**

(Education Committee)

(At the request of the Superintendent of Public Instruction)

SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND OBJECT AND SUPERINTENDENT

AN ACT to create and enact a new section to chapter 25-06 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the superintendent of the school for the blind serving as the superintendent of the school for the deaf; to amend and reenact sections 25-06-02 and 25-06-07 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the object of and instruction provided at the school for the blind; and to repeal section 25-06-08 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to clothing accounts at the school for the blind.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 25-06-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

25-06-02. Object of school for the blind. The school for the blind is a statewide resource center for the provision of services to residents of this state, including vision specific consultations, evaluations, information, and training and loans of adaptive devices, equipment, and materials. It shall receive and educate blind and partially blind children who are residents of this state and who, because of this handicap, are not able to receive ~~their~~ an appropriate education in the public schools of this state.

SECTION 2. A new section to chapter 25-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Superintendent - Special duties. The superintendent of the school for the blind may also be the superintendent of the school for the deaf.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Section 25-06-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

25-06-07. Instruction at school for the blind. The superintendent of the school for the blind shall provide ~~employment for the pupils at the school for the blind. Such pupils shall receive instruction in general subjects as well as in vocational training. The proceeds and products arising from the labor and employment of the pupils of to students at the school for the blind shall inure to the use and benefit of the school for the blind, and instruction in vision specific subjects, including orientation, mobility, braille, braille music, daily living skills, technology, vocational training, and recreation.~~

SECTION 4. REPEAL. Section 25-06-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is repealed.

Approved March 19, 1997
Filed March 19, 1997

CHAPTER 245

SENATE BILL NO. 2165

(Senators W. Stenehjem, Holmberg, St. Aubyn)
(Representatives Delmore, Kliniske, Poolman)

VISION SPECIFIC ADAPTIVE AID PURCHASE

AN ACT to create and enact a new section to chapter 25-06 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the purchase and resale of vision specific adaptive aids, devices, and appliances by the school for the blind and the creation of a revolving fund; to provide a continuing appropriation; and to declare an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. A new section to chapter 25-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Purchase and resale of vision specific adaptive aids, devices, and appliances - Revolving fund - Continuing appropriation. A revolving vision aids, devices, and appliances fund is hereby established in the state treasury to be used by the school for the blind to purchase and resell vision specific adaptive aids, devices, and appliances to be used by blind and visually impaired persons resident in this state. The school for the blind may apply service charges when needed to cover the cost of purchasing, invoicing, and shipping, and all revenue from the sale of aids, appliances, devices, and shipping and postage fees must be deposited in the fund. The school for the blind may receive gifts, grants, and donations for deposit in and use by the fund. All moneys in the revolving fund are hereby appropriated to the school for the blind on a continuing basis for expenditure for the purposes of this section.

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY. This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.

Approved March 21, 1997
Filed March 21, 1997