

Introduced by

Representatives McWilliams, Boschee, Lefor, Mock, J. Nelson, D. Ruby, Satrom, Simons

Senators Hogan, O. Larsen, D. Larson, Mathern

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 50 of the North Dakota Century
2 Code, relating to community transitional housing; to provide a report; to provide an
3 appropriation; and to provide an expiration date.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** A new chapter to title 50 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and
6 enacted as follows:

7 **Definitions.**

8 As used in this chapter:

- 9 1. "Department" means the department of corrections and rehabilitation.
- 10 2. "Host home" means a dwelling certified to house a participant.
- 11 3. "Participant" means an individual who has been approved to reside in a host home
12 and is under the supervision of the department.
- 13 4. "Program" means the community transitional housing program.
- 14 5. "Single family home" means a stand-alone dwelling with its own lot intended for one
15 family.

16 **Community transitional housing program.**

17 The department shall establish and implement a community transitional housing program to
18 provide participants with short-term housing.

19 **Administration - Report.**

- 20 1. The department shall:
 - 21 a. Establish eligibility criteria for participants. If a participant has a level of service
22 inventory-revised score, the score must be thirty or less. Criteria must include an
23 interview between the participant and the potential host home and two letters of
24 recommendation.

- 1 b. Establish eligibility criteria, certification, and training for host homes. A host home
2 must be a single family home and each individual residing in the home must be at
3 least eighteen years of age, pass a criminal history background check, provide
4 three letters of recommendation, and disclose past alcohol and substance abuse.
5 The residence of an individual is ineligible to be a host home if the individual has
6 been convicted of any drug offense or any felony within the previous ten years or
7 if the individual is the grandparent, parent, or sibling of the participant.
8 c. Develop program oversight, including guidelines, goals, liability protocols, and
9 employment parameters for participants. Employment parameters must include
10 options and insurance requirements for a participant to:
11 (1) Work at least thirty hours per week as an employee of the owner of the host
12 home while earning minimum wage;
13 (2) Work at least thirty hours per week in the community; or
14 (3) Work as an employee of the owner of the host home part-time while
15 maintaining part-time employment in the community.
16 d. Establish communication and reporting criteria between the participant, the host
17 home, and the parole or probation officer.
18 2. A participant may not remain in a host home for more than ninety days upon release
19 from incarceration. The participant and host home may submit a joint application to the
20 department for one 30-day housing extension.
21 3. A participant may not use the address of the host home as a residential address for
22 the purpose of receiving mail.
23 4. The owner of a host home may charge a participant up to fifteen dollars per day for
24 program fees.
25 5. A host home may house only one participant at a time and may not house more than
26 three participants each calendar year.
27 6. The owner of a host home shall maintain all housing standards as set by the
28 department and shall store firearms and prescription medications in a locked safe or a
29 secured room that requires a key for entry and has lockable windows.

- 1 7. The department shall terminate a participant from the program at the request of the
2 owner of the host home or if the participant violates the terms of the participant's
3 probation or parole more than once while residing in a host home.
- 4 8. To participate in the program, a participant shall submit an application at least ninety
5 days before the participant's anticipated placement with a host home.
- 6 9. The department shall adopt rules necessary to implement the program.
- 7 10. The department shall provide a biennial report to the legislative management
8 regarding the number of applications the department receives, the number of
9 applicants who are denied from participating in the program, and the background data
10 of each applicant, including the applicant's job, housing, and criminal history.

11 **Reimbursement.**

12 The department shall provide the owner of a host home with a stipend of three hundred
13 dollars for each month the host home houses a participant. The department shall pay a monthly
14 bonus of up to one hundred fifty dollars to the owner of a host home that meets specified goals
15 upon completion of the placement.

16 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general
17 fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$500,000, or so much of the
18 sum as may be necessary, to the department of corrections and rehabilitation for the purpose of
19 establishing and implementing the community transitional housing program, for the biennium
20 beginning July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2021.

21 **SECTION 3. EXPIRATION DATE.** This Act is effective through July 31, 2023, and after that
22 date is ineffective.