

Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly, State of North Dakota, begun in the Capitol in the City of Bismarck, on Monday, the sixth day of January, one thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven

SENATE BILL NO. 2318
(Senators Thane, Kringstad, Sand, W. Stenehjem)
(Representatives Maragos, Oban)

AN ACT to create and enact two new subsections to section 53-06.1-01 and a new section to chapter 53-06.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the development and implementation of a compulsive gambling awareness, rehabilitation, and treatment program by the department of human services; and to provide an appropriation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. Two new subsections to section 53-06.1-01 of the 1995 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code are created and enacted as follows:

"Compulsive gambler" means an individual who is chronically and progressively preoccupied with gambling and the urge to gamble and with gambling behavior that compromises, disrupts, or damages personal, family, or vocational pursuits.

"Qualified treatment service provider" means an entity based in North Dakota which is experienced in and capable of delivering compulsive gambling education, prevention, awareness, crisis intervention, rehabilitation, and financial counseling and mental health treatment services as defined by the department of human services.

SECTION 2. A new section to chapter 53-06.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Compulsive gambling prevention, awareness, crisis intervention, rehabilitation, and treatment services. The department of human services shall contract with qualified treatment service providers for the development and implementation of a program for gambling prevention, awareness, crisis intervention, rehabilitation, and financial counseling and mental health treatment services. The program may provide outpatient services; partial care services; aftercare services; intervention services; financial counseling services; consultation services; or other forms of preventive, rehabilitative, or treatment services for compulsive gamblers. An individual who provides treatment services must meet the minimum standards for certification as a gambling counselor as established by the national council on problem gambling and be a mental health professional as defined in section 25-03.1-02. An individual who provides financial counseling services must be a certified consumer credit counselor with an accredited financial counseling agency. The department of human services may establish a sliding payment scale for services under the program. The department of human services may establish a centrally located repository of educational materials on identifying and treating compulsive gambling. Any service fee collected by qualified treatment service providers for services provided under the contract must be applied toward the program's compulsive gambling services.

SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION. There is hereby appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$150,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of human services for the purpose of implementing section 2 of this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 1997, and ending June 30, 1999.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2318.

Senate Vote: Yeas 43 Nays 4 Absent 2

House Vote: Yeas 54 Nays 40 Absent 3

Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 1997.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 1997.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 1997,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State