

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT
with House Amendments**

Fifty-fifth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2318

Introduced by

Senators Thane, Kringstad, Sand, W. Stenehjem

Representatives Maragos, Oban

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact two new subsections to section 53-06.1-01 and a new
2 section to chapter 53-06.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the development and
3 implementation of a compulsive gambling awareness, rehabilitation, and treatment program by
4 the department of human services; and to provide an appropriation.

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

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

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

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

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

18 **Compulsive gambling prevention, awareness, crisis intervention, rehabilitation,**
19 **and treatment services.** The department of human services shall contract with qualified
20 treatment service providers for the development and implementation of a program for gambling
21 prevention, awareness, crisis intervention, rehabilitation, and financial counseling and mental
22 health treatment services. The program may provide outpatient services; partial care services;
23 aftercare services; intervention services; financial counseling services; consultation services; or

1 other forms of preventive, rehabilitative, or treatment services for compulsive gamblers. An
2 individual who provides treatment services must meet the minimum standards for certification
3 as a gambling counselor as established by the national council on problem gambling and be a
4 mental health professional as defined in section 25-03.1-02. An individual who provides
5 financial counseling services must be a certified consumer credit counselor with an accredited
6 financial counseling agency. The department of human services may establish a sliding
7 payment scale for services under the program. The department of human services may
8 establish a centrally located repository of educational materials on identifying and treating
9 compulsive gambling. Any service fee collected by qualified treatment service providers for
10 services provided under the contract must be applied toward the program's compulsive
11 gambling services.

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