

Introduced by

Senators Dever, Heckaman

Representative L. Meier

1 A BILL for an Act to provide a short-term shelter and assessment pilot program for at-risk
2 youth; to provide a report to the legislative council; to provide for a legislative council study; and
3 to provide an appropriation.

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

5 **SECTION 1. SHORT-TERM SHELTER AND ASSESSMENT PILOT PROGRAM.** The
6 department of corrections and rehabilitation shall establish a pilot program in the south central
7 judicial district for the purpose of providing short-term shelter, assessment, and intervention
8 services for at-risk children and youth, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2009, and ending
9 June 30, 2011. The program must allow for the placement of at-risk children and youth in a
10 short-term shelter program and provide professional assessment and family reunification
11 services as an alternative to placement in foster care or group care. The shelter facility must
12 be nonsecure and approved by the juvenile court. The department shall contract with a private
13 nonprofit organization to provide the pilot program services.

14 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the
15 general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$200,000, or so much
16 of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of corrections and rehabilitation for the
17 purpose of contracting with a private nonprofit organization to conduct the pilot program
18 established in section 1 of this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2009, and ending
19 June 30, 2011.

20 **SECTION 3. REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.** The department of corrections
21 and rehabilitation shall provide a report to the legislative council regarding the short-term
22 shelter and assessment pilot program authorized by section 1 of this Act.

23 **SECTION 4. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STUDY.** During the 2009-10 interim, the
24 legislative council shall consider studying the statewide need for short-term shelter,

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1 assessment, and intervention services for at-risk children and youth across the state and the
2 feasibility and desirability of using such services instead of foster or group care for short-term
3 placements. The study also must include recommendations regarding sources of reliable
4 funding, the appropriate state administrative agency, and a delivery system that reflects local
5 resources and preferences and evidence-based methods for involving parents in follow-up
6 services. The legislative council shall report its findings and recommendations, together with
7 any legislation necessary to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-second legislative
8 assembly.