

Sixty-first
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

SENATE BILL NO. 2355

Introduced by

Senators Dever, Heckaman

Representative L. Meier

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

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

5 **SECTION 1. SHORT-TERM CARE SHELTER AND ASSESSMENT PILOT**

6 **PROGRAM.** The department of corrections and rehabilitation shall establish a pilot program in
7 the south central judicial district for the purpose of providing short-term shelter assessment and
8 intervention services for children and youth at risk, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2009, and
9 ending June 30, 2011. The program must allow for the placement of at-risk children and youth
10 in a 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 be
12 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 \$400,000, 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 SIXTY-SECOND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.** The
21 department of corrections and rehabilitation shall provide a report to the sixty-second legislative
22 assembly on the activities and outcomes of the pilot program and the desirability of expanding
23 the program to other areas of the state.