

**Sixty-first Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 6, 2009**

SENATE BILL NO. 2355
(Senators Dever, Heckaman)
(Representative L. Meier)

AN ACT to provide a short-term shelter and assessment pilot program for at-risk youth; to provide a report to the legislative council; to provide for a legislative council study; and to provide an appropriation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

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

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

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

SECTION 4. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STUDY. During the 2009-10 interim, the legislative council shall consider studying the statewide need for short-term shelter, assessment, and intervention services for at-risk children and youth across the state and the feasibility and desirability of using such services instead of foster or group care for short-term placements. The study also must include recommendations regarding sources of reliable funding, the appropriate state administrative agency, and a delivery system that reflects local resources and preferences and evidence-based methods for involving parents in follow-up services. The legislative council shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation necessary to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-second legislative assembly.

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 Sixty-first Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2355.

Senate Vote: Yeas 47 Nays 0 Absent 0

House Vote: Yeas 69 Nays 21 Absent 4

Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2009.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2009.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2009,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State