

Sixty-fourth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2161

Introduced by

Senators Carlisle, Armstrong, Heckaman

Representatives M. Johnson, Karls, Maragos

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 27 of the North Dakota Century
2 Code, relating to the establishment of an interdisciplinary committee on problem-solving courts;
3 and to provide an expiration date.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** A new chapter to title 27 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and
6 enacted as follows:

7 **Interdisciplinary committee on problem-solving courts - Report to legislative**
8 **management.**

9 1. The interdisciplinary committee on problem-solving courts is established as a
10 collaborative mechanism to acquire and analyze relevant information related to the
11 need for and feasibility of establishing problem-solving courts in this state. For
12 purposes of this chapter, a "problem-solving court" is a juvenile or adult drug court,
13 mental health court, veterans court, or other specialized court comprised of
14 interdisciplinary teams, enhanced judicial involvement, court-supervised treatment
15 programs, and other components designed to achieve effective alternatives to
16 traditional case dispositions.

17 2. The interdisciplinary committee on problem-solving courts consists of:

- 18 a. A justice of the supreme court appointed by the chief justice.
- 19 b. A presiding judge elected by the judicial system administrative council.
- 20 c. The executive director of the department of human services, or the director's
21 designee.
- 22 d. The director of the department of corrections and rehabilitation, or the director's
23 designee.
- 24 e. A state's attorney appointed by the state's attorneys' association.

- 1 f. A defense attorney appointed by the commission on legal counsel for indigents.
- 2 g. A representative of chemical, mental health, or other treatment providers in the
- 3 state as agreed upon by the committee members.
- 4 h. One member appointed by the North Dakota peace officers association.
- 5 i. The executive director of the department of veterans' affairs.
- 6 3. The chief justice designates the chairman and vice-chairman of the interdisciplinary
- 7 committee.
- 8 4. With the consent of committee members, the chairman of the interdisciplinary
- 9 committee may temporarily supplement membership to assist in the review of whether
- 10 establishment of a problem-solving court should be recommended.
- 11 5. The interdisciplinary committee shall meet at least quarterly but must timely consider
- 12 any requests for evaluation of the establishment of a problem-solving court.

13 **Functions and duties.**

14 The interdisciplinary committee on problem-solving courts shall:

- 15 1. Acquire and analyze information and data, including budgetary requirements and
- 16 funding sources, regarding whether establishment of a problem-solving court in a
- 17 judicial district should be considered.
- 18 2. Determine the feasibility of establishing a problem-solving court in a judicial district,
- 19 including the availability of judicial and nonjudicial resources.
- 20 3. Based on relevant data and analysis, report findings and recommend proposed
- 21 legislation to the legislative management.
- 22 4. Review requests to establish problem-solving courts and submit recommendations to
- 23 the legislative management regarding whether a particular problem-solving court
- 24 should be established.
- 25 5. Establish a mechanism for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of established
- 26 problem-solving courts and related treatment services.

27 **Staff services.**

28 The interdisciplinary committee on problem-solving courts may request appropriate staff

29 services from the office of the state court administrator.

30 **SECTION 2. EXPIRATION DATE.** This Act is effective through July 31, 2017, and after that

31 date is ineffective.