15.0440.03000

Sixty-fourth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

FIRST ENGROSSMENT

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2161

Introduced by

Senators Carlisle, Armstrong, Heckaman

Representatives M. Johnson, Karls, Maragos

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

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

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

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

1. The interdisciplinary committee on problem-solving courts is established as a collaborative mechanism to acquire and analyze relevant information related to the need for and feasibility of establishing problem-solving courts in this state. For purposes of this chapter, a "problem-solving court" is a juvenile or adult drug court, mental health court, veterans court, or other specialized court comprised of interdisciplinary teams, enhanced judicial involvement, court-supervised treatment programs, and other components designed to achieve effective alternatives to traditional case dispositions.
2. The interdisciplinary committee on problem-solving courts consists of:
   a. A justice of the supreme court appointed by the chief justice.
   b. A presiding judge elected by the judicial system administrative council.
   c. The executive director of the department of human services, or the director's designee.
   d. The director of the department of corrections and rehabilitation, or the director's designee.
   e. A state's attorney appointed by the state's attorneys' association.

f. A defense attorney appointed by the commission on legal counsel for indigents.

g. A representative of chemical, mental health, or other treatment providers in the state as agreed upon by the committee members.

h. One member appointed by the North Dakota peace officers association.

i. The executive director of the department of veterans' affairs.

3. The chief justice designates the chairman and vice-chairman of the interdisciplinary committee.

4. With the consent of committee members, the chairman of the interdisciplinary committee may temporarily supplement membership to assist in the review of whether establishment of a problem-solving court should be recommended.

5. The interdisciplinary committee shall meet at least quarterly but must timely consider any requests for evaluation of the establishment of a problem-solving court.

Functions and duties.

The interdisciplinary committee on problem-solving courts shall:

1. Acquire and analyze information and data, including budgetary requirements and funding sources, regarding whether establishment of a problem-solving court in a judicial district should be considered.

2. Determine the feasibility of establishing a problem-solving court in a judicial district, including the availability of judicial and nonjudicial resources.

3. Based on relevant data and analysis, report findings and recommend proposed legislation to the legislative management.

4. Review requests to establish problem-solving courts and submit recommendations to the legislative management regarding whether a particular problem-solving court should be established.

5. Establish a mechanism for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of established problem-solving courts and related treatment services.

Staff services.

The interdisciplinary committee on problem-solving courts may request appropriate staff services from the office of the state court administrator.

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