

**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.