
SENATE BILL 6804

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By Senator Kohl-Welles

Read first time 01/29/10. Referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce & Consumer Protection.

1 AN ACT Relating to allowing the department of social and health
2 services to adopt rules establishing standards for the review and
3 certification of treatment facilities under the problem and
4 pathological gambling treatment program; and amending RCW 43.20A.890.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.20A.890 and 2005 c 369 s 2 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 (1) A program for (a) the prevention and treatment of problem and
9 pathological gambling; and (b) the training of professionals in the
10 identification and treatment of problem and pathological gambling is
11 established within the department of social and health services, to be
12 administered by a qualified person who has training and experience in
13 problem gambling or the organization and administration of treatment
14 services for persons suffering from problem gambling. The department
15 may certify and contract with treatment facilities for any services
16 provided under the program. The department shall track program
17 participation and client outcomes.

18 (2) To receive treatment under subsection (1) of this section, a
19 person must:

1 (a) Need treatment for problem or pathological gambling, or because
2 of the problem or pathological gambling of a family member, but be
3 unable to afford treatment; and

4 (b) Be targeted by the department of social and health services as
5 being most amenable to treatment.

6 (3) Treatment under this section is available only to the extent of
7 the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the department of
8 social and health services for this purpose. The department may
9 solicit and accept for use any gift of money or property made by will
10 or otherwise, and any grant of money, services, or property from the
11 federal government, any tribal government, the state, or any political
12 subdivision thereof or any private source, and do all things necessary
13 to cooperate with the federal government or any of its agencies or any
14 tribal government in making an application for any grant.

15 (4) The department may adopt rules establishing standards for the
16 review and certification of treatment facilities under this program.

17 (5) The department of social and health services shall establish an
18 advisory committee to assist it in designing, managing, and evaluating
19 the effectiveness of the program established in this section. The
20 advisory committee shall give due consideration in the design and
21 management of the program that persons who hold licenses or contracts
22 issued by the gambling commission, horse racing commission, and lottery
23 commission are not excluded from, or discouraged from, applying to
24 participate in the program. The committee shall include, at a minimum,
25 persons knowledgeable in the field of problem and pathological gambling
26 and persons representing tribal gambling, privately owned nontribal
27 gambling, and the state lottery.

28 ((+5)) (6) For purposes of this section, "pathological gambling"
29 is a mental disorder characterized by loss of control over gambling,
30 progression in preoccupation with gambling and in obtaining money to
31 gamble, and continuation of gambling despite adverse consequences.
32 "Problem gambling" is an earlier stage of pathological gambling which
33 compromises, disrupts, or damages family or personal relationships or
34 vocational pursuits.

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