

LEGISLATIVE BILL 189

Approved by the Governor February 26, 2009

Introduced by Pankonin, 2.

FOR AN ACT relating to the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund; to amend sections 71-816 and 71-817, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2008; to change terminology relating to problem gambling services; and to repeal the original sections.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 71-816, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2008, is amended to read:

71-816 (1) The Legislature finds that the main sources of funding for the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund are the Charitable Gaming Operations Fund as provided in section 9-1,101 and the State Lottery Operation Trust Fund as provided in section 9-812 and Article III, section 24, of the Constitution of Nebraska. It is the intent of the Legislature that the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund be used primarily for counseling and treatment services for problem gamblers and their families who are residents of Nebraska.

(2) The State Committee on Problem Gambling is created. Members of the committee shall have a demonstrated interest and commitment and specialized knowledge, experience, or expertise relating to the provision of problem gambling and addiction services in the State of Nebraska. The committee shall consist of twelve members appointed by the Governor and shall include at least three consumers of problem gambling or addiction services. The committee shall appoint one of its members as chairperson of the committee and other officers as it deems appropriate. The committee shall conduct regular meetings and shall meet upon the call of the chairperson or a majority of its members to conduct its official business.

(3) The committee shall develop and recommend to the division guidelines and standards for the distribution and disbursement of money in the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund. Such guidelines and standards shall be based on nationally recognized standards for ~~compulsive~~ problem gamblers assistance programs.

(4) In addition, the committee shall develop recommendations regarding (a) the evaluation and approval process for provider applications and contracts for treatment funding from the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund, (b) the review and use of evaluation data, (c) the use and expenditure of funds for education regarding problem gambling and prevention of problem gambling, and (d) the creation and implementation of outreach and educational programs regarding problem gambling for Nebraska residents. The committee may engage in other activities it finds necessary to carry out its duties under this section.

(5) Based on the recommendations of the committee, the division shall adopt guidelines and standards for the distribution and disbursement of money in the fund and for administration of problem gambling and addiction services in Nebraska.

(6) The division and the committee shall jointly submit a report within sixty days after the end of each fiscal year to the Legislature and the Governor that provides details of the administration of services and distribution of funds.

Sec. 2. Section 71-817, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2008, is amended to read:

71-817 The Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund is created. The fund shall include revenue transferred from the State Lottery Operation Trust Fund under section 9-812 and the Charitable Gaming Operations Fund under section 9-1,101 and any other revenue received by the division for credit to the fund from any other public or private source, including, but not limited to, appropriations, grants, donations, gifts, devises, bequests, fees, or reimbursements. The division shall administer the fund for the treatment of problem gamblers as recommended by the State Committee on Problem Gambling established under section 71-816 and shall spend no more than ten percent of the money appropriated to the fund for administrative costs. The Director of Administrative Services shall draw warrants upon the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund upon the presentation of proper vouchers by the division. Money from the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund shall be used exclusively for the purpose of providing assistance to agencies, groups, organizations, and individuals that provide education, assistance, and counseling to individuals and families experiencing difficulty as a result

of problem gambling, to promote the awareness of problem gamblers assistance programs, and to pay the costs and expenses of the division and the committee with regard to problem gambling. The division shall not provide any direct services to problem gamblers or their families. Funds appropriated from the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund shall not be granted or loaned to or administered by any regional behavioral health authority unless the authority is a direct provider of a problem gamblers assistance program. Any money in the fund available for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

Sec. 3. Original sections 71-816 and 71-817, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2008, are repealed.