

Testimony
Senate Bill 2114 - Department of Human Services
Senate Judiciary Committee
Senator Diane Larson, Chairman

January 9, 2019

Chairman Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I am Pamela Sagness, Director of the Behavioral Health Division of the Department of Human Services (Department). I appear today to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 2114.

During the 65th Legislative Session, the Department of Human Services' Behavioral Health Division was authorized to certify Minor in Possession (MIP) providers in an effort to increase access to evidence-based early intervention services (N.D.C.C. § 50-06-44).

As is, subsection 3 of section 5-01-08 of the North Dakota Century Code requires the court to sentence a violator of subsection 2 to an evidence-based alcohol and drug education program operated under the rules adopted by the Department under section 50-06-44 of the North Dakota Century Code. Subsection 2 of section 5-01-08 only relates to an individual under twenty-one years of age who may not enter a licensed premise where alcoholic beverages are being sold or displayed. However, subsection 3 of section 5-01-08 does not reference subsection 1 of section 5-01-08, which states that an individual under twenty-one years of age may not manufacture, purchase, consume or be in possession of an alcoholic beverage.

Senate Bill 2114 adds a reference to subsection 1 in subsection 3 of section 5-01-08, in order to align with the original intent.

The Department developed administrative rules, chapter 75-09.2-01 in 2018, which detail the requirements and the process for individuals to become certified to provide

this effective service in the state. In December 2018, the Department hosted a training in one of the evidence-based alcohol and drug education programs which 27 individuals attended. Another training is planned for summer of 2019.

Senate Bill 2114 has potential to address Human Services Research Institute (HSRI) recommendations #2, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, and 13.

This concludes my testimony, and I am happy to answer any questions.