

**Children & Family Services
Committee**

HB 1622

Brief Description: *Requiring a study of problem and pathological gambling among persons in drug and alcohol treatment programs.*

Sponsors: *Representatives Wood, D. Schmidt, Edmonds, Conway, Clements and Miloscia.*

Brief Summary of Bill

- *Authorizes a study to determine the extent to which persons receiving substance abuse treatment through a Department of Social and Health Services program are also pathological gamblers.*

Hearing Date: *2/14/01*

Staff: *Tracey Taylor (786-7196).*

Background:

*The 1999 report to the Washington State Lottery, **Gambling and Problem Gambling in Washington State**, found that 5 percent of the state's residents will face a gambling problem at some point in their life. The study also concluded that between 53,200 and 137,900 residents scored as either being a problem gambler or a pathological gambler over the previous year. The diagnostic criteria for pathological gambling behavior includes persistent and recurrent maladaptive gambling behavior not better accounted for by a manic episode and is indicated by five (or more) of the following:*

- (1) is preoccupied with gambling;*
- (2) needs to gamble with increasing amounts of money in order to achieve the desired excitement;*
- (3) has repeated unsuccessful efforts to control, cut back, or stop gambling;*
- (4) is restless or irritable when attempting to cut down or stop gambling;*
- (5) gambles as a way of escaping from problems or of relieving a dysphoric mood;*
- (6) after losing money gambling, often returns another day to get even;*
- (7) lies to family members, therapist, or others to conceal the extent of involvement*

with gambling;

(8) has committed illegal acts such as forgery, fraud, theft, or embezzlement to finance gambling;

(9) has jeopardized or lost a significant relationship, job, or educational or career opportunity because of gambling; or

(10) relies on others to provide money to relieve a desperate financial situation caused by gambling.

Summary of Bill:

The Department of Social and Health Services Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, the Washington State Institute for Public Policy and the Washington State Council on Problem Gambling must conduct a study to determine if persons receiving alcohol or substance abuse treatment are also pathological or problem gamblers. The report is due December 1, 2002.

Appropriation: *None.*

Fiscal Note: *Requested on February 6, 2001.*

Effective Date: *Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.*

Expiration Date: *January 1, 2003.*