

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-SECOND SESSION

S.F. No. 3210

(SENATE AUTHORS: MARTY and Newton)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
02/17/2022	5048	Introduction and first reading Referred to Judiciary and Public Safety Finance and Policy

1.1A bill for an act

1.2relating to public safety; expanding treatment courts throughout the state to ensure

1.3statewide access; appropriating money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota

1.4Statutes, chapter 484.

1.5BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6Section 1. [484.99] TREATMENT COURTS.

1.7Subdivision 1. Legislative findings and purpose. The Minnesota Judicial Branch has

1.8described treatment courts as "the single most successful intervention in our nation's history

1.9for leading people living with substance use and mental health disorders out of the justice

1.10system and into lives of recovery and stability. They improve education, employment,

1.11housing, and financial stability; and promote family reunification. Instead of viewing

1.12addiction as a moral failing, they view it as a disease. Instead of punishment, they offer

1.13treatment." Furthermore, the courts have said, "when these strategies are implemented

1.14correctly, treatment courts improve public safety and save taxpayer dollars." As an important

1.15public safety improvement, it is time to expand treatment courts to every part of Minnesota.

1.16Although treatment courts save money to taxpayers through reduced crime and public safety

1.17costs, they cost the court system more, and the judicial branch cannot establish and operate

1.18these courts without sufficient funding, so significant additional funds are needed to

1.19accomplish this goal.

1.20Subd. 2. Definition. As used in this section, "treatment court" means a court designed

1.21for criminal defendants who have specific mental health challenges, addictions, or other

1.22health challenges and who need treatment in order to stop the cycle of relapse and recidivism

1.23by treating substance use and mental health disorders that led to behaviors that brought the

criminal defendants to court. Treatment courts promote recovery through a coordinated team approach, including judges, prosecutors, defense counsel, probation authorities, coordinators, treatment providers, law enforcement, evaluators, and other ancillary service providers. Treatment courts include but are not limited to drug courts, DWI courts, family dependency treatment courts, juvenile drug courts, mental health courts, and veterans courts.

Subd. 3. **Statewide requirement for sufficient treatment courts.** (a) By January 15, 2026, the Judicial Council shall ensure that at least one-half of the judicial districts have sufficient treatment courts operating within the district to fill the public safety needs of the community and the health challenges facing many defendants.

(b) By January 15, 2030, the Judicial Council shall ensure that every judicial district has sufficient treatment courts operating within the district to fill the public safety needs of the community and the health challenges facing many defendants.

Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION.**

\$..... for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, is appropriated from the general fund to the supreme court to implement section 1.