



Lane County Public Health

Prevention Program - Problem Gambling Prevention

DATE: February 15, 2013

TO: House Committee on Human Services and Housing

RE: HB 2355 | Modifies method for determining amount of lottery proceeds to be allocated to Problem Gambling Treatment Fund in fiscal quarter.

The Lane County Board of Commissioners has reviewed and is in support of HB 2355.

This bill would provide additional funding stability for the Problem Gambling Treatment fund by ensuring that monies transferred from the State Lottery Fund be stabilized.

In the past, when lottery revenues declined, revenues to the Problem Gambling Treatment fund have also declined. Results have been damaging to the infrastructure of programs throughout Oregon.

Most recent reductions in Problem Gambling Treatment Fund have included some of the following losses:

- Two crisis respite programs were closed.
- Residential gambling treatment program was reduced to only two beds.
- Three separate outpatient treatment programs were closed.
- Staff were laid off in other programs throughout the state.
- Prevention and outreach programs have reduced services that encourage increase treatment penetration rates and awareness of services.
- Enrollment numbers declined and the loss appears to be correlated with the cuts stated above.

While budget cuts have been almost the norm in recent economic situations, problem gambling services are distinct in that there are very few qualified individuals and programs that can provide problem gambling services.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard on this issue.

Sincerely,

Julie Hynes, M.A., C.P.S.

Lane County Problem Gambling Prevention Coordinator

Recipient, National Council on Problem Gambling 2012 Wuelfing Award for Prevention