

FILED MAR 2 2005

SENATE FILE 248  
BY HATCH

JUDICIARY

Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act providing for the establishment and administration of a  
2 mental health court pilot project.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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SF 248 JUDICIARY

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 602.1614 MENTAL HEALTH COURT  
2 PILOT PROJECT.

3 The judicial branch shall establish and administer a mental  
4 health court pilot project in a county with a population of  
5 over three hundred fifty thousand for nonviolent criminal  
6 offenders who suffer from mental illness. The judicial branch  
7 shall consult with an advisory committee including members  
8 representing the criminal justice system including, but not  
9 limited to, judges, prosecutors, and defense counsel; members  
10 representing the mental health community; and members  
11 representing the pilot project county. The judicial branch  
12 and the pilot project county shall report to the general  
13 assembly on the project's operation annually by January 1.

14 EXPLANATION

15 This bill directs the judicial branch, in consultation with  
16 an advisory committee consisting of members of the criminal  
17 justice system, the mental health community, and the pilot  
18 project county with a population of over 350,000, to establish  
19 and administer a mental health court pilot project for  
20 nonviolent criminal offenders who suffer from mental illness.

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