SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS DECISIONS AMAENDMENTS

- This bill deals with assessment and treatment that is required by a judge in a substance abuse case.
- This bill provides that a "private entity" that conducts an assessment may not also provide the treatment to the individual.
- Private entity is defined.
- This bill is about first and second time, low risk, offenders in Justice Courts.

The individual that has been arrested of a substance abuse violation is required to pay for the assessment and treatment. If the assessment shows that the individual does not need treatment just a short education class where substance abuse is discussed, then the assessor could give that educational instruction.

But often the assessor will recommend treatment because of the financial gain the provider will receive. For years the treatment provider has been over treating the defendant.

Judges and attorneys have complained about this for years. In Provo Justice Court since 2015, there has been a separation and what was nearly 95 percent of the defendants fitting into the criteria for treatment was reduced to approximately 25 percent.