

**SENATE BILL NO. 2159**

Introduced by

Senators J. Lee, Sitte, Axness

Representatives Weisz, Hogan

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 14-15-12 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
2 relating to the required residence of the minor before a final decree of adoption.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-15-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **14-15-12. Required residence of minor.**

7 1. A final decree of adoption may not be issued and an interlocutory decree of adoption  
8 does not become final, until the minor to be adopted, other than a stepchild of the  
9 petitioner, has lived in the adoptive home:

10 4. a. For at least six months after placement by an agency;

11 ~~2.~~ b. For six months after placement by a parent in accordance with an identified  
12 relinquishment under chapter 14-15.1;

13 ~~3.~~ c. As a foster child for at least six months and has been placed for adoption by an  
14 agency; or

15 4. d. For at least six months after the department or the court has been informed of the  
16 custody of the minor by the petitioner, and the department or court has had an  
17 opportunity to observe or investigate the adoptive home.

18 2. If a child who has been placed for adoption dies before the six-month residency  
19 requirement of subsection 1 is met, the court may grant the final decree of adoption  
20 upon a finding that a proper and legitimate reason exists for granting the final decree.