

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT  
with Conference Committee Amendments  
ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2315**

Introduced by

Senators Erbele, Patten, Unruh

Representatives Boe, Schmidt, Westlind

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 12.1-22-03, 20.1-01-17, 20.1-01-18, and  
2 20.1-03-42 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to criminal trespass and hunting on  
3 private land; to repeal section 20.1-01-20 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to prima  
4 facie evidence of hunting; to provide for a legislative management study; and to provide a  
5 penalty.

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

7 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 12.1-22-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
8 amended and reenacted as follows:

9 **12.1-22-03. Criminal trespass ~~– Noncriminal offense on posted property.~~**

- 10 1. An individual is guilty of a class C felony if, knowing that that individual is not licensed  
11 or privileged to do so, the individual enters or remains in a dwelling or in highly  
12 secured premises.
- 13 2. An individual is guilty of a class B misdemeanor for a first offense and a class A  
14 misdemeanor for a second or subsequent offense if, knowing that ~~that~~ the individual is  
15 not licensed or privileged to do so, the individual:
  - 16 a. Enters or remains in or on any building, occupied structure, ~~or~~ storage structure,  
17 ~~or~~ separately secured or occupied portion thereof; ~~or~~
  - 18 b. ~~Enters or remains in any place so enclosed as manifestly to exclude intruders of a~~  
19 building or structure, or any other place the individual is not licensed or privileged  
20 to be, except as provided in sections 20.1-01-18 and 20.1-01-19; or
  - 21 b. Remains on property that is privately owned and open to the public after being  
22 requested to leave the property by a duly authorized individual.
- 23 3. a. ~~An individual is guilty of a class B misdemeanor if, knowing that that individual is~~  
24 ~~not licensed or privileged to do so, the individual enters or remains in any place~~

1 as to which notice against trespass is given by actual communication to the actor  
2 by the individual in charge of the premises or other authorized individual or by  
3 posting in a manner reasonably likely to come to the attention of intruders. The  
4 name of the person posting the premises must appear on each sign in legible  
5 characters.

6 b. Even if the conduct of the owner, tenant, or individual authorized by the owner  
7 varies from the provisions of subdivision a, an individual may be found guilty of  
8 violating subdivision a if the owner, tenant, or individual authorized by the owner  
9 substantially complied with subdivision a and notice against trespass is clear  
10 from the circumstances.

11 e. An individual who violates subdivision a is guilty of a class A misdemeanor for the  
12 second or subsequent offense within a two-year period.

13 4. a. An individual, knowing the individual is not licensed or privileged to do so, may  
14 not enter or remain in a place as to which notice against trespass is given by  
15 posting in a manner reasonably likely to come to the attention of intruders. A  
16 violation of this subdivision is a noncriminal offense.

17 b. A peace officer shall cite an individual who violates subdivision a with a fine of  
18 two hundred fifty dollars for each violation.

19 e. The peace officer citing the individual shall:

20 (1) Take the name and address of the individual; and

21 (2) Notify the individual of the right to request a hearing if posting bond by mail.

22 d. The peace officer may not take the individual into custody or require the  
23 individual to proceed with the peace officer to any other location for the purpose  
24 of posting bond. The officer shall provide the individual with an envelope for use  
25 in mailing the bond.

26 e. An individual cited may appear before the designated official and pay the  
27 statutory fine for the violation at or before the time scheduled for hearing.

28 f. If the individual has posted bond, the individual may forfeit bond by not appearing  
29 at the designated time.

30 g. If the individual posts bond by mail, the bond must be submitted within fourteen  
31 days of the date of the citation and the individual cited shall indicate on the

1 envelope or citation whether a hearing is requested. If the individual does not  
2 request a hearing within fourteen days of the date of the citation, the bond is  
3 deemed forfeited and the individual is deemed to have admitted to the violation  
4 and to have waived the right to a hearing on the issue of commission of the  
5 violation. If the individual requests a hearing, the court for the county in which the  
6 citation is issued shall issue a summons to the individual requesting the hearing  
7 notifying the individual of the date of the hearing before the designated official.

8 h. Upon appearing at the hearing scheduled in the citation or otherwise scheduled  
9 at the individual's request, the individual may make a statement in explanation of  
10 the individual's action. The official may at that time waive or suspend the statutory  
11 fine or bond.

12 i. A citing peace officer may not receive the statutory fine or bond.

13 j. The bond required to secure appearance before the judge must be identical to  
14 the statutory fine established in subdivision b.

15 5. An individual is guilty of a class B misdemeanor if that individual remains upon the  
16 property of another after being requested to leave the property by a duly authorized  
17 individual. An individual who violates this subsection is guilty of a class A  
18 misdemeanor for the second or subsequent offense within a two-year period.

19 6.3. This section does not apply to a:

20 a. A peace officer in the course of discharging the peace officer's official duties; or

21 b. An individual who enters land to access buried and aboveground infrastructure  
22 for operations, inspection, repair, or maintenance purposes, if the individual has a  
23 right to operate, inspect, repair, or maintain the infrastructure.

24 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 20.1-01-17 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
25 amended and reenacted as follows:

26 **20.1-01-17. Posting of lands by owner to prohibit hunting - How posted - Signs**  
27 **defaced.**

28 1. Only the owner or tenant or an individual authorized by the owner of land may post the  
29 land by placing signs alongside the public highway or the land giving notice that  
30 hunting is not permitted on the land. The name of the person posting the land must  
31 appear on each sign in legible characters. The signs must be readable from the

1 outside of the land and must be placed conspicuously not more than eight hundred  
2 eighty yards [804.68 meters] apart. As to land entirely enclosed by a fence or other  
3 enclosure, posting of signs at or on all gates through the fence or enclosure  
4 constitutes a posting of all the enclosed land.

5 2. A person may not deface, take down, destroy posting signs, or post property without  
6 the permission of the owner or tenant or an individual authorized by the owner.

7 3. Even if the conduct of the owner, tenant, or individual authorized by the owner varies  
8 from the provisions of subsection 1, an individual may be found guilty of violating  
9 section 20.1-01-18 if the owner, tenant, or individual authorized by the owner  
10 substantially complied with subsection 1 and notice against hunting or trespassing is  
11 clear from the circumstances.

12 4. If the state, either directly or through a third party, develops, operates, or maintains an  
13 online database or other electronic application for up to three counties which is  
14 available to the public and identifies whether land in the counties is available to  
15 hunters, an owner or tenant or individual authorized by the owner of land in the  
16 counties may submit electronic information for the database or application regarding  
17 the availability of the land for hunting. Land designated as posted or closed to hunters  
18 in the database or application under this subsection is deemed posted land.

19 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 20.1-01-18 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
20 amended and reenacted as follows:

21 **20.1-01-18. Hunting on posted land and trapping on private land without permission**  
22 **unlawful - Penalty.**

23 ~~No person~~An individual may hunt or pursue game, or enter for those purposes, upon legally-  
24 ~~posted~~ land belonging to another without first obtaining the permission of the person legally  
25 entitled to grant the ~~same~~permission, unless the land is legally posted or the individual is  
26 requested to leave by a duly authorized person. ~~No person~~ A person may not enter upon  
27 privately owned land for the purpose of trapping protected fur-bearing animals without first  
28 gaining the written permission of the owner or operator of that land. A person who violates this  
29 section is guilty of a class B misdemeanor for the first offense and a class A misdemeanor for a  
30 subsequent offense within a two-year period.

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1       **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 20.1-03-42 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3       **20.1-03-42. Guiding on prohibited lands.**

4       1. A person may not act as a hunting guide or hunting outfitter on land the person knows  
5 is owned by the state unless the appropriate state agency permits or authorizes the  
6 guiding or outfitting, on private land enrolled by the department for purposes of  
7 hunting, on land in which the department pays in lieu of taxes, or on federal lands  
8 without being authorized or permitted as required by the appropriate federal agency,  
9 ~~or.~~

10       2. A person may not act as a hunting guide or outfitter on private lands posted against  
11 ~~hunting or trespassing~~ without first informing and obtaining permission from the  
12 landowner to conduct guiding or outfitting on the land. If the landowner did not grant  
13 the permission in writing, there is a presumption that the permission did not exist.

14       **SECTION 5. REPEAL.** Section 20.1-01-20 of the North Dakota Century Code is repealed.

15       **SECTION 6. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - ACCESS TO LANDS.**

16       1. During the 2019-20 interim, the legislative management shall study access to public  
17 and private lands for hunting, trapping, fishing, and related issues, including trespass  
18 violations and penalties, and provide recommendations regarding a land access  
19 database with the capability of electronic posting. At the direction of the legislative  
20 management, before August 1, 2020, the information technology department and  
21 game and fish department shall establish a trial electronic posting and hunter access  
22 information system in up to three counties. The information technology department  
23 and game and fish department may contract with a third party to assist with the  
24 electronic posting and hunter access information system development and operation.  
25 The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together  
26 with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-seventh  
27 legislative assembly.

28       2. The legislative management shall appoint a committee for this study as follows:

29       a. The voting members of the committee, who must be appointed by the legislative  
30 management, are:

31               (1) Two members representing agriculture landowners;

- 1                   (2) Two members representing sportsmen organizations; and
- 2                   (3) Five members of the legislative assembly, including:
- 3                   (a) One member of the majority party in the house of representatives;
- 4                   (b) One member of the minority party in the house of representatives;
- 5                   (c) One member of the majority party in the senate;
- 6                   (d) One member of the minority party in the senate; and
- 7                   (e) One member from either party in either chamber to serve as the
- 8                                 committee chairman.

9           b. The nonvoting members of the committee are:

- 10                   (1) A representative of the North Dakota association of counties;
- 11                   (2) The agriculture commissioner or the commissioner's designee;
- 12                   (3) The director of the game and fish department or the director's designee;
- 13                   (4) The chief information officer or the officer's designee; and
- 14                   (5) A representative of the North Dakota state's attorneys' association.

15           3. A member of the committee who is not a state employee is entitled to reimbursement  
16                   for mileage and expenses as provided by law for state officers and employees, to be  
17                   paid by the legislative council. A state employee who is a member of the committee is  
18                   entitled to receive that employee's regular salary and is entitled to reimbursement for  
19                   mileage and expenses to be paid by the employing agency. A member of the  
20                   committee who is a member of the legislative assembly is entitled to receive per diem  
21                   compensation at the rate provided under section 54-35-10 for each day performing  
22                   official duties of the committee. The legislative council shall pay the per diem  
23                   compensation and reimbursement for travel and expenses as provided by law for any  
24                   member of the committee who is a member of the legislative assembly.

25           **SECTION 7. EDUCATION AND MARKETING.** The game and fish department and the  
26                   tourism division of the department of commerce shall provide public education and marketing  
27                   regarding the changes to land access in this Act.