

**SENATE BILL NO. 2144**  
**with Conference Committee Amendments**  
**SENATE BILL NO. 2144**

Introduced by

Senators Erbele, Patten, Bell

Representatives Damschen, Dobervich, Tveit

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 12.1-22-03 and 20.1-01-17 of the North  
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to criminal trespass and electronic posting; and to provide a  
3 penalty.

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

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

7 **12.1-22-03. Criminal trespass - Noncriminal offense on posted property.**

8 1. An individual is guilty of a class C felony if, knowing ~~that that~~the individual is not  
9 licensed or privileged to do so, the individual enters or remains in a dwelling or in  
10 highly secured premises.

11 2. An individual is guilty of a class A misdemeanor if, knowing ~~that that~~the individual is  
12 not licensed or privileged to do so, the individual:

13 a. Enters or remains in or on any building, occupied structure, or storage structure,  
14 or separately secured or occupied portion thereof; or

15 b. Enters or remains in any place so enclosed by a fence or otherwise enclosed as  
16 manifestly to exclude intruders, unless the individual is a licensed hunter or  
17 angler who is lawfully hunting or fishing. For purposes of this subdivision, "fence"  
18 means a permanent structure on nonurban, private property which is maintained  
19 and capable of containing livestock.

20 3. a. An individual is guilty of a class B misdemeanor if, knowing ~~that that~~the individual  
21 is not licensed or privileged to do so, the individual enters or remains in any place  
22 as to which notice against trespass is given by actual communication to the actor  
23 by the ~~individual in charge of the premises or other authorized individual~~owner or  
24 an individual authorized by the owner or by posting in a manner reasonably likely

- 1 to come to the attention of intruders. The name of the person posting the  
2 premises must appear on each sign in legible characters.
- 3 b. Even if the conduct of the owner, ~~tenant~~, or individual authorized by the owner  
4 varies from the provisions of subdivision a, an individual may be found guilty of  
5 violating subdivision a if the owner, ~~tenant~~, or individual authorized by the owner  
6 substantially complied with subdivision a and notice against trespass is clear  
7 from the circumstances.
- 8 c. An individual who violates subdivision a is guilty of a class A misdemeanor for the  
9 second or subsequent offense within a two-year period.
- 10 4. a. ~~An~~ A peace officer may cite an individual who, knowing the individual is not  
11 licensed or privileged to do so, ~~may not enter or remain~~ entered or remained in a  
12 place as to which notice against trespass is given by posting in a manner  
13 reasonably likely to come to the attention of intruders. ~~A violation of this~~  
14 subdivision is or a place enclosed by a fence as defined in subsection 2, with a  
15 noncriminal offense. An individual cited under this subsection may not be  
16 prosecuted under subsection 2 or 3 for the same offense.
- 17 b. ~~A peace officer shall cite an individual who violates subdivision a with a~~ The fine  
18 effor a citation under subdivision a is two hundred fifty dollars for each violation.
- 19 c. 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. This section does not apply to a peace officer in the course of discharging the peace  
20 officer's official duties.

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

23 **20.1-01-17. Posting of lands by owner to prohibit hunting - How posted - Signs**  
24 **defaced.**

25 1. Only the owner ~~or tenant~~ or an individual authorized by the owner of land may post the  
26 land ~~by placing. To post the land, an individual shall:~~

27 a. Place signs alongside the public highway or the land giving notice that hunting is  
28 not permitted on the land. The name of the person posting the land must appear  
29 on each sign in legible characters. The signs must be readable from the outside  
30 of the land and must be placed conspicuously not more than eight hundred eighty  
31 yards [804.68 meters] apart. As to land entirely enclosed by a fence or other

- 1 enclosure, posting of signs at or on all gates through the fence or enclosure  
2 constitutes a posting of all the enclosed land; or  
3 b. Designate the land as posted or closed to hunting in an online database or other  
4 electronic application maintained or authorized by the state and available to the  
5 public which identifies whether land is available to hunters. The name of the  
6 person posting the land electronically must be visible to users of the online  
7 database or electronic application.
- 8 2. A person may not deface, take down, destroy posting signs, or post property without  
9 the permission of the owner ~~or tenant~~ or an individual authorized by the owner.
- 10 3. Even if the conduct of the owner, ~~tenant~~, or individual authorized by the owner varies  
11 from the provisions of subsection 1, an individual may be found guilty of violating  
12 section 20.1-01-18 if the owner, ~~tenant~~, or individual authorized by the owner  
13 substantially complied with subsection 1 and notice against hunting or trespassing is  
14 clear from the circumstances.