

Sixty-seventh
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1297

Introduced by

Representative B. Koppelman

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 62.1-02-05 of the North Dakota Century Code,
2 relating to the possession of firearms or dangerous weapons at a public gathering.

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

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 62.1-02-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **62.1-02-05. Possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon at a public gathering -**
7 **Penalty - Application.**

8 1. An individual ~~who knowingly possesses a firearm or dangerous weapon at a public~~
9 ~~gathering is guilty of an infraction. For the purpose of this section, "public gathering"~~
10 ~~means an~~ may not possess a firearm or dangerous weapon at:

11 a. ~~athletic or sporting~~A school or school-sponsored event on school property, a;

12 b. ~~school, a~~A church or other place of worship, and a; or

13 c. A publicly owned or operated building.

14 2. This section does not apply to:

15 a. A law enforcement officer, or a correctional officer employed by the department of
16 corrections and rehabilitation or by a correctional facility governed by chapter
17 12-44.1. A correctional officer employed by the department of corrections and
18 rehabilitation may carry a firearm only as authorized in section 12-47-34. A
19 correctional officer employed by a correctional facility governed by chapter
20 12-44.1 may carry a firearm or dangerous weapon only as authorized in section
21 12-44.1-30;

22 b. A member of the armed forces of the United States or national guard, organized
23 reserves, state defense forces, or state guard organizations, when on duty;

24 c. A competitor participating in an organized sport shooting event;

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- 1 d. A gun or antique show;
- 2 e. A participant using a blank cartridge firearm at a sporting or theatrical event;
- 3 f. A firearm or dangerous weapon carried in a temporary residence or motor
4 vehicle;
- 5 g. A student and an instructor at a hunter safety class;
- 6 h. Private and public security personnel while on duty;
- 7 i. A state or federal park;
- 8 j. An instructor, a test administrator, an official, or a participant in educational,
9 training, cultural, or competitive events involving the authorized use of a
10 dangerous weapon if the event occurs with permission of the person or entity
11 with authority over the function or premises in question;
- 12 k. An individual in a publicly owned or operated rest area or restroom;
- 13 l. An individual possessing a valid concealed weapons license from this state or
14 who has reciprocity under section 62.1-04-03.1 authorizing the individual to carry
15 a firearm or dangerous weapon concealed if the individual is in a church building
16 or other place of worship and has the approval to carry in the church building or
17 other place of worship by a primary religious leader of the church or other place
18 of worship or the governing body of the church or other place of worship;
- 19 m. A state, federal, or municipal court judge, a district court magistrate judge or
20 judicial referee, and a staff member of the office of attorney general if the
21 individual maintains the same level of firearms proficiency as is required by the
22 peace officer standards and training board for law enforcement officers. A local
23 law enforcement agency shall issue a certificate of compliance under this section
24 to an individual who is proficient;
- 25 n. An individual's storage of a firearm or dangerous weapon in a building that is
26 owned or managed by the state or a political subdivision, provided:
27 (1) The individual resides in the building;
28 (2) The storage is inside the individual's assigned residential unit; and
29 (3) The storage has been consented to by the state, the governing board, or a
30 designee; and

- 1 o. An individual authorized to carry a concealed weapon on school property under
2 section 62.1-02-14.
- 3 3. This section does not prevent any political subdivision from enacting an ordinance that
4 is less restrictive than this section relating to the possession of firearms or dangerous
5 weapons at a public gathering. An enacted ordinance supersedes this section within
6 the jurisdiction of the political subdivision.
- 7 4. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a church or place of worship may not be
8 held liable for any injury or death or damage to property caused by an individual
9 permitted to carry a dangerous weapon concealed under this section.
- 10 5. This section does not prevent the governing body of a school or the entity exercising
11 control over a publicly owned or operated building or property from authorizing the use
12 of a less than lethal weapon as part of the security plan for the school, building, or
13 property.
- 14 6. An individual who knowingly violates this section is guilty of a noncriminal offense
15 punishable by a fee of fifty dollars.