

**Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly, State of North Dakota, begun in the
Capitol in the City of Bismarck, on Monday, the sixth day of January,
one thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven**

SENATE BILL NO. 2153
(Senators Watne, Nalewaja)
(Representatives Huether, R. Kelsch, Mahoney)

AN ACT to create and enact section 12.1-20-03.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to sexual abuse of certain minors; to amend and reenact section 12-60-16.6, subsection 11 of section 12.1-32-02, subsection 3 of section 12.1-32-06.1, subsection 1 of section 12.1-32-15, subsection 6 of section 27-20-51, sections 31-04-04.1, and 31-13-03 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to information, sentencing, and evidence; and to provide a penalty.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 12-60-16.6 of the 1995 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

12-60-16.6. Criminal history record information - Dissemination to parties not described in section 12-60-16.5. Only the bureau may disseminate criminal history record information to parties not described in section 12-60-16.5. The dissemination may be made only if all the following requirements are met:

1. The information has not been purged or sealed.
2. The information is of a conviction, including a conviction for violating section 12.1-20-03, 12.1-20-03.1, 12.1-20-04, 12.1-20-06.1, or 12.1-20-11 notwithstanding any disposition following a deferred imposition of sentence; or the information is of a reportable event occurring within one year preceding the request.
3. The request is written and contains:
 - a. The name of the requester.
 - b. The name of the record subject.
 - c. At least two items of information used by the bureau to retrieve criminal history records, including:
 - (1) The fingerprints of the record subject.
 - (2) The state identification number assigned to the record subject by the bureau.
 - (3) The social security number of the record subject.
 - (4) The date of birth of the record subject.
 - (5) A specific reportable event identified by date and either agency or court.
4. The identifying information supporting a request for a criminal history record does not match the record of more than one individual.

SECTION 2. Section 12.1-20-03.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

12.1-20-03.1. Continuous sexual abuse of a child.

1. An individual in adult court is guilty of a class A felony if the individual engages in any combination of three or more sexual acts or sexual contacts with a minor under the age of fifteen years during a period of three or more months. The court may not defer imposition of sentence, nor may the court suspend any part of the specified sentence, either at the time of or after the imposition of the sentence, unless the court first finds that the offense was the defendant's first violation of this chapter and that extenuating or mitigating circumstances exist which justify a suspension. The court shall announce the circumstances that justify a suspension in open court when sentence is imposed and recite these circumstances in the sentence or order suspending part of the sentence.
2. If more than three sexual acts or contacts are alleged, a jury must unanimously agree that any combination of three or more acts or contacts occurred. The jury does not need to unanimously agree which three acts or contacts occurred.
3. No other felony offense under this chapter involving the same victim may be charged in the same proceeding with a charge under this section unless the other charged offense occurred outside the time period charged under this section or the other offense is charged in the alternative. A defendant may be charged with only one count under this section, but a separate count may be charged for each victim if more than one victim is involved.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Subsection 11 of section 12.1-32-02 of the 1995 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

11. Before sentencing a defendant on a felony charge under section 12.1-20-03, 12.1-20-03.1, 12.1-20-11, 12.1-27.2-02, 12.1-27.2-03, 12.1-27.2-04, or 12.1-27.2-05, a court shall order the department of corrections and rehabilitation to conduct a presentence investigation and to prepare a presentence report. In all felony or class A misdemeanor offenses, in which force, as defined in section 12.1-01-04, or threat of force is an element of the offense or in violation of section 12.1-22-02, or an attempt to commit the offenses, a court, unless a presentence investigation has been ordered, must receive a criminal record report before the sentencing of the defendant. Unless otherwise ordered by the court, the criminal record report must be conducted by the department of corrections and rehabilitation after consulting with the prosecuting attorney regarding the defendant's criminal record. The criminal record report must be in writing, filed with the court before sentencing, and made a part of the court's record of the sentencing proceeding.

SECTION 4. AMENDMENT. Subsection 3 of section 12.1-32-06.1 of the 1995 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

3. If the defendant has plead or been found guilty of a felony sexual offense against a minor in violation of section 12.1-20-03, 12.1-20-03.1, 12.1-20-04, or 12.1-20-11, the court may impose an additional period of probation not to exceed five years if the additional period of probation is in conjunction with a commitment to a sexual offender treatment or aftercare program. If the defendant has plead or been found guilty of a misdemeanor sexual offense against a minor in violation of section 12.1-20-05, 12.1-20-06, or 12.1-20-07, the court may impose an additional period of probation not to exceed two years if the additional period of probation is in conjunction with a commitment to a sexual offender treatment or aftercare program.

SECTION 5. AMENDMENT. Subsection 1 of section 12.1-32-15 of the 1995 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

1. As used in this section:
 - a. "A crime against a child" means a violation of chapter 12.1-16, 12.1-17, 12.1-18, or 12.1-29 in which the victim is a minor or is otherwise of the age required for the act to be a crime or an attempt to commit these offenses.
 - b. "Department" means the department of corrections and rehabilitation.

- c. "Sexual offender" means a person who has pled guilty to or been found guilty of a violation of section 12.1-20-03, 12.1-20-03.1, 12.1-20-04, 12.1-20-05, 12.1-20-06, 12.1-20-07, 12.1-20-11, chapter 12.1-27.2, or an attempt to commit these offenses.

SECTION 6. AMENDMENT. Subsection 6 of section 27-20-51 of the 1995 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

6. Notwithstanding that juvenile court records are closed to the public, nothing in this section may be construed to limit the release of general information upon request not identifying the identity of any juvenile, witness, or victim in any proceeding under this chapter. However, upon a third adjudication of delinquency involving an offense which if committed by an adult would constitute a felony and upon a second adjudication of delinquency involving an offense defined in ~~sections~~ section 12.1-20-03, 12.1-20-03.1, 12.1-20-04, or 12.1-20-07, the name of the juvenile adjudicated delinquent may be disclosed.

SECTION 7. AMENDMENT. Section 31-04-04.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

31-04-04.1. Videotaped statement of child sexual offense victim - Criteria for admission as evidence.

1. In any prosecution for a violation of section 12.1-20-03, 12.1-20-03.1, 12.1-20-04, 12.1-20-05, 12.1-20-06, 12.1-20-07, or 12.1-20-11 in which the victim is less than fifteen years of age, the oral statement of the child victim may be recorded before trial and, subject to subsection 2, is admissible as evidence in any court proceeding regarding the offense if the following conditions are satisfied:
 - a. The court determines there is reasonable cause to believe that the child victim would experience serious emotional trauma as a result of in-court participation in the proceeding;
 - b. The accused must be given reasonable written notice of the time and place for taking the videotaped statement;
 - c. The accused must be afforded the opportunity to hear and view the testimony from outside the presence of the child by means of a two-way mirror or other similar method that will ensure that the child cannot hear or see the accused;
 - d. The accused must have the opportunity to communicate orally with counsel by electronic means while the videotaped statement is being made; and
 - e. All questioning must be done by the prosecutor or counsel for the defendant unless the defendant is an attorney pro se. An attorney pro se must conduct all questioning from outside the presence of the child. Upon request of any of the parties or upon the determination of the court that it would be appropriate, the court may appoint a person who is qualified as an expert and who has dealt with the child in a therapeutic setting to aid the court throughout proceedings conducted under this section and the court may appoint a guardian ad litem to protect the interests of the child.
2. A child victim's videotaped statement is admissible pursuant to subsection 1 if the court finds that the child is unavailable as a witness to testify at trial and, upon viewing the videotape recording before it is shown to the jury, determines that it is sufficiently reliable and trustworthy and that the interests of justice will best be served by admission of the statement into evidence. For purposes of this subsection, "unavailable" includes a determination, based on medical or psychological evidence or expert testimony, that the child would suffer serious emotional or psychological strain if required to testify at trial. The court, in making its findings and determinations under this subsection, shall consider at least the following:
 - a. The nature of the offense;

- b. The significance of the child's testimony to the case;
- c. The child's age;
- d. The child's psychological maturity and understanding; and
- e. The nature, degree, and duration of potential injury to the child from testifying.

SECTION 8. AMENDMENT. Section 31-13-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

31-13-03. Persons to be tested - Costs. The court shall order any person convicted on or after August 1, 1995, of any sexual offense or attempted sexual offense in violation of sections 12.1-20-03, 12.1-20-03.1, 12.1-20-04, 12.1-20-05, 12.1-20-06, subdivision e or f of subsection 1 of section 12.1-20-07, or section 12.1-20-11 or any other offense when the court finds at sentencing that the person engaged in a nonconsensual sexual act or sexual contact with another person during, in the course of, or as a result of, the offense and any person who is in the custody of the department on or after August 1, 1995, as a result of a conviction of one of these offenses to have a sample of blood and other body fluids taken by the department for DNA law enforcement identification purposes and inclusion in law enforcement identification data bases. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the sentencing court has not previously ordered a sample of blood and other body fluids to be taken, the court retains jurisdiction and authority to enter an order that the convicted person provide a sample of blood and other body fluids as required by this section. Any person convicted on or after August 1, 1995, who is not sentenced to a term of confinement shall provide a sample of blood and other body fluids as a condition of the sentence or probation at a time and place specified by the sentencing court. The cost of the procedure must be assessed to the person being tested.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2153.

Senate Vote: Yeas 46 Nays 0 Absent 3

House Vote: Yeas 90 Nays 0 Absent 7

Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 1997.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 1997.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 1997,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State