

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT
with Conference Committee Amendments
ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1235**

Introduced by

Representatives K. Koppelman, Delmore, Heinert, Kasper, Lefor, Roers Jones, Sukut
Senators Armstrong, Holmberg, D. Larson, G. Lee, Unruh

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact subsections 4 and 5 to section 54-61-02 of the North
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to access to confidential records by the commission on legal
3 counsel for indigents.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Subsection 4 to section 54-61-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
6 and enacted as follows:

7 4. Notwithstanding any provision of state law making the records confidential, but subject
8 to any prohibitions in federal law, in addition to or in lieu of a subpoena, in determining
9 eligibility for public defender services the commission may obtain access, relevant to
10 making an eligibility determination for indigent defense services, to:

11 a. All records of other state and local government agencies relevant to
12 determination of eligibility for indigent defense services, including:

13 (1) Vital statistics, including records of marriage, birth, and divorce;

14 (2) Local tax and revenue records, including information on residence address,
15 employer, income, and assets;

16 (3) Records concerning real and titled personal property;

17 (4) Records of occupational and professional licenses and records concerning
18 the ownership and control of corporations, partnerships, and other business
19 entities;

20 (5) Employment security records;

21 (6) Workforce safety and insurance records pursuant to a release signed by an
22 individual or as otherwise provided in section 65-05-32;

23 (7) Records of all agencies administering public assistance programs;

1 (8) Records of the department of transportation, which access is not subject to
2 the requirements in section 39-16-03;

3 (9) Corrections records;

4 (10) Law enforcement records; and

5 (11) Subject to an agreement with the state tax commissioner, state tax and
6 revenue records, including information on residence address, employer,
7 income, and assets; and

8 b. Certain information contained in records held by private entities, subject to
9 safeguards on privacy and information security, consisting of:

10 (1) The name, address, social security number, and other requested relevant
11 income or asset information of the individual and the name and address of
12 the employer of the individual, as appearing in customer records of public
13 utilities, including cellular and wireless telephone service providers and
14 cable television companies, pursuant to an administrative subpoena if
15 requested; and

16 (2) Information on assets and liabilities of the individual held by financial
17 institutions.

18 **SECTION 2.** Subsection 5 to section 54-61-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
19 and enacted as follows:

20 5. If a government agency or private entity denies the commission access to records
21 under subsection 4, the denial must include a statement of the legal authority for the
22 denial.