

HOUSE BILL NO. 1272

Introduced by

Representatives K. Koppelman, Kading, Kasper, Lefor, Louser, Olson

Senators Anderson, Clemens

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 47-16 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to reasonable accommodations for service animals in rental dwelling
3 units; and to provide a penalty.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 47-16 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
6 and enacted as follows:

7 **Service animals - Housing - Penalties for furnishing fraudulent disability**
8 **documentation.**

9 1. As used in this section:

10 a. "Service animal" means any animal that serves a role for an individual with a
11 disability as an emotional support animal, a therapy animal, or an assistance
12 animal.

13 b. "Disability" means a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or
14 more major life activities of an individual.

15 2. An individual is guilty of a class B misdemeanor if the individual, in an attempt to
16 obtain a reasonable housing accommodation under section 47-16-07.5, falsely claims
17 to have a disability that requires the use of a service animal. If an individual provides
18 documentation verifying a disability requiring the use of a service animal, the
19 documentation must originate from a medical professional licensed or certified in this
20 state. Under this section, a lessor may evict a lessee and the lessor is entitled to a
21 damage fee of one thousand dollars from a lessee if the lessee falsely claims to have
22 a disability requiring the use of a service animal.