

**SENATE BILL NO. 2295  
with House Amendments  
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Sixty-fifth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

Introduced by

Senators Schaible, Holmberg, Krebsbach

Representatives Dockter, Sanford, Streyle

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 44-04 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to the exemption of state university and college title IX records from  
3 public disclosure; and to amend and reenact section 44-04-18.4 of the North Dakota Century  
4 Code, relating to the confidentiality of research information.

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

6 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 44-04-18.4 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
7 amended and reenacted as follows:

8 **44-04-18.4. Confidentiality of trade secret, proprietary, commercial, and financial, and**  
9 **research information.**

- 10 1. Trade secret, proprietary, commercial, and financial information is confidential if it is of  
11 a privileged nature and it has not been previously publicly disclosed.
- 12 2. Under this section, unless the context otherwise requires:
- 13 a. "Commercial information" means information pertaining to buying or selling of  
14 goods and services that has not been previously publicly disclosed and that if the  
15 information were to be disclosed would impair the public entity's future ability to  
16 obtain necessary information or would cause substantial competitive injury to the  
17 person from which the information was obtained.
- 18 b. "Financial information" means information pertaining to monetary resources of a  
19 person that has not been previously publicly disclosed and that if the information  
20 were to be disclosed would impair the public entity's future ability to obtain  
21 necessary information or would cause substantial competitive injury to the person  
22 from which the information was obtained.
- 23 c. "Proprietary information" includes:

- 1 (1) Information shared between a sponsor of research or a potential sponsor of  
2 research and a public entity conducting or negotiating an agreement for the  
3 research.
- 4 (2) Information received from a private business that has entered or is  
5 negotiating an agreement with a public entity to conduct research or  
6 manufacture or create a product for potential commercialization.
- 7 (3) A discovery or innovation generated by the research information, technical  
8 information, financial information, or marketing information acquired under  
9 activities described under paragraph 1 or 2.
- 10 (4) A document specifically and directly related to the licensing or  
11 commercialization resulting from activities described under paragraph 1, 2,  
12 or 6.
- 13 (5) Technical, financial, or marketing records that are received by a public  
14 entity, which are owned or controlled by the submitting person, are intended  
15 to be and are treated by the submitting person as private, and the disclosure  
16 of which would cause harm to the submitting person's business.
- 17 (6) A discovery or innovation produced by the public entity that an employee or  
18 the entity intends to commercialize.
- 19 (7) A computer software program and components of a computer software  
20 program that are subject to a copyright or a patent and any formula, pattern,  
21 compilation, program, device, method, technique, or process supplied to a  
22 public entity that is the subject of efforts by the supplying person to maintain  
23 its secrecy and that may derive independent economic value, actual or  
24 potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily  
25 ascertainable by proper means by, other persons that might obtain  
26 economic value from its disclosure or use.
- 27 (8) A discovery or innovation that is subject to a patent or a copyright, and any  
28 formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, combination of devices,  
29 method, technique, technical know-how or process that is for use, or is  
30 used, in the operation of a business and is supplied to or prepared by a  
31 public entity that is the subject of efforts by the supplying or preparing

1 person to maintain its secrecy and provides the preparing person an  
2 advantage or an opportunity to obtain an advantage over those who do not  
3 know or use it or that may derive independent economic value, actual or  
4 potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily  
5 ascertainable by proper means by, a person that might obtain economic  
6 value from its disclosure or use.

7 d. "Trade secret" means information, including a formula, pattern, compilation,  
8 program, device, method, technique, technical know-how, or process, that:

9 (1) Derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being  
10 generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by,  
11 other persons that can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use;  
12 and

13 (2) Is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to  
14 maintain the secrecy of the information.

15 3. This section does not limit or otherwise affect a record pertaining to any rule of the  
16 state department of health or to any record pertaining to the application for a permit or  
17 license necessary to do business or to expand business operations within this state,  
18 except as otherwise provided by law.

19 4. This section does not limit the release or use of records obtained in an investigation by  
20 the attorney general or other law enforcement official.

21 5. Unless made confidential under subsection 1, the following economic development  
22 records and information are exempt:

23 a. Records and information pertaining to a prospective location of a business or  
24 industry, including the identity, nature, and location of the business or industry,  
25 when no previous public disclosure has been made by the business or industry of  
26 the interest or intent of the business or industry to locate in, relocate within,  
27 expand within this state, or partner with a public entity to conduct research or to  
28 license a discovery or innovation. This exemption does not include records  
29 pertaining to the application for permits or licenses necessary to do business or  
30 to expand business operations within this state, except as otherwise provided by  
31 law.

- 1           b. Trade secrets and proprietary, commercial, or financial information received from  
2           a person that is interested in applying for or receiving financing, technical  
3           assistance, or other forms of business assistance.
- 4           6. Unless made confidential under subsection 1 or made exempt under subsection 5,  
5           bids or proposals received by a public entity in response to a request for proposals by  
6           the public entity are exempt until all of the proposals have been received and opened  
7           by the public entity or until all oral presentations regarding the proposals, if any, have  
8           been heard by the public entity. Records included with any bid or proposal naming and  
9           generally describing the entity submitting the proposal are open.
- 10          7. Unless made confidential under subsection 1, records received by the state  
11          department of emergency services under chapter 37-17.1 from the federal government  
12          and any public or private agency or entity for disaster mitigation, preparation,  
13          response, and recovery are exempt.
- 14          8. Unless made confidential under subsection 1, university research records are exempt.  
15          "University research records" means data and records, other than a financial or  
16          administrative record, produced or collected by or for faculty or staff of an institution  
17          under the control of the state board of higher education in the conduct of or as a result  
18          of study or research on an educational, commercial, scientific, artistic, technical, or  
19          scholarly issue, regardless of whether the study or research was sponsored by the  
20          institution alone, or in conjunction with a governmental or private entity, provided the  
21          information has not been publicly released, published, or patented.
- 22          9. Personally identifiable study information is confidential. "Personally identifiable study  
23          information" means information about an individual participating in a human research  
24          study or project at an institution under the control of the state board of higher  
25          education which requires prospective institutional review board review or a  
26          determination of exemption, if the information can be used to distinguish or trace the  
27          individual's identity, or is linked or linkable to the individual. Examples of personally  
28          identifiable study information include name, maiden name, mother's maiden name,  
29          alias, personal identification number, social security number, passport number, driver's  
30          license number, taxpayer identification number, financial account or credit card  
31          number, address, email address, photographic images, fingerprints, handwriting, and

1           other biometric data. Information about participants in human subjects research which  
2           does not constitute personally identifiable study information but is part of a human  
3           subjects research study or project at an institution under the control of the state board  
4           of higher education requiring prospective institutional review board review or a  
5           determination of exemption is a university research record under subsection 8.  
6        10. Subsections 8 and 9 do not apply to a student record or other information disclosed by  
7           an institution under the control of the state board of higher education to the statewide  
8           longitudinal data system.

9           **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 44-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
10 and enacted as follows:

11           **Title IX records at state universities and colleges exempt.**

12           Any record related to a complaint or investigation under title IX of the Education  
13 Amendments of 1972 [Pub. L. 92-318; 20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.] at an institution under the control  
14 of the state board of higher education which contains personally identifiable information about a  
15 party to the complaint is an exempt record. For purposes of this section, "personally identifiable  
16 information" means information that directly identifies an individual, and information that, alone  
17 or in combination with other information, is linked or linkable to an individual and would allow a  
18 reasonable person who lacks knowledge of the relevant circumstances to identify the individual.