

**Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota  
In Regular Session Commencing Thursday, January 3, 2019**

SENATE BILL NO. 2222  
(Senators Myrdal, Heckaman)  
(Representatives P. Anderson, Jones, K. Koppelman)

AN ACT to amend and reenact section 12.1-36-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to female genital mutilation; and to provide a penalty.

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

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 12.1-36-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**12.1-36-01. Surgical alteration of the genitals of female minor - Penalty - Exception.**

1. Except as provided in subsection 2, any person who knowingly separates or surgically alters normal, healthy, functioning genital tissue of a female minor is guilty of a class C felony.
2. A surgical operation is not a violation of this section if a licensed medical practitioner performs the operation to correct an anatomical abnormality or to remove diseased tissue that is an immediate threat to the health of the female minor. In applying this subsection, any belief that the operation is required as a matter of custom, ritual, or standard of practice may not be taken into consideration.
3. Any parent, adult family or household member, guardian, or other custodian of any child who willfully allows a child to be surgically altered under this section is guilty of child abuse under subsection 1 of section 14-09-22.
4. A custom, ritual, religious practice, or the consent of the parent or guardian of a minor is not a defense against a violation under this section.
5. Notwithstanding the limitations of section 29-04-02, prosecution for a violation of subsection 3 must be commenced within three years of the date of the offense or within three years after the offense is reported to law enforcement, whichever is later.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

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Secretary of the Senate

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Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2222.

Senate Vote:    Yeas 47            Nays 0            Absent 0

House Vote:    Yeas 90            Nays 0            Absent 4

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Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

Approved at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

Filed in this office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019,

at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State