

**Sixty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota  
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 5, 2021**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1118  
(Representatives Devlin, Becker, Bellew, Delzer, Pollert, M. Ruby, Vigesaa, Weisz)  
(Senator Heckaman)

AN ACT to create and enact a new subsection to section 37-17.1-05 and a new section to chapter 54-03 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the governor's authority to issue executive orders and permitting a virtual meeting of the legislative management and a virtual session of the legislative assembly during a declared disaster or emergency; to amend and reenact subsection 12 of section 23-01-05 and subsection 3 of section 37-17.1-05 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the authority of the state health officer and the gubernatorial declaration of disaster or emergency; and to declare an emergency.

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

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 12 of section 23-01-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

12. Issue any ~~orders~~ a written order relating to ~~a disease control measures deemed measure~~ necessary to prevent the spread of ~~a communicable disease.~~ A disease control measure may include ~~a special immunization activities~~ activity and decontamination ~~measures~~ measure. ~~Written orders~~
  - a. The state health officer shall limit a written order issued under this section to the geographical area affected by the communicable disease. The state health officer may not issue a statewide order under this section unless the governor has declared a statewide disaster or emergency under chapter 37-17.1 and the governor consents to the order. The statewide order is limited in duration to the duration of the declared disaster or emergency unless terminated earlier pursuant to chapter 37-17.1.
  - b. A written order issued under this section shall have ~~has~~ the same effect as a physician's standing medical order.
  - c. The state health officer may ~~shall~~ apply to the district court in a judicial district ~~wherein~~ which a communicable disease is present for an injunction canceling ~~a public event~~ event or closing ~~places~~ a place of business. On application of the state health officer showing the necessity of ~~such~~ the cancellation, the court may issue an ex parte preliminary injunction, pending a full hearing.

**SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 3 of section 37-17.1-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

3. A disaster or emergency must be declared by executive order or proclamation of the governor if the governor determines a disaster has occurred or a state of emergency exists. ~~The~~
  - a. Except as provided in subdivision b, the state of disaster or emergency shall ~~continue~~ continues until the governor determines that the threat of an emergency has passed or the governor determines the disaster has been dealt with to the extent that emergency conditions no longer exist, whichever occurs first.
  - b. If a state of disaster or emergency relating to public health is declared and in effect and the legislative assembly is not in session, the legislative management may meet to vote on whether the legislative management should request the governor call a special session of the legislative assembly. If the governor does not call a special session within seven days after the legislative management sends a request to the governor, the

declared state of disaster or emergency relating to public health terminates thirty days after the request from the legislative management was sent to the governor. If the governor calls a special session within seven days after the request from the legislative management was sent, the special session must be held within fifteen days of the governor's call for a special session. If the legislative assembly meets to address a declared state of disaster or emergency, the legislative assembly by concurrent resolution may terminate, extend, or modify the state of disaster or emergency.

- c. The legislative assembly by concurrent resolution may terminate a state of disaster or emergency at any time.
- d. All executive orders or proclamations issued under this subsection must indicate the nature of the disaster or emergency, the area or areas threatened, the conditions ~~which~~that have brought it about or which make possible termination of the state of disaster or emergency. An executive order or proclamation must be disseminated promptly by means calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public, unless the circumstances attendant upon the disaster or emergency prevent or impede such dissemination, and it must be ~~promptly~~ filed promptly with the department of emergency services, the legislative council, the secretary of state, and the county or city auditor of the jurisdictions affected.

**SECTION 3.** A new subsection to section 37-17.1-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Notwithstanding subsection 3, if a state of disaster or emergency relating to public health is declared and in effect, the governor may not issue an executive order under this section unless the executive order specifically addresses the mitigation of the declared state of disaster or emergency relating to public health.

**SECTION 4.** A new section to chapter 54-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

**Virtual session of the legislative management and legislative assembly during emergency or disaster.**

1. If the legislative management meets to vote on whether the legislative management should request the governor call a special session of the legislative assembly, the legislative management may use any technology or electronic means available to conduct meetings and transact legislative business.
2. If the governor calls a special session of the legislative assembly to address a state of emergency or disaster or if the legislative assembly reconvenes to address a state of emergency or disaster, the legislative assembly may use any technology or electronic means available to conduct meetings and transact legislative business.
3. For purposes of section 7 of article IV of the Constitution of North Dakota, a meeting of the legislative assembly which occurs under this section is deemed to have occurred at the seat of the government, and all actions taken during the meeting have the same legal effect as if the members of the legislative assembly were physically present at the seat of government.

**SECTION 5. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1118 and that two-thirds of the members-elect of the House of Representatives voted in favor of said law.

Vote:        Yeas 85                      Nays 3                      Absent 6

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that two-thirds of the members-elect of the Senate voted in favor of said law.

Vote:        Yeas 47                      Nays 0                      Absent 0

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

Approved at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

Filed in this office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021,  
at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

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