

Fifty-seventh  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2034

Introduced by

Legislative Council

(Criminal Justice Committee)

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact three new sections to chapter 25-03.3 of the North  
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to the referral of inmates for civil commitment and rulemaking;  
3 and to amend and reenact sections 25-03.3-01, 25-03.3-02, 25-03.3-03, 25-03.3-07,  
4 25-03.3-08, subsection 2 of section 25-03.3-09, sections 25-03.3-10, 25-03.3-11, 25-03.3-12,  
5 25-03.3-13, 25-03.3-17, subsection 1 of section 25-03.3-18, and section 25-03.3-19 of the  
6 North Dakota Century Code, relating to the civil commitment of sexual predators.

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

8 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-03.3-01 of the 1999 Supplement to the North  
9 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

10 **25-03.3-01. Definitions.** In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

- 11 1. "Committed individual" means an individual committed for custody and treatment  
12 pursuant to this chapter.
- 13 2. "Executive director" means the executive director of the department of human  
14 services or the executive director's designee.
- 15 3. "Mental retardation" means mental retardation as defined in the "Diagnostic and  
16 Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder", American psychiatric association, fourth  
17 edition (1994).
- 18 4. "Qualified expert" means an individual who has an expertise in sexual offender  
19 evaluations and who is a psychiatrist or psychologist trained in a clinical program  
20 and licensed pursuant to this state's law or a psychologist approved for exemption  
21 by the North Dakota board of ~~psychology~~ psychologist examiners.
- 22 ~~4.~~ 5. "Respondent" means an individual subject to a commitment proceeding pursuant  
23 to this chapter.

1       5- 6. "Sexual act" means sexual contact between human beings, including contact  
2           between the penis and the vulva, the penis and the anus, the mouth and the penis,  
3           the mouth and the vulva, or the vulva and the vulva; or the use of an object that  
4           comes in contact with the victim's anus, vulva, or penis. Sexual contact between  
5           the penis and the vulva, or between the penis and the anus, or an object and the  
6           anus, vulva, or penis of the victim, occurs upon penetration, however slight.  
7           Emission is not required.

8       6- 7. "Sexual contact" means any touching of the sexual or other intimate parts of an  
9           individual for the purpose of arousing or satisfying sexual or aggressive desires.

10      7- 8. "Sexually dangerous individual" means an individual who is shown to have  
11           engaged in sexually predatory conduct and who has a congenital or acquired  
12           condition that is manifested by a sexual disorder, a personality disorder, or other  
13           mental disorder or dysfunction that makes that individual likely to engage in further  
14           acts of sexually predatory conduct which constitute a danger to the physical or  
15           mental health or safety of others. It is a rebuttable presumption that sexually  
16           predatory conduct creates a danger to the physical or mental health or safety of  
17           the victim of the conduct. ~~The term does not include an individual with mental~~  
18           ~~retardation.~~

19      8- 9. "Sexually predatory conduct" means:

- 20           a. Engaging or attempting to engage in a sexual act or sexual contact with  
21           another individual, or causing or attempting to cause another individual to  
22           engage in a sexual act or sexual contact, if:
- 23               (1) The victim is compelled to submit by force or by threat of imminent  
24               death, serious bodily injury, or kidnapping directed toward the victim or  
25               any human being, or the victim is compelled to submit by any threat  
26               that would render an individual of reasonable firmness incapable of  
27               resisting;
- 28               (2) The victim's power to appraise or control the victim's conduct has been  
29               substantially impaired by the administration or employment, without the  
30               victim's knowledge, of intoxicants or other means for purposes of  
31               preventing resistance;

- 1 (3) The actor knows or should have known that the victim is unaware that a
- 2 sexual act is being committed upon the victim;
- 3 (4) The victim is less than fifteen years old;
- 4 (5) The actor knows or should have known that the victim suffers from a
- 5 mental disease or defect that renders the victim incapable of
- 6 understanding the nature of the sexual act or contact;
- 7 (6) The victim is in official custody or detained in a hospital, prison, or other
- 8 institution and is under the supervisory authority or disciplinary control
- 9 of the actor; or
- 10 (7) The victim is a minor and the actor is an adult; or
- 11 b. Engaging in or attempting to engage in sexual contact with another individual
- 12 or causing or attempting to cause another individual to have sexual contact, if:
- 13 (1) The actor knows or should have known that the contact is offensive to
- 14 the victim; or
- 15 (2) The victim is a minor, fifteen years of age or older, and the actor is the
- 16 minor's parent, guardian, or is otherwise responsible for general
- 17 supervision of the victim's welfare.

18 ~~9.~~ 10. "Should have known" means a reasonable individual without a congenital or

19 acquired condition that is manifested by a sexual disorder, a personality disorder,

20 or other mental disorder or dysfunction in the actor's circumstances would have

21 known.

22 ~~40.~~ 11. "Superintendent" means the superintendent of the state hospital or the

23 superintendent's designee.

24 ~~44.~~ 12. "Treatment facility" means any hospital, including the state hospital, or any

25 treatment facility ~~that, including the developmental center at westwood park,~~

26 Grafton, which can provide directly, or by direct arrangement with other public or

27 private agencies, evaluation and treatment of sexually dangerous individuals.

28 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-03.3-02 of the 1999 Supplement to the North

29 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

30 **25-03.3-02. Jurisdiction and venue.** The district court has original jurisdiction over

31 the proceedings governed by this chapter. A proceeding pursuant to this chapter ~~must~~ may be

1    ~~tried in the~~ any county in which the respondent resides or is located, or has committed any  
2    sexually predatory conduct, or if the respondent is an inmate, any of the foregoing venues or a  
3    county to which the respondent has indicated an intent to relocate upon release from the  
4    correctional facility.

5            **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-03.3-03 of the 1999 Supplement to the North  
6    Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

7            **25-03.3-03. Sexually dangerous individual - Petition.**

- 8            1. If it appears that an individual is a sexually dangerous individual, the state's  
9            attorney may file a petition in the district court alleging that the individual is a  
10           sexually dangerous individual and stating sufficient facts to support the allegation.  
11           2. Except for an order of the court committing a respondent for treatment or an order  
12           of the court discharging an individual from treatment and as provided in this  
13           section, the petition and all further records and proceedings under this chapter are  
14           confidential and are not public records or proceedings under sections 44-04-18  
15           and 44-04-19 and sections 5 and 6 of article XI of the Constitution of North Dakota.  
16           The court may permit access to a respondent's records or proceedings under this  
17           chapter to the respondent's guardian, guardian ad litem, or other similarly situated  
18           individual. The court may permit access to information in the respondent's records  
19           to other individuals who require the information for use in performing official  
20           governmental duties.

21           **SECTION 4.** A new section to chapter 25-03.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
22    created and enacted as follows:

23           **Referral of inmates to state's attorneys - Immunity.**

- 24           1. The department of corrections and rehabilitation shall maintain treatment records  
25           for any inmate who has been convicted of an offense that includes sexually  
26           predatory conduct. Approximately six months before the projected release date of  
27           the inmate, the department shall complete an assessment of the inmate to  
28           determine whether a recommendation is to be made to a state's attorney for civil  
29           commitment of the inmate under this chapter. The assessment must be based on  
30           actuarial and clinical evaluations or any other information determined by the

1           director to be relevant, including inmate behavior and whether the inmate  
2           participated in sexual offender treatment while incarcerated.

3           2. If, upon the completion of the assessment, the department determines the inmate  
4           may meet the definition of a sexually dangerous individual, the department shall  
5           refer the inmate to a state's attorney of an appropriate county as provided for in  
6           section 25-03.3-02. The department may make a referral of an inmate to more  
7           than one county.

8           3. Any referral from the department must include a summary of the factors  
9           considered material to the determination that the inmate is appropriate for referral.  
10          The department shall provide a copy of the referral and summary to the attorney  
11          general and the medical director of the state hospital.

12          4. Following the receipt of a referral but before the release date of the inmate, the  
13          state's attorney shall notify the department and the attorney general of the state's  
14          attorney's intended disposition of the referral.

15          5. Any person participating in good faith in the assessment and referral of an inmate  
16          is immune from any civil or criminal liability. For the purpose of any civil or criminal  
17          proceeding, the good faith of any person required to participate in the assessment  
18          and referral of an inmate is presumed.

19          **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-03.3-07 of the 1999 Supplement to the North  
20          Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

21          **25-03.3-07. Appointment of guardian ad litem.** At any stage of a proceeding under  
22          this chapter, on application of ~~a party~~ any individual or on its own motion, the court may appoint  
23          a guardian ad litem for a minor or an individual with mental retardation who is a respondent or  
24          witness or otherwise involved in the proceeding, if the minor or an individual with mental  
25          retardation has no parent, guardian, or custodian appearing on the minor's or the mentally  
26          retarded individual's behalf or the interests of those persons conflict with those of the minor or  
27          an individual with mental retardation. The department of human services shall pay the expense  
28          of the guardian ad litem fee as established by the court.

29          **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-03.3-08 of the 1999 Supplement to the North  
30          Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

31          **25-03.3-08. Sexually dangerous individual - Procedure on petition - Detention.**

- 1           1. Upon the filing of a petition pursuant to this chapter, the court shall determine  
2           whether to issue an order for detention of the respondent named in the petition.  
3           The petition may be heard ex parte. The court shall issue an order for detention if  
4           there is cause to believe that the respondent is a sexually dangerous individual. If  
5           the court issues an order for detention, the order must direct that the respondent  
6           be taken into custody and transferred to an appropriate treatment facility ~~to be held~~  
7           ~~for evaluation and~~ or local correctional facility to be held for subsequent hearing  
8           pursuant to this chapter. Under this section, the department of human services  
9           shall pay for any expense incurred in the detention or evaluation of the respondent.
- 10          2. If the state's attorney knows or believes the respondent named in the petition is an  
11          individual with mental retardation, the state's attorney shall notify the court in the  
12          petition and shall advise the court of the name of the legal guardian of the  
13          respondent or, if none is known, the court may appoint a guardian ad litem for the  
14          respondent. Before service of the notice required in section 25-03.3-10, the court  
15          shall appoint an attorney for the respondent.

16           **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 2 of section 25-03.3-09 of the 1999  
17 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 18          2. After consultation with counsel, the respondent may waive the right to counsel or  
19          the right to any hearing provided pursuant to this chapter by notifying the court in  
20          writing. The notification must clearly state the respondent's reasons for the waiver  
21          and be signed by counsel for the respondent. No guardian, guardian ad litem,  
22          attorney, or other individual may waive the right to counsel on behalf of an  
23          individual with mental retardation.

24           **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-03.3-10 of the 1999 Supplement to the North  
25 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

26           **25-03.3-10. Notice.** If a respondent is detained pursuant to section 25-03.3-08, the  
27 state's attorney shall provide the respondent, or the respondent's guardian, if appropriate, with  
28 a copy of the petition filed with the court. The state's attorney shall provide the respondent with  
29 written notice of the respondent's right to a preliminary hearing and a commitment hearing, if  
30 probable cause is found to exist; the right to counsel and that counsel will be appointed for the  
31 respondent, if the respondent is indigent; and the right to have an expert of the respondent's

1 choosing conduct an evaluation and testify on the respondent's behalf or, if the respondent is  
2 indigent, that the court will appoint a qualified expert for the respondent. The notice must state  
3 the date, time, and place for the preliminary hearing. If notice is given to a respondent who the  
4 state's attorney knows or believes is an individual with mental retardation, the state's attorney  
5 also shall give notice to the respondent's attorney and guardian or guardian ad litem, if any.

6 **SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-03.3-11 of the 1999 Supplement to the North  
7 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

8 **25-03.3-11. Preliminary hearing - Probable cause.** The respondent is entitled to a  
9 preliminary hearing within seventy-two hours of being taken into custody pursuant to an order  
10 of the court, excluding weekends and holidays, unless the respondent chooses to waive the  
11 preliminary hearing pursuant to section 25-03.3-09. The respondent has a right to be present,  
12 to testify, and to present and cross-examine witnesses at any preliminary hearing. The court  
13 may receive evidence that would otherwise be inadmissible at a commitment hearing. Every  
14 individual not necessary must be excluded, except that the court may admit any individual  
15 having a legitimate interest in the proceeding. If the court determines after a preliminary  
16 hearing that there is probable cause to believe the respondent is a sexually dangerous  
17 individual, the court shall order that the respondent be transferred to an appropriate treatment  
18 facility for an evaluation as to whether the respondent has a congenital or acquired condition  
19 that is manifested by a sexual disorder, a personality disorder, or other mental disorder or  
20 dysfunction that makes the respondent likely to engage in further acts of sexually predatory  
21 conduct. If the court determines that probable cause does not exist to believe that the  
22 respondent is a sexually dangerous individual, the court shall dismiss the petition. If the  
23 respondent waives the preliminary hearing, then the respondent must be immediately  
24 transferred to an appropriate treatment facility for an evaluation as to whether the respondent  
25 has a congenital or acquired condition that is manifested by a sexual disorder, a personality  
26 disorder, or other mental disorder or dysfunction that makes the respondent likely to engage in  
27 further acts of sexually predatory conduct. An individual with mental retardation may be  
28 evaluated under this chapter at a facility only if that facility provides care and treatment to  
29 individuals with mental retardation.

30 **SECTION 10. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-03.3-12 of the 1999 Supplement to the North  
31 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

1           **25-03.3-12. Sexually dangerous individual - Evaluation.** The evaluation must be  
2 conducted by one or more experts chosen by the executive director. Whenever a respondent  
3 is subject to an evaluation pursuant to this chapter, the respondent may retain an expert to  
4 perform an evaluation or testify on the respondent's behalf. When the respondent is an adult  
5 with mental retardation and a guardian or guardian ad litem has not been appointed for the  
6 respondent, the court shall appoint an expert to perform an evaluation on behalf of the  
7 respondent. In the case of a respondent who is indigent, the court shall appoint a qualified  
8 expert to perform an examination or participate in the commitment proceeding on the  
9 respondent's behalf. The department of human services shall compensate any qualified expert  
10 appointed by the court on behalf of an indigent respondent in a reasonable amount based on  
11 time and expenses. An expert retained on behalf of the respondent must have reasonable  
12 access to the respondent for the purpose of the examination and to all relevant medical,  
13 psychological, and court records and reports.

14           **SECTION 11. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-03.3-13 of the 1999 Supplement to the North  
15 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

16           **25-03.3-13. Sexually dangerous individual - Commitment proceeding - Report of**  
17 **findings.** Within ~~thirty~~ sixty days after the finding of probable cause, the court shall conduct a  
18 commitment proceeding to determine whether the respondent is a sexually dangerous  
19 individual. The court may extend the time for good cause. At the commitment proceeding, any  
20 testimony and reports of an expert who conducted an examination are admissible, including  
21 risk assessment evaluations. Any proceeding pursuant to this chapter must be tried to the  
22 court and not a jury. At the commitment proceeding, the state's attorney shall present evidence  
23 in support of the petition and the burden is on the state to show by clear and convincing  
24 evidence that the respondent is a sexually dangerous individual. An individual may not be  
25 committed unless evidence is admitted establishing that at least two experts have concluded  
26 the individual has a congenital or acquired condition that is manifested by a sexual disorder, a  
27 personality disorder, or other mental disorder or dysfunction that makes that individual likely to  
28 engage in further acts of sexually predatory conduct. The respondent has a right to be present,  
29 to testify, and to present and cross-examine witnesses. Every person not necessary must be  
30 excluded, except that the court may admit any person having a legitimate interest in the  
31 proceeding. If the respondent is found to be a sexually dangerous individual, the court shall



1 commit the respondent to the care, custody, and control of the executive director. The  
2 executive director shall place the respondent in an appropriate facility or program at which  
3 treatment is available. The appropriate treatment facility or program must be the least  
4 restrictive available treatment facility or program necessary to achieve the purposes of this  
5 chapter. The executive director may not be required to create a less restrictive treatment  
6 facility or treatment program specifically for the respondent or committed individual. Unless the  
7 respondent has been committed to the legal and physical custody of the department of  
8 corrections and rehabilitation, the respondent may not be placed at and the treatment program  
9 for the respondent may not be provided at the state penitentiary or an affiliated penal facility. If  
10 the respondent is found not to be a sexually dangerous individual, the court shall discharge the  
11 respondent.

12 **SECTION 12.** A new subsection to section 25-03.3-17 of the 1999 Supplement to the  
13 North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

14 If the executive director moves a committed individual from a placement in the  
15 community to a placement in a secure treatment facility that is more restrictive, the  
16 committed individual may challenge the move at a hearing to be held within thirty  
17 days after the move in accordance with procedures established by the department  
18 of human services.

19 **SECTION 13. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 25-03.3-18 of the 1999  
20 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 21 1. Annually, the executive director shall provide the committed individual with written  
22 notice that the individual has a right to petition the court for discharge. The notice  
23 must explain to the committed person when the committed person has a right to a  
24 hearing on the petition. The notice must inform the committed person of the rights  
25 this chapter affords the committed person at a discharge hearing. The executive  
26 director shall forward a copy of the notice to the committing court. If the committed  
27 individual is mentally retarded, the executive director shall also provide the written  
28 notice to the individual's attorney and guardian or guardian ad litem, if any.

29 **SECTION 14. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-03.3-19 of the 1999 Supplement to the North  
30 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

1           **25-03.3-19. Appeal.** The respondent has the right to an appeal from an order of  
2 commitment or an order denying a petition for discharge. Upon entry of an appealable order,  
3 the court shall notify the respondent of the right to appeal and the right to counsel. The notice  
4 of appeal must be filed within thirty days after entry of the order. The appeal must be limited to  
5 a review of the procedures, findings, and conclusions of the committing court. Pending a  
6 decision on appeal, the order appealed from remains in effect. If the respondent is a mentally  
7 retarded individual, the court shall provide notice of the right to appeal to the respondent's  
8 attorney and the respondent's guardian or guardian ad litem.

9           **SECTION 15.** A new section to chapter 25-03.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
10 created and enacted as follows:

11           **Rules.** The department of human services may adopt rules under chapter 28-32 to  
12 implement this chapter, but the rules may not restrict or limit the rights guaranteed by this  
13 chapter.

14           **SECTION 16.** A new section to chapter 25-03.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
15 created and enacted as follows:

16           **Individual rights.** For so long as a committed individual is placed in and resides at a  
17 treatment facility, the committed individual has the same rights as other residents of the facility,  
18 subject to the following limitations and restrictions:

- 19           1. The individual's rights are subordinate to legitimate safety precautions and to the  
20           terms of the applicable individualized habilitation or treatment plan.
- 21           2. If an individual's rights are inconsistent with this chapter in a particular situation,  
22           the specific provisions of this chapter prevail.