

**SENATE BILL NO. 2116**

Introduced by

Judiciary Committee

(At the request of the Attorney General)

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 12.1-31-03 and subsection 17 of  
2 section 27-20-02 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the sale of tobacco to minors;  
3 and to provide a penalty.

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

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 12.1-31-03 of the 1999 Supplement to the North  
6 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **12.1-31-03. Sale of tobacco to minors and use by minors prohibited.**

- 8 1. It is ~~an infraction~~ a noncriminal offense for any person to sell or furnish to a minor,  
9 or procure for a minor, cigarettes, cigarette papers, cigars, snuff, or tobacco in any  
10 other form in which it may be utilized for smoking or chewing. As used in this  
11 subsection, "sell" includes dispensing from a vending machine under the control of  
12 the actor.
- 13 2. It is ~~an infraction~~ a noncriminal offense for a minor to purchase, possess, smoke,  
14 or use cigarettes, cigars, cigarette papers, snuff, or tobacco in any other form in  
15 which it may be utilized for smoking or chewing. However, an individual under  
16 eighteen years of age may purchase and possess tobacco as part of a compliance  
17 survey program when acting with the permission of the individual's parent or  
18 guardian and while acting under the supervision of any law enforcement authority.  
19 A state agency, city, county, board of health, tobacco retailer, or association of  
20 tobacco retailers may also conduct compliance surveys, after coordination with the  
21 appropriate local law enforcement authority.
- 22 3. A city or county may adopt an ordinance or resolution regarding the sale of tobacco  
23 to minors and use of tobacco by minors which ~~is more stringent than this section~~  
24 includes prohibitions in addition to those in subsection 1 or 2. Any ordinance or

resolution adopted ~~which deems~~ must include provisions deeming a violation of subsection 1 or 2 a noncriminal violation and must provide for ~~a fee of not less than twenty-five dollars~~ the same disposition as subsection 4 for those provisions.

4. A person found to have violated subsection 1 or 2 must pay a fee of twenty-five dollars. A judge may also require a person found to have violated subsection 2 to attend a smoking or tobacco addiction treatment course.

a. Any individual who has been cited for a violation ~~that is designated a noncriminal offense~~ under this section may appear before a court of competent jurisdiction and pay the ~~statutory~~ fee by the time scheduled for a hearing, or if bond has been posted, may forfeit the bond by not appearing at the scheduled time. An individual appearing at the time scheduled in the citation may make a statement in explanation of that individual's action and the judge may waive, reduce, or suspend the ~~statutory~~ fee or bond, or both. If the individual cited follows the procedures of this subdivision, that individual has admitted the violation and has waived the right to a hearing on the issue of commission of the violation. The bond required to secure appearance before the court must be identical to the ~~statutory~~ fee. This subdivision does not allow a ~~hearing~~ citing officer to receive the ~~statutory~~ fee or bond.

b. If an individual cited for a violation ~~that is designated a noncriminal offense~~ under this section does not choose to follow ~~any procedure~~ the procedures provided under subdivision a, that individual may request a hearing on the issue of the commission of the violation ~~charged~~ cited. The hearing must be held at the time scheduled in the citation or at some future time, not to exceed ninety days later, set at that first appearance. At the time of a request for a hearing on the issue on commission of the violation, the individual ~~charged~~ cited shall deposit with the court an appearance bond equal to the ~~statutory~~ fee for the violation ~~charged~~ cited.

5. The state prosecution must prove the commission of a ~~charged~~ cited violation at the hearing under this section by a preponderance of the evidence.

1       4. ~~6.~~ A law enforcement officer ~~or juvenile court~~ that cites a minor for violation of this  
2                   section shall mail a notice of the violation to the parent or legal guardian of the  
3                   minor within ten days of the citation.

4               **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 17 of section 27-20-02 of the 1999  
5 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 6           17. "Unruly child" means a child who:
- 7               a. Is habitually and without justification truant from school;
  - 8               b. Is habitually disobedient of the reasonable and lawful commands of the child's  
9                   parent, guardian, or other custodian and is ungovernable; or who is willfully in  
10                   a situation dangerous or injurious to the health, safety, or morals of the child  
11                   or others;
  - 12              c. Has committed an offense applicable only to a child, except for an offense  
13                   under section 12.1-31-03;
  - 14              d. Has committed a noncriminal traffic offense without ever having been issued  
15                   an operator's license or permit if one was required; or
  - 16              e. Has committed an offense in violation of section 39-08-18 or 5-01-08; and
  - 17              f. In any of the foregoing instances is in need of treatment or rehabilitation.