

Fifty-eighth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

HOUSE BILL NO. 1083

Introduced by

Judiciary Committee

(At the request of the Labor Commissioner)

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 14-02.4-21, 14-02.5-22, and 14-02.5-46 of the
2 North Dakota Century Code, relating to confidential information obtained under the human
3 rights and housing discrimination laws.

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

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-02.4-21 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **14-02.4-21. Records exempt.** A complaint ~~received by~~ filed with the department under
8 this chapter is an open record. Information obtained during ~~any~~ an investigation conducted by
9 the department under this chapter is exempt from section 44-04-18 before the institution of any
10 judicial proceedings or administrative hearing relating to the complaint under this chapter or
11 before the administrative closure of a complaint by the department. The department may
12 disclose to the complainant or the respondent, or a representative of the complainant or the
13 respondent, information obtained during an investigation if ~~determined~~ deemed necessary by
14 the department for securing an appropriate resolution of a complaint. The department may
15 disclose ~~to federal officials~~ information obtained ~~under this chapter~~ during an investigation to a
16 federal agency if necessary for the processing of complaints under an agreement with the
17 agency. ~~The department may not disclose anything said or done as part of the informal~~
18 ~~negotiation or conciliation efforts relating to a complaint under this chapter except to the federal~~
19 ~~equal employment opportunity commission as needed for proper processing and closure.~~
20 Individual medical information obtained during an investigation may not be disclosed by the
21 department except to a federal agency if necessary for the processing of complaints under an
22 agreement with the agency. Statements made or actions taken during conciliation efforts
23 relating to a complaint under this chapter may not be disclosed by the department, except to a
24 federal agency if necessary for the processing of complaints under an agreement with the

1 agency, and may not be used as evidence in a subsequent proceeding under this chapter
2 without the written consent of the parties to the conciliation. A conciliation agreement is an
3 open record unless the complainant and respondent agree that it is not and the department
4 determines that disclosure is not necessary to further the purposes of this chapter.

5 Investigative working papers are exempt from section 44-04-18.

6 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-02.5-22 of the North Dakota Century Code is
7 amended and reenacted as follows:

8 **14-02.5-22. Conciliation.**

9 4- The department shall, during the period beginning with the filing of a complaint and
10 ending with the filing of a charge or a dismissal by the department, to the extent
11 feasible, engage in conciliation with respect to the complaint. A conciliation
12 agreement between a respondent and the complainant is subject to departmental
13 approval. A conciliation agreement may provide for binding arbitration or another
14 method of dispute resolution. Dispute resolution that results from a conciliation
15 agreement may authorize appropriate relief, including monetary relief.

16 2- ~~A conciliation agreement is public information unless the complainant and~~
17 ~~respondent agree that it is not and the department determines that disclosure is not~~
18 ~~necessary to further the purposes of this chapter. Statements made or actions~~
19 ~~taken in the conciliation may not be made public by the department or used as~~
20 ~~evidence in a subsequent proceeding under this chapter without the written~~
21 ~~consent of the parties to the conciliation.~~

22 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-02.5-46 of the North Dakota Century Code is
23 amended and reenacted as follows:

24 **14-02.5-46. Records exempt.** A complaint filed with the department under section
25 14-02.5-18 is an open record. Information obtained during an investigation conducted by the
26 department under this chapter is exempt from section 44-04-18 ~~prior to~~ before the institution of
27 any judicial proceedings or administrative hearing relating to the complaint under this chapter or
28 before the administrative closure of a complaint by the department. The ~~commissioner~~
29 department may disclose to the complainant or the respondent, or representatives of the
30 complainant or respondent, information obtained ~~under this section~~ during an investigation if
31 deemed necessary by the ~~commissioner~~ department for securing an appropriate resolution of a

1 complaint. The department may disclose information obtained during an investigation to a
2 federal agency if necessary for the processing of complaints under an agreement with the
3 agency. Individual medical information obtained during an investigation may not be disclosed
4 by the department except to a federal agency if necessary for the processing of complaints
5 under an agreement with the agency. Statements made or actions taken during conciliation
6 efforts relating to a complaint under this chapter may not be disclosed by the department,
7 except to a federal agency if necessary for the processing of complaints under an agreement
8 with the agency, and may not be used as evidence in a subsequent proceeding under this
9 chapter without the written consent of the parties to the conciliation. A conciliation agreement is
10 an open record unless the complainant and respondent agree that it is not and the department
11 determines that disclosure is not necessary to further the purposes of this chapter.
12 Investigative working papers are exempt from section 44-04-18.