

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT
with Senate Amendments**

Sixtieth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1507

Introduced by

Representatives Thoreson, Kasper, L. Meier, Ruby

Senators Flakoll, Hacker

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 51-27 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to computer and internet fraud; to amend and reenact section 51-27-01
3 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to definitions; and to provide a penalty.

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

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 51-27-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **51-27-01. (Contingent expiration date - See note) Definitions.** In this chapter,
8 unless the context otherwise requires:

- 9 1. "Assist the transmission" means actions taken by a person to provide substantial
10 assistance or support that enables any person to formulate, compose, send,
11 originate, initiate, or transmit a commercial electronic mail message when the
12 person providing the assistance knows or consciously avoids knowing that the
13 initiator of the commercial electronic mail message is engaged, or intends to
14 engage, in any practice that violates chapter 51-15.
- 15 2. "Commercial electronic mail message" means an electronic mail message sent to
16 promote real property, goods, or services for sale or lease. The term does not
17 mean an electronic mail message to which an interactive computer service
18 provider has attached an advertisement in exchange for free use of an electronic
19 mail account if the sender has agreed to such an arrangement.
- 20 3. "Electronic mail address" means a destination, commonly expressed as a string of
21 characters, to which electronic mail may be sent or delivered.
- 22 4. "Identifying information" means any information that can be used to access an
23 individual's financial account or to obtain goods and services, including an
24 individual's address, birth date, social security number, driver's license number,

nondriver governmental identification number, telephone number, bank account number, student identification, credit or debit card number, personal identification number, unique biometric data, employee or payroll number, automated or electronic signature, computer image, photograph, screen name, or password.

The term does not include information that is lawfully obtained from publicly available sources or from federal, state, or local government records lawfully made available to the general public.

5. "Initiate the transmission" refers to the action by the original sender of an electronic mail message, not to the action by any intervening interactive computer service that may handle or retransmit the message, unless the intervening interactive computer service assists in the transmission of an electronic mail message when the interactive computer service knows, or consciously avoids knowing, that the person initiating the transmission is engaged, or intends to engage, in any act or practice that violates chapter 51-15.

~~5-~~ 6. "Interactive computer service" means any information service, system, or access software provider that provides or enables computer access by multiple users to a computer server, including a service or system that provides access to the internet and systems operated or services offered by libraries and educational institutions.

~~6-~~ 7. "Internet domain name" refers to a globally unique, hierarchical reference to an internet host or service, assigned through centralized internet naming authorities, comprising a series of character strings separated by periods, with the right-most string specifying the top of the hierarchy.

8. "Web page" means a location that has a single uniform resource locator with respect to the world wide web or another location that can be accessed on the internet.

SECTION 2. A new section to chapter 51-27 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Fraudulent or misleading communications - Penalty.

1. A person is guilty of a class C felony if, with intent to defraud or injure an individual, or with knowledge that the person is facilitating a fraud or injury to be perpetrated by any other person:

- 1 a. The actor makes any communication that is not true and is calculated to
2 mislead by purporting to be by or on behalf of another person without the
3 authority or approval of that person; and
4 b. The actor uses that communication to induce, request, or solicit the individual
5 to provide property or identifying information.
6 2. A person is guilty of a class C felony if, with intent to defraud or injure an individual,
7 or with knowledge that a person is facilitating a fraud or injury to be perpetrated by
8 any other person:
9 a. The actor creates or operates a web page that falsely represents the actor as
10 being associated with another person without the authority or approval of that
11 person and the web page may induce a user of the internet to provide
12 property or identifying information; or
13 b. The actor alters a setting on a user's computer or similar device or software
14 program through which the user may search the internet, the alteration
15 causes the user to view a communication that falsely represents the actor as
16 being associated with another person, and the communication has been
17 created or is operated without the authority or approval of the other person
18 and induces, requests, or solicits the user to provide property or identifying
19 information.