

Sixty-second  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2288**

Introduced by

Senator Holmberg

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 14-05 of the of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to summary real estate disposition judgments.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 14-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
5 and enacted as follows:

6 **Summary real estate disposition judgment.**

- 7 1. If real estate is described in a judgment and decree of divorce, the court may direct  
8 either of the parties or their legal counsel to prepare and submit to the court, in a form  
9 prescribed by the court, a proposed summary real estate disposition judgment. Upon  
10 approval by the court and filing of the summary real estate disposition judgment with  
11 the clerk of court, the clerk of court shall provide to any party upon request certified  
12 copies of the summary real estate disposition judgment.
- 13 2. A summary real estate disposition judgment must contain the following information:
- 14 a. The full caption and file number of the case and the title "Summary Real Estate  
15 Disposition Judgment";
- 16 b. The dates of the parties' marriage and of the entry of the judgment and decree of  
17 divorce;
- 18 c. The names of the parties' attorneys or if either or both appeared pro se;
- 19 d. The name of the judge and referee, if any, who signed the order for judgment and  
20 decree;
- 21 e. Whether the judgment and decree resulted from a stipulation, a default, or a trial  
22 and the appearances at the default or trial;
- 23 f. If the judgment and decree resulted from a stipulation, whether the real property  
24 was described by a legal description;

- 1           g. If the judgment and decree resulted from a default, whether the petition contained  
2           the legal description of the property and whether disposition was made in  
3           accordance with the request for relief;
- 4           h. Whether the summons and petition were served personally upon the respondent  
5           in accordance with the North Dakota Rules of Civil Procedure;
- 6           i. If the summons and petition were served on the respondent only by publication,  
7           the name of each legal newspaper and county in which the summons and  
8           petition were published and the dates of publications;
- 9           j. Whether either party changed the party's name through the judgment and  
10          decree;
- 11          k. The legal description of each parcel of real estate;
- 12          l. The name or names of the persons awarded an interest in each parcel of real  
13          estate and a description of the interest awarded;
- 14          m. Liens, mortgages, encumbrances, or other interests in the real estate described  
15          in the judgment and decree; and
- 16          n. Triggering or contingent events set forth in the judgment and decree affecting the  
17          disposition of each parcel of real estate.
- 18      3.   a. On the court's own motion or on application by an interested person, the court  
19          shall issue an order authorizing the clerk of court to issue an amended summary  
20          real estate disposition judgment to correct an erroneous legal description of real  
21          estate contained in the judgment and decree of divorce.
- 22          b. An application to correct a legal description under this subdivision must contain:
- 23              (1) The erroneous legal description contained in the judgment and decree;
- 24              (2) The correct legal description of the real estate;
- 25              (3) Written evidence satisfactory to the court to show the correct legal  
26              description, or a request for an evidentiary hearing to produce evidence of  
27              the correct legal description; and
- 28              (4) A proposed amended summary real estate disposition judgment.
- 29          c. The court shall consider an application under this subsection on an expedited  
30          basis. The court's order must be based on the evidence provided in the  
31          application, the evidence produced at an evidentiary hearing, or the evidence

1           already in the record of the proceeding. If the court is satisfied that an erroneous  
2           legal description should be corrected under this subsection, the court may issue  
3           its order without a hearing or notice to any person. A filing fee is not required for  
4           an application under this subsection. The court's order must be treated as an  
5           amendment of the court's findings of fact regarding the legal description of the  
6           property in question, without the need to amend the original judgment and  
7           decree. The court shall issue the order if the court specifically finds that the court  
8           had jurisdiction over the respondent in the divorce proceeding and that the  
9           property was sufficiently identified in the original proceedings to prevent prejudice  
10          to the rights of either party to the divorce and that the amendment will not  
11          prejudice their rights. The court's order is effective retroactive to the date of entry  
12          of the original judgment and decree of divorce.

13          d. An amended summary real estate disposition judgment must be treated the same  
14          as the prior summary real estate disposition judgment for all purposes.

15          e. On request by any interested person, the clerk of court shall provide a certified  
16          copy of an amended summary real estate disposition judgment showing the  
17          correct legal description of the real property affected by the judgment and decree.

18          f. This subsection may not be used to add omitted property to a judgment and  
19          decree of divorce, unless the court determines that the omitted property is an  
20          integral or appurtenant part of real property already properly included in the  
21          judgment and decree.

22          4. An order or provision in a judgment and decree that provides that the judgment and  
23          decree must be recorded in the office of the county recorder means, if a summary real  
24          estate disposition judgment has been approved by the court, that the summary real  
25          estate disposition judgment, rather than the judgment and decree, must be recorded in  
26          the office of the county recorder.

27          5. The summary real estate disposition judgment operates as a conveyance and transfer  
28          of each interest in the real estate in the manner and to the extent described in the  
29          summary real estate disposition judgment. A summary real estate disposition  
30          judgment, or an amended summary real estate disposition judgment that supersedes  
31          an earlier judgment, is prima facie evidence of the facts stated in the summary real

1           estate disposition judgment. A purchaser for value without notice of any defect in the  
2           divorce proceedings may rely on a summary real estate disposition judgment or a later  
3           amended summary real estate disposition judgment to establish the facts stated in the  
4           judgment.

5       6   If a conflict exists between the judgment and decree and the summary real estate  
6           disposition judgment, the summary real estate disposition judgment recorded in the  
7           office of the county recorder controls as to the interest acquired in real estate by any  
8           subsequent purchaser in good faith and for a valuable consideration, who is in  
9           possession of the interest or whose interest is recorded with the county recorder,  
10          before the recording of the judgment and decree in office of county recorder.