

Sixty-third
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

HOUSE BILL NO. 1320

Introduced by

Representatives Kreun, Delmore, Hatlestad, N. Johnson

Senators Hogue, Laffen, Sorvaag

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 12.1-17-07 of the North Dakota Century Code,
2 relating to harassment offenses through electronic communications.

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

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 12.1-17-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **12.1-17-07. Harassment.**

- 7 1. A person is guilty of an offense if, with intent to frighten or harass another, the person:
- 8 a. Communicates in writing or by ~~telephone~~electronic communication a threat to
- 9 inflict injury on any person, to any person's reputation, or to any property;
- 10 b. Makes a telephone call anonymously or in offensively coarse language;
- 11 c. Makes repeated telephone calls or other electronic communication, whether or
- 12 not a conversation ensues, with no purpose of legitimate communication; or
- 13 d. Communicates a falsehood in writing or by ~~telephone~~electronic communication
- 14 and causes mental anguish.
- 15 2. The offense is a class A misdemeanor if it is under subdivision a of subsection 1 or
- 16 subsection 4. Otherwise it is a class B misdemeanor.
- 17 3. Any offense defined herein and committed by use of a ~~telephone~~electronic
- 18 communication may be deemed to have been committed at either the place at which
- 19 the ~~telephone call or calls were~~electronic communication was made or at the place
- 20 where the ~~telephone call or calls were~~electronic communication was received.
- 21 4. A person ~~who telephones~~is guilty of an offense if the person initiates communication
- 22 with a 911 emergency line, public safety answering point, or an emergency responder
- 23 communication system with the intent to annoy or harass another person or a public

safety agency or who makes a false 911 report is guilty of a class A misdemeanor to a
public safety agency.

a. Intent to annoy or harass is established by proof of one or more calls with no
legitimate 911 purpose.

b. Upon conviction of a violation of this subsection, a person is also liable for all
costs incurred by any unnecessary emergency response.

5. Any offense defined herein is deemed communicated in writing if it is transmitted
electronically, by electronic mail, facsimile, or other similar means. Electronic
communication means transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data, or
intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio,
electromagnetic, photo-electronic, or photo-optical system.