

**SENATE BILL NO. 2115**

Introduced by

Judiciary Committee

(At the request of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation)

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new subsection to section 54-23.3-04 of the North  
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to authorization for children of inmates to reside at the Heart  
3 River correctional center; and to amend and reenact section 32-12.2-02 of the North Dakota  
4 Century Code, relating to limitation of liability for children residing at the Heart River correctional  
5 center.

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

7 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 32-12.2-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
8 amended and reenacted as follows:

9 **32-12.2-02. Liability of the state - Limitations - Statute of limitations. (Effective**  
10 **through July 31, 2027)**

- 11 1. The state may only be held liable for money damages for an injury proximately caused  
12 by the negligence or wrongful act or omission of a state employee acting within the  
13 employee's scope of employment under circumstances in which the employee would  
14 be personally liable to a claimant in accordance with the laws of this state, or an injury  
15 caused from some condition or use of tangible property under circumstances in which  
16 the state, if a private person, would be liable to the claimant. No claim may be brought  
17 against the state or a state employee acting within the employee's scope of  
18 employment except a claim authorized under this chapter or otherwise authorized by  
19 the legislative assembly. The enactment of a law, rule, or regulation to protect any  
20 person's health, safety, property, or welfare does not create a duty of care on the part  
21 of the state, its employees, or its agents, if that duty would not otherwise exist.
- 22 2. The liability of the state under this chapter is limited to a total of three hundred  
23 seventy-five thousand dollars per person and one million dollars for any number of  
24 claims arising from any single occurrence. The state may not be held liable, or be

1 ordered to indemnify a state employee held liable, for punitive or exemplary damages.  
2 Any amount of a judgment against the state in excess of the one million dollar limit  
3 imposed under this subsection may be paid only if the legislative assembly adopts an  
4 appropriation authorizing payment of all or a portion of that amount. A claimant may  
5 present proof of the judgment to the director of the office of management and budget  
6 who shall include within the proposed budget for the office of management and budget  
7 a request for payment for the portion of the judgment in excess of the limit under this  
8 section at the next regular session of the legislative assembly after the judgment is  
9 rendered. The liability limits under this subsection must be adjusted annually as  
10 follows:

- 11 a. On July 1, 2023, a total of four hundred six thousand two hundred and fifty dollars  
12 per person and one million six hundred twenty-five thousand dollars for any  
13 single occurrence.
- 14 b. On July 1, 2024, a total of four hundred thirty-seven thousand five hundred  
15 dollars per person and one million seven hundred fifty thousand dollars for any  
16 single occurrence.
- 17 c. On July 1, 2025, a total of four hundred sixty-eight thousand seven hundred fifty  
18 dollars per person and one million eight hundred seventy-five thousand dollars  
19 per occurrence.
- 20 d. On July 1, 2026, a total of five hundred thousand dollars per person and two  
21 million dollars per occurrence.

22 3. Neither the state nor a state employee may be held liable under this chapter for any of  
23 the following claims:

- 24 a. A claim based upon an act or omission of a state employee exercising due care  
25 in the execution of a valid or invalid statute or rule.
- 26 b. A claim based upon a decision to exercise or perform or a failure to exercise or  
27 perform a discretionary function or duty on the part of the state or its employees,  
28 regardless of whether the discretion involved is abused or whether the statute,  
29 order, rule, or resolution under which the discretionary function or duty is  
30 performed is valid or invalid. Discretionary acts include acts, errors, or omissions

- 1           in the design of any public project but do not include the drafting of plans and  
2           specifications that are provided to a contractor to construct a public project.
- 3           c. A claim resulting from the decision to undertake or the refusal to undertake any  
4           legislative or quasi-legislative act, including the decision to adopt or the refusal to  
5           adopt any statute, order, rule, or resolution.
- 6           d. A claim resulting from a decision to undertake or a refusal to undertake any  
7           judicial or quasi-judicial act, including a decision to grant, to grant with conditions,  
8           to refuse to grant, or to revoke any license, permit, order, or other administrative  
9           approval or denial.
- 10          e. A claim relating to injury directly or indirectly caused by a person who is not  
11          employed by the state.
- 12          f. A claim relating to injury directly or indirectly caused by the performance or  
13          nonperformance of a public duty, including:
- 14           (1) Inspecting, licensing, approving, mitigating, warning, abating, or failing to so  
15           act regarding compliance with or the violation of any law, rule, regulation, or  
16           any condition affecting health or safety.
- 17           (2) Enforcing, monitoring, or failing to enforce or monitor conditions of  
18           sentencing, parole, probation, or juvenile supervision.
- 19           (3) Providing or failing to provide law enforcement services in the ordinary  
20           course of a state's law enforcement operations.
- 21          g. "Public duty" does not include action of the state or a state employee under  
22          circumstances in which a special relationship can be established between the  
23          state and the injured party. A special relationship is demonstrated if all of the  
24          following elements exist:
- 25           (1) Direct contact between the state and the injured party.
- 26           (2) An assumption by the state, by means of promises or actions, of an  
27           affirmative duty to act on behalf of the party who allegedly was injured.
- 28           (3) Knowledge on the part of the state that inaction of the state could lead to  
29           harm.

- 1                   (4) The injured party's justifiable reliance on the state's affirmative undertaking,  
2                                   occurrence of the injury while the injured party was under the direct control  
3                                   of the state, or the state action increases the risk of harm.
- 4           h. A claim resulting from the assessment and collection of taxes.
- 5           i. A claim resulting from snow or ice conditions, water, or debris on a highway or on  
6                   a public sidewalk that does not abut a state-owned building or parking lot, except  
7                   when the condition is affirmatively caused by the negligent act of a state  
8                   employee.
- 9           j. A claim resulting from any injury caused by a wild animal in its natural state.
- 10          k. A claim resulting from the condition of unimproved real property owned or leased  
11                   by the state.
- 12          l. A claim resulting from the loss of benefits or compensation due under a program  
13                   of public assistance.
- 14          m. A claim resulting from the reasonable care and treatment, or lack of care and  
15                   treatment, of a person at a state institution where reasonable use of available  
16                   appropriations has been made to provide care.
- 17          n. A claim resulting from damage to the property of a ~~patient~~resident or inmate of a  
18                   state institution.
- 19          o. A claim resulting from any injury to a resident or an inmate of a state institution if  
20                   the injury is caused by another resident or inmate of that institution.
- 21          p. A claim resulting from environmental contamination, except to the extent that  
22                   federal environmental law permits the claim.
- 23          q. A claim resulting from a natural disaster, an act of God, a military action, or an act  
24                   or omission taken as part of a disaster relief effort.
- 25          r. A claim for damage to property owned by the state.
- 26          s. A claim for liability assumed under contract, except this exclusion does not apply  
27                   to liability arising from a state employee's operation of a rental vehicle if the loss  
28                   is not covered by the state employee's personal insurance or by the vehicle rental  
29                   company.

1           t. A claim resulting from an injury to a child residing at the Heart River correctional  
2           center, except when the injury is affirmatively caused by the negligent act of a  
3           state employee.

4           4. An action brought under this chapter must be commenced within the period provided  
5           in section 28-01-22.1.

6           5. This chapter does not create or allow any claim that does not exist at common law or  
7           has not otherwise been created by law as of April 22, 1995.

8           **Liability of the state - Limitations - Statute of limitations. (Effective after July 31,**  
9           **2027)**

10          1. The state may only be held liable for money damages for an injury proximately caused  
11          by the negligence or wrongful act or omission of a state employee acting within the  
12          employee's scope of employment under circumstances in which the employee would  
13          be personally liable to a claimant in accordance with the laws of this state, or an injury  
14          caused from some condition or use of tangible property under circumstances in which  
15          the state, if a private person, would be liable to the claimant. No claim may be brought  
16          against the state or a state employee acting within the employee's scope of  
17          employment except a claim authorized under this chapter or otherwise authorized by  
18          the legislative assembly. The enactment of a law, rule, or regulation to protect any  
19          person's health, safety, property, or welfare does not create a duty of care on the part  
20          of the state, its employees, or its agents, if that duty would not otherwise exist.

21          2. The liability of the state under this chapter is limited to a total of two hundred fifty  
22          thousand dollars per person and one million dollars for any number of claims arising  
23          from any single occurrence. The state may not be held liable, or be ordered to  
24          indemnify a state employee held liable, for punitive or exemplary damages. Any  
25          amount of a judgment against the state in excess of the one million dollar limit  
26          imposed under this subsection may be paid only if the legislative assembly adopts an  
27          appropriation authorizing payment of all or a portion of that amount. A claimant may  
28          present proof of the judgment to the director of the office of management and budget  
29          who shall include within the proposed budget for the office of management and budget  
30          a request for payment for the portion of the judgment in excess of the limit under this

1 section at the next regular session of the legislative assembly after the judgment is  
2 rendered.

3 3. Neither the state nor a state employee may be held liable under this chapter for any of  
4 the following claims:

5 a. A claim based upon an act or omission of a state employee exercising due care  
6 in the execution of a valid or invalid statute or rule.

7 b. A claim based upon a decision to exercise or perform or a failure to exercise or  
8 perform a discretionary function or duty on the part of the state or its employees,  
9 regardless of whether the discretion involved is abused or whether the statute,  
10 order, rule, or resolution under which the discretionary function or duty is  
11 performed is valid or invalid. Discretionary acts include acts, errors, or omissions  
12 in the design of any public project but do not include the drafting of plans and  
13 specifications that are provided to a contractor to construct a public project.

14 c. A claim resulting from the decision to undertake or the refusal to undertake any  
15 legislative or quasi-legislative act, including the decision to adopt or the refusal to  
16 adopt any statute, order, rule, or resolution.

17 d. A claim resulting from a decision to undertake or a refusal to undertake any  
18 judicial or quasi-judicial act, including a decision to grant, to grant with conditions,  
19 to refuse to grant, or to revoke any license, permit, order, or other administrative  
20 approval or denial.

21 e. A claim relating to injury directly or indirectly caused by a person who is not  
22 employed by the state.

23 f. A claim relating to injury directly or indirectly caused by the performance or  
24 nonperformance of a public duty, including:

25 (1) Inspecting, licensing, approving, mitigating, warning, abating, or failing to so  
26 act regarding compliance with or the violation of any law, rule, regulation, or  
27 any condition affecting health or safety.

28 (2) Enforcing, monitoring, or failing to enforce or monitor conditions of  
29 sentencing, parole, probation, or juvenile supervision.

30 (3) Providing or failing to provide law enforcement services in the ordinary  
31 course of a state's law enforcement operations.

- 1           g. "Public duty" does not include action of the state or a state employee under  
2           circumstances in which a special relationship can be established between the  
3           state and the injured party. A special relationship is demonstrated if all of the  
4           following elements exist:
- 5           (1) Direct contact between the state and the injured party.  
6           (2) An assumption by the state, by means of promises or actions, of an  
7           affirmative duty to act on behalf of the party who allegedly was injured.  
8           (3) Knowledge on the part of the state that inaction of the state could lead to  
9           harm.  
10          (4) The injured party's justifiable reliance on the state's affirmative undertaking,  
11          occurrence of the injury while the injured party was under the direct control  
12          of the state, or the state action increases the risk of harm.
- 13          h. A claim resulting from the assessment and collection of taxes.
- 14          i. A claim resulting from snow or ice conditions, water, or debris on a highway or on  
15          a public sidewalk that does not abut a state-owned building or parking lot, except  
16          when the condition is affirmatively caused by the negligent act of a state  
17          employee.
- 18          j. A claim resulting from any injury caused by a wild animal in its natural state.
- 19          k. A claim resulting from the condition of unimproved real property owned or leased  
20          by the state.
- 21          l. A claim resulting from the loss of benefits or compensation due under a program  
22          of public assistance.
- 23          m. A claim resulting from the reasonable care and treatment, or lack of care and  
24          treatment, of a person at a state institution where reasonable use of available  
25          appropriations has been made to provide care.
- 26          n. A claim resulting from damage to the property of a ~~patient~~resident or inmate of a  
27          state institution.
- 28          o. A claim resulting from any injury to a resident or an inmate of a state institution if  
29          the injury is caused by another resident or inmate of that institution.
- 30          p. A claim resulting from environmental contamination, except to the extent that  
31          federal environmental law permits the claim.

- 1           q. A claim resulting from a natural disaster, an act of God, a military action, or an act  
2           or omission taken as part of a disaster relief effort.
- 3           r. A claim for damage to property owned by the state.
- 4           s. A claim for liability assumed under contract, except this exclusion does not apply  
5           to liability arising from a state employee's operation of a rental vehicle if the loss  
6           is not covered by the state employee's personal insurance or by the vehicle rental  
7           company.
- 8           t. A claim resulting from an injury to a child residing at the Heart River correctional  
9           center, except when the injury is affirmatively caused by the negligent act of a  
10          state employee.
- 11          4. An action brought under this chapter must be commenced within the period provided  
12          in section 28-01-22.1.
- 13          5. This chapter does not create or allow any claim that does not exist at common law or  
14          has not otherwise been created by law as of April 22, 1995.

15          **SECTION 2.** A new subsection to section 54-23.3-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
16          created and enacted as follows:

17                To employ personnel and establish policies and procedures to authorize a child of a  
18                female inmate to reside at the Heart River correctional center under the care and  
19                general control of the female inmate.