

Fifty-eighth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1221

Introduced by

Representatives Grande, Hawken, Meier, Potter

Senators Christenson, J. Lee

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 23-07.3-01 and 23-07.3-02, subsections 1
2 and 10 of section 23-07.5-01, and subsections 3, 5, and 6 of section 23-07.5-02 of the North
3 Dakota Century Code, relating to testing for contagious diseases; and to provide a penalty.

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

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 23-07.3-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **23-07.3-01. Definitions.** In this chapter, unless the context or subject matter otherwise
8 requires:

- 9 1. "Contagious disease" means ~~the interruption, cessation, or disorder of body~~
10 ~~functions, systems, or organs transmissible by association with the sick or their~~
11 ~~secretions or excretions, excluding the common cold~~ a reportable condition or
12 disease under section 23-07-01.
- 13 2. "Department" means the state department of health.
- 14 3. ~~"Emergency medical services provider~~ Exposed individual" means a human being
15 who had a significant exposure with a test subject and who is a firefighter, peace
16 officer, correctional officer, court officer, law enforcement officer, emergency
17 medical technician, or other person an individual trained and authorized by law or
18 rule to render emergency medical assistance or treatment, including an individual
19 rendering aid under chapter 32-03.1.
- 20 4. "Licensed facility" means a hospital, nursing home, dialysis center, or any entity
21 licensed by the state to provide medical care.
- 22 5. "Significant exposure" means:
 - 23 a. Contact of broken skin or mucous membrane with a patient's or other
24 individual's blood or bodily fluids other than tears or perspiration;

- 1 b. The occurrence of a needle stick or scalpel or instrument wound in the
2 process of caring for a patient; or
3 c. Exposure that occurs by any other method of transmission defined by the
4 department as a significant exposure.

5 6. "Test subject" means the individual to be tested after a significant exposure with
6 another individual.

7 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 23-07.3-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is
8 amended and reenacted as follows:

9 **23-07.3-02. Procedures following significant exposure - Penalty.**

- 10 1. If an ~~emergency medical services provider~~ exposed individual has a significant
11 exposure ~~in the process of caring for a patient~~ with a test subject, the ~~emergency~~
12 ~~medical services provider~~ exposed individual shall document that exposure. The
13 documentation must be ~~on forms approved by the department, and in the manner~~
14 ~~and time designated by the department~~ conducted in accordance with the exposed
15 individual's employer's occupational health program or through the exposed
16 individual's health care provider.
- 17 2. Upon notification of a significant exposure, or upon receipt of the documentation
18 described in subsection 1, the ~~attending physician~~ exposed individual, that
19 individual's employer, or the exposed individual's health care provider shall request
20 the ~~patient~~ test subject to consent to testing to determine the presence of any
21 contagious disease that may be transmitted by that exposure. The determination
22 of which tests are required must be made by a licensed physician with expertise in
23 infectious diseases. The ~~patient~~ test subject must be informed that the ~~patient~~ test
24 subject may refuse to consent to the test and, if the ~~patient~~ test subject refuses,
25 that the fact of the ~~patient's~~ refusal will be forwarded to the ~~emergency medical~~
26 ~~services provider~~ exposed individual. If the ~~patient~~ test subject consents to testing,
27 the ~~attending physician~~ test subject shall ~~test~~ be tested for the presence of
28 contagious ~~disease~~ diseases that may be transmitted by that exposure. The
29 testing must be at the expense of the exposed individual or that individual's
30 employer. If the test subject is convicted of a crime relating to the significant
31 exposure or the significant exposure occurred during an arrest or other contact

- 1 with the exposed individual in the course of that individual's official duties, then a
2 court may order the test subject to pay for the testing.
- 3 3. If a ~~patient~~ test subject who is the subject of a ~~reported~~ significant exposure is
4 unconscious or incapable of giving informed consent for testing under this section,
5 that consent may be obtained ~~from the patient's next of kin or legal guardian~~ in
6 accordance with section 23-12-13. If a ~~patient~~ test subject who is the subject of a
7 reported significant exposure dies without an opportunity to consent to testing ~~prior~~
8 ~~to admission to, or discharge or release from, the facility that received the patient,~~
9 testing for the presence of any contagious disease that could be transmitted by
10 that exposure must be conducted. The determination of which tests are required
11 must be made by a licensed physician with expertise in infectious diseases.
- 12 4. The ~~attending physician~~ health care provider that conducted the test under this
13 section shall report the results of the test to the ~~department and to the emergency~~
14 ~~medical services provider~~ exposed individual who reported the significant
15 exposure. The ~~physician~~ health care provider shall use a case number instead of
16 the ~~patient's~~ test subject's name in making a report to the ~~emergency medical~~
17 ~~services provider~~ exposed individual who requested the test to ensure the
18 confidentiality of the ~~patient's~~ test subject's identity. All positive test results must
19 be reported to the department in accordance with section 23-07-02.
- 20 5. A health care provider or an exposed individual who has had a significant
21 exposure with a test subject may subject that individual's blood to a test for the
22 presence of a contagious disease or diseases, without the test subject's consent if
23 all of the following apply:
- 24 a. A sample of the test subject's blood has been drawn for other purposes and is
25 available to be used to test for the presence of contagious disease.
- 26 b. The exposed individual's personal physician, based on information provided
27 to the physician, determines and certifies in writing that the individual had a
28 significant exposure. The determination of which tests are required must be
29 made by a licensed physician with expertise in infectious diseases. The
30 certification must accompany the request for testing and disclosure.

- 1 c. The test subject is capable of consenting when the test is requested, has
2 been given an opportunity to be tested with consent, and has not consented.
- 3 d. Before testing, the test subject is informed, while competent and conscious,
4 that the test subject's blood may be tested for the presence of contagious
5 disease; that the test results may not be disclosed to anyone without the test
6 subject's consent, except to the exposed individual and the department; that if
7 the exposed individual knows the identity of the test subject, the exposed
8 individual may not disclose the identity to any other person, except for the
9 purpose of having the test performed; and that a record of the test results
10 may be placed in the test subject's medical record, and if not in the medical
11 record, may be kept only if the record does not reveal the test subject's
12 identity. A person who discloses the identity of an individual being tested is
13 guilty of a class C felony. Each exposed individual who has had a significant
14 exposure and to whom test results are disclosed shall first sign a document
15 indicating the exposed individual's understanding that the exposed individual
16 may not disclose the information and that disclosing the information is a
17 class C felony.
- 18 6. If the test subject does not consent to testing or if consent has not been obtained
19 in accordance with subsection 3, then an exposed individual may petition an
20 appropriate district court for issuance of an order directing the test subject to be
21 tested for the presence of one or more specified contagious diseases that could be
22 transmitted by that exposure. The determination of which tests are required must
23 be made by a licensed physician with expertise in infectious diseases. Upon
24 receiving the petition, the court may issue an order confining the test subject until
25 the hearing or an order establishing reasonable security for that individual's
26 attendance at the hearing. This order may be modified or extended if testing is
27 ordered. The court shall hold a hearing on the petition within three days of the
28 date the court receives the petition. The record of a court hearing conducted
29 under this subsection is confidential. The court may issue an order requiring
30 testing under this subsection only if:

- 1 a. The test subject has been requested to consent to the testing and has
2 refused to be tested or if consent for testing has not been obtained under
3 subsection 3;
- 4 b. The court finds probable cause to believe that the individual petitioning for the
5 testing had a significant exposure with the test subject;
- 6 c. The petition substitutes a pseudonym for the true name of the test subject;
- 7 d. The court provides the test subject with notice and reasonable opportunity to
8 participate in the proceeding if the test subject is not already a party to the
9 proceeding;
- 10 e. The proceedings are conducted in camera unless the test subject agrees to a
11 hearing in open court; and
- 12 f. The court imposes appropriate safeguards against unauthorized disclosure
13 which must specify the persons who have access to the information, the
14 purposes for which the information may be used, and appropriate prohibition
15 on future disclosure.

16 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Subsections 1 and 10 of section 23-07.5-01 of the North
17 Dakota Century Code are amended and reenacted as follows:

- 18 1. ~~"Emergency medical services provider~~ Exposed individual" means a human being
19 who had a significant exposure with another individual who is subject to testing
20 and who is a firefighter, peace officer, correctional officer, court officer, law
21 enforcement officer, emergency medical technician, or other person an individual
22 trained and authorized by law or rule to render emergency medical assistance or
23 treatment, including a person rendering aid under chapter 32-03.1.
- 24 10. "Universal precautions" means measures that a health care provider, emergency
25 medical services provider technician, exposed individual, or a person an individual
26 rendering aid under chapter 32-03.1 takes in accordance with recommendations of
27 the federal centers for disease control and prevention concerning human
28 immunodeficiency virus transmission in United States public health care settings
29 service to prevent transmission of disease.

30 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Subsections 3, 5, and 6 of section 23-07.5-02 of the
31 North Dakota Century Code are amended and reenacted as follows:

- 1 3. A health care provider, ~~emergency medical services provider, or a person~~
2 ~~rendering aid under chapter 32-03.1 who provides care to a patient or handles or~~
3 ~~processes specimens of body fluids or tissues of a patient and an exposed~~
4 ~~individual~~ who has had a significant exposure with ~~the patient~~ another individual
5 may subject ~~the patient's~~ that individual's blood to a test for the presence of the
6 human immunodeficiency virus, without ~~the patient's~~ that individual's consent, if all
7 of the following apply:
- 8 a. A blood sample of the ~~patient's blood~~ individual who is the test subject has
9 been drawn for other purposes and is available to be used to test for the
10 presence of the human immunodeficiency virus.
- 11 b. The ~~patient's~~ exposed individual's personal physician, based on information
12 provided to the physician, determines and certifies in writing that the
13 individual ~~has~~ had a significant exposure. The certification must accompany
14 the request for testing and disclosure.
- 15 c. The ~~patient~~ test subject is capable of consenting when the test is requested,
16 has been given an opportunity to be tested with consent, and has not
17 consented.
- 18 d. Before testing, the ~~patient~~ test subject is informed, while competent and
19 conscious, that the ~~patient's~~ test subject's blood may be tested for the
20 presence of human immunodeficiency virus; that the test results may be
21 disclosed to no one ~~including the patient~~ without the ~~patient's~~ test subject's
22 consent, except to the exposed individual ~~who has had a significant exposure~~
23 and the department; that if the exposed individual ~~who has had a significant~~
24 exposure knows the identity of the ~~patient~~ test subject, ~~that the exposed~~
25 individual may not disclose the identity to any other person, except for the
26 purpose of having the test performed; and that a record of the test results
27 may be placed in the ~~individual's~~ test subject's medical record, and if not in
28 the medical record, may be kept only if the record does not reveal the
29 ~~patient's~~ test subject's identity. A person who discloses the identity of a
30 ~~patient~~ test subject under subsection 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 is guilty of a class C
31 felony. Each exposed individual who ~~has~~ had a significant exposure and to

1 whom test results are disclosed ~~must~~ shall first sign a document indicating
2 ~~that the exposed~~ individual's understanding that the exposed individual may
3 not disclose the information and that disclosing the information constitutes a
4 class C felony.

5 5. If ~~a person~~ an individual who is the subject of a ~~reported~~ significant exposure is
6 unconscious or incapable of giving informed consent for testing under this section,
7 that consent may be obtained in accordance with section 23-12-13. If ~~a person~~ an
8 individual who is the subject of a ~~reported~~ significant exposure dies without an
9 opportunity to consent to testing ~~prior to admission to, or discharge or release~~
10 ~~from, the facility that received that person~~, collection of appropriate specimens and
11 testing for the presence of bloodborne pathogens, including human
12 immunodeficiency virus, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C infection must be conducted
13 within twenty-four hours. A licensed physician with expertise in infectious diseases
14 shall make the determination of which tests are required. Results of these tests
15 must be provided to the physician providing care for the ~~person~~ individual who
16 experienced the significant exposure. If a facility that received the ~~person~~
17 individual who died fails to test for the presence of bloodborne pathogens as
18 required under this subsection, the facility shall provide the physician providing
19 care for the exposed ~~emergency medical services provider, individual or health~~
20 ~~care provider, or person who rendered aid under chapter 32-03.4~~ testing results of
21 any bloodborne pathogen present in any medical records of the dead person which
22 are in the facility's control within twenty-four hours. If there are no testing results
23 for bloodborne pathogens within that facility and there is reason to believe that
24 results are available from another facility, the facility that received the person who
25 died shall attempt to obtain testing results of bloodborne pathogens of the
26 deceased within twenty-four hours from the facility where it is believed results
27 exist. The test results must be provided to the physician providing care for the
28 ~~person~~ individual who experienced the significant exposure.

29 6. Any testing done pursuant to subsection 3, 4, or 5 may be conducted in the most
30 expedient manner possible. An individual who ~~has~~ had a significant exposure,
31 upon receiving certification of the significant exposure as required by subdivision b

1 of subsection 3 or subdivision b of subsection 4, may petition an appropriate
2 district court for issuance of an order directing ~~the~~ another individual, patient, or
3 provider with whom the individual had a significant exposure to have blood drawn
4 to be tested for the presence of the human immunodeficiency virus if a previously
5 drawn blood sample is not available for testing. Upon receiving the petition, the
6 court may issue an order confining the ~~person~~ test subject to be tested until the
7 hearing or an order establishing reasonable security for that person's attendance
8 at the hearing. This order may be modified or extended if testing is ordered. The
9 court shall hold a hearing on the petition within ~~five~~ three days of the date the court
10 receives the petition. The record of any court hearing conducted under this
11 subsection is confidential. The court may issue an order requiring testing under
12 this subsection only if:

- 13 a. The other individual, patient, or provider has been requested to consent to
14 testing and has refused to be tested and a sample of the ~~patient's or~~
15 ~~provider's~~ test subject's blood is not available to be used to test for the human
16 immunodeficiency virus;
- 17 b. The court finds probable cause to believe that the person petitioning for the
18 testing ~~has~~ had a significant exposure with the ~~person to be tested~~ test
19 subject;
- 20 c. The petition substitutes a pseudonym for the true name of the ~~person to be~~
21 ~~tested~~ test subject;
- 22 d. The court provides the ~~person to be tested~~ test subject with notice and
23 reasonable opportunity to participate in the proceeding if the person is not
24 already a party to the proceeding;
- 25 e. The proceedings are conducted in camera unless the subject of the test
26 agrees to a hearing in open court; and
- 27 f. The court imposes appropriate safeguards against unauthorized disclosure
28 which must specify the persons who have access to the information, the
29 purposes for which the information may be used, and appropriate prohibition
30 on future disclosure.