

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT
with Senate Amendments**

Fifty-eighth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1320

Introduced by

Representatives Koppelman, Boehning, DeKrey

Senators Bercier, Nelson, Traynor

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 44-04 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to the privacy of autopsy photographs, images, and recordings.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 44-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is
5 created and enacted as follows:

6 **Autopsy images - Confidential - Exceptions.**

- 7 1. An autopsy photograph or other visual image or a video or audio recording of an
8 autopsy is confidential. However, a criminal justice agency may use or disclose
9 these materials for purposes of an investigation or prosecution.
- 10 2. a. After redacting all information identifying the decedent, including name,
11 address, and social security number, and anonymizing facial recognition, a
12 medical examiner, coroner, or physician may use an autopsy photograph,
13 image, or recording for:
- 14 (1) Medical or scientific teaching or training purposes;
15 (2) Teaching or training of law enforcement personnel;
16 (3) Teaching or training of attorneys or others with a bona fide professional
17 need to use or understand forensic science;
18 (4) Conferring with medical or scientific experts; or
19 (5) Publication in a scientific or medical journal or textbook.
- 20 b. A medical examiner, coroner, or physician who has in good faith complied
21 with this subsection is not subject to any penalty or liability for using an
22 autopsy photograph, image, or recording.
- 23 3. The decedent's spouse, child, parent, or sibling, upon proof of the relationship,
24 may view an autopsy photograph, image, or recording in the business office of a

- 1 medical examiner, coroner, or physician who has possession of the materials, if
2 there is not an active criminal investigation or prosecution.
- 3 4. Disclosure of an autopsy photograph, image, or recording may be obtained under
4 section 44-04-18.11.