

Introduced by

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

(At the request of the Commission on Uniform State Laws)

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 31 of the North Dakota Century
2 Code, relating to the Uniform Unsworn Foreign Declarations Act; and to amend and reenact
3 section 12.1-11-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the crime of perjury.

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

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 12.1-11-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **12.1-11-01. Perjury.**

- 8 1. A person is guilty of perjury, a class C felony, if, in an official proceeding, ~~he~~the person
9 makes a false statement under oath or equivalent affirmation, or swears or affirms the
10 truth of a false statement previously made, when the statement is material and ~~he~~the
11 person does not believe ~~it~~the statement to be true.
- 12 2. Commission of perjury need not be proved by any particular number of witnesses or
13 by documentary or other types of evidence.
- 14 3. ~~Where~~if in the course of one or more official proceedings, the defendant made a
15 statement under oath or equivalent affirmation inconsistent with another statement
16 made by ~~him~~the defendant under oath or equivalent affirmation to the degree that one
17 of them is necessarily false, both having been made within the period of the statute of
18 limitations, the prosecution may set forth the statements in a single count alleging in
19 the alternative that one or the other was false and not believed by the defendant to be
20 true. Proof that the defendant made such statements ~~shall constitute~~constitutes a
21 prima facie case that one or the other of the statements was false, but in the absence
22 of sufficient proof of which statement was false, the defendant may be convicted under
23 this section only if each of such statements was material to the official proceeding in
24 which it was made.

- 1 4. For purposes of this section, "false statement under oath or equivalent affirmation"
2 includes a writing made in accordance with section 2 of this Act.

3 **SECTION 2.** A new chapter to title 31 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and
4 enacted as follows:

5 **Definitions.**

6 In this chapter:

- 7 1. "Boundaries of the United States" means the geographic boundaries of the United
8 States, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, and any territory or insular
9 possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.
- 10 2. "Law" includes the federal or a state constitution; a federal or state statute; a judicial
11 decision or order; a rule of court; an executive order; and an administrative rule,
12 regulation, or order.
- 13 3. "Record" means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in
14 an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.
- 15 4. "Sign" means with present intent to authenticate or adopt a record:
16 a. To execute or adopt a tangible symbol; or
17 b. To attach to or logically associate with the record an electronic symbol, sound, or
18 process.
- 19 5. "State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the
20 United States Virgin Islands, or any territory or insular possession subject to the
21 jurisdiction of the United States.
- 22 6. "Sworn declaration" means a declaration in a signed record given under oath. The
23 term includes a sworn statement, verification, certificate, and affidavit.
- 24 7. "Unsworn declaration" means a declaration in a signed record that is not given under
25 oath but is given under penalty of perjury.

26 **Applicability.**

27 This chapter applies to an unsworn declaration by a declarant who at the time of making the
28 declaration is physically located outside the boundaries of the United States whether or not the
29 location is subject to the jurisdiction of the United States. This chapter does not apply to a
30 declaration by a declarant who is physically located on property that is within the boundaries of

1 the United States and subject to the jurisdiction of another country or a federally recognized
2 Indian tribe.

3 **Validity of unsworn declaration.**

4 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, if a law of this state requires or permits
5 use of a sworn declaration, an unsworn declaration meeting the requirements of this
6 chapter has the same effect as a sworn declaration.

7 2. This chapter does not apply to:

8 a. A deposition;

9 b. An oath of office;

10 c. An oath required to be given before a specified official other than a notary public;

11 d. A document intended for recording in the real estate records in the office of
12 county recorder; or

13 e. An oath required by section 30.1-08-04.

14 **Required medium.**

15 If a law of this state requires that a sworn declaration be presented in a particular medium,
16 an unsworn declaration must be presented in that medium.

17 **Form of unsworn declaration.**

18 An unsworn declaration under this chapter must be in substantially the following form:

19 I declare under penalty of perjury under the law of North Dakota that the foregoing is true
20 and correct, and that I am physically located outside the geographic boundaries of the United
21 States, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, and any territory or insular possession
22 subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

23 Executed on the _____ day of _____, _____, at _____,
24 (date) (month) (year) (city or other location, and state)

25 _____
26 (country)

27 _____
28 (printed name)

29 _____
30 (signature)

1 **Relation to Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act.**

2 This chapter modifies, limits, and supersedes the federal Electronic Signatures in Global
3 and National Commerce Act [15 U.S.C. 7001 et seq.] but does not modify, limit, or supersede
4 section 101(c) of that Act [15 U.S.C. 7001(c)], or authorize electronic delivery of any of the
5 notices described in section 103(b) of that Act [15 U.S.C. 7003(b)].