

Introduced by

Legislative Management

(Natural Resources Committee)

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 12.1-22-03 and 20.1-01-17 of the North  
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to criminal trespass and electronic posting; and to provide a  
3 penalty.

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

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 12.1-22-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **12.1-22-03. Criminal trespass - Noncriminal offense on posted property.**

8 1. An individual is guilty of a class C felony if, knowing ~~that that~~the individual is not  
9 licensed or privileged to do so, the individual enters or remains in a dwelling or in  
10 highly secured premises.

11 2. An individual is guilty of a class A misdemeanor if, knowing ~~that that~~the individual is  
12 not licensed or privileged to do so, the individual:

13 a. Enters or remains in or on any building, occupied structure, or storage structure,  
14 or separately secured or occupied portion thereof; or

15 b. Enters or remains in any place ~~so~~ enclosed by a fence or otherwise enclosed as  
16 manifestly to exclude intruders.

17 3. a. An individual is guilty of a class B misdemeanor if, knowing ~~that that~~the individual  
18 is not licensed or privileged to do so, the individual enters or remains in any place  
19 as to which notice against trespass is given by actual communication to the actor  
20 by the individual in charge of the premises or other authorized individual or by  
21 posting in a manner reasonably likely to come to the attention of intruders. ~~The~~On  
22 physically posted land, the name of the person posting the premises ~~must~~may  
23 appear on each sign in legible characters if the person wishes to be contacted by  
24 individuals seeking permission to enter or remain on the land.

- 1           b. Even if the conduct of the owner, tenant, or individual authorized by the owner  
2           varies from the provisions of subdivision a, an individual may be found guilty of  
3           violating subdivision a if the owner, tenant, or individual authorized by the owner  
4           substantially complied with subdivision a and notice against trespass is clear  
5           from the circumstances.
- 6           c. An individual who violates subdivision a is guilty of a class A misdemeanor for the  
7           second or subsequent offense within a two-year period.
- 8        4. a. ~~An~~A peace officer may cite an individual who, knowing the individual is not  
9           licensed or privileged to do so, ~~may not enter or remain entered or remained~~ in a  
10          place as to which notice against trespass is given by posting in a manner  
11          reasonably likely to come to the attention of intruders. A violation of this  
12          subdivision is a noncriminal offense. An individual cited under this subsection  
13          may not be prosecuted under subsection 3 for the same offense.
- 14        b. ~~A peace officer shall cite an individual who violates subdivision a with a~~The fine  
15          ~~effor~~ for a citation under subdivision a is two hundred fifty dollars for each violation.
- 16        c. The peace officer citing the individual shall:  
17           (1) Take the name and address of the individual; and  
18           (2) Notify the individual of the right to request a hearing if posting bond by mail.
- 19        d. The peace officer may not take the individual into custody or require the  
20          individual to proceed with the peace officer to any other location for the purpose  
21          of posting bond. The officer shall provide the individual with an envelope for use  
22          in mailing the bond.
- 23        e. An individual cited may appear before the designated official and pay the  
24          statutory fine for the violation at or before the time scheduled for hearing.
- 25        f. If the individual has posted bond, the individual may forfeit bond by not appearing  
26          at the designated time.
- 27        g. If the individual posts bond by mail, the bond must be submitted within fourteen  
28          days of the date of the citation and the individual cited shall indicate on the  
29          envelope or citation whether a hearing is requested. If the individual does not  
30          request a hearing within fourteen days of the date of the citation, the bond is  
31          deemed forfeited and the individual is deemed to have admitted to the violation

- 1 and to have waived the right to a hearing on the issue of commission of the  
2 violation. If the individual requests a hearing, the court for the county in which the  
3 citation is issued shall issue a summons to the individual requesting the hearing  
4 notifying the individual of the date of the hearing before the designated official.
- 5 h. Upon appearing at the hearing scheduled in the citation or otherwise scheduled  
6 at the individual's request, the individual may make a statement in explanation of  
7 the individual's action. The official may at that time waive or suspend the statutory  
8 fine or bond.
- 9 i. A citing peace officer may not receive the statutory fine or bond.
- 10 j. The bond required to secure appearance before the judge must be identical to  
11 the statutory fine established in subdivision b.
- 12 5. An individual is guilty of a class B misdemeanor if that individual remains upon the  
13 property of another after being requested to leave the property by a duly authorized  
14 individual. An individual who violates this subsection is guilty of a class A  
15 misdemeanor for the second or subsequent offense within a two-year period.
- 16 6. This section does not apply to a peace officer in the course of discharging the peace  
17 officer's official duties.

18 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 20.1-01-17 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
19 amended and reenacted as follows:

20 **20.1-01-17. Posting of lands by owner to prohibit hunting - How posted - Signs**  
21 **defaced.**

- 22 1. Only the owner or tenant or an individual authorized by the owner of land may post the  
23 land by ~~placing~~. To post the land, an individual shall:
- 24 a. Place signs alongside the public highway or the land giving notice that hunting is  
25 not permitted on the land. The name of the person posting the land ~~must~~may  
26 appear on each sign in legible characters if the person wishes to be contacted by  
27 individuals seeking permission to enter or remain on the land. The signs must be  
28 readable from the outside of the land and must be placed conspicuously not  
29 more than eight hundred eighty yards [804.68 meters] apart. As to land entirely  
30 enclosed by a fence or other enclosure, posting of signs at or on all gates  
31 through the fence or enclosure constitutes a posting of all the enclosed land; or

- 1            b. Designate the land as posted or closed to hunting in an online database or other  
2            electronic application maintained or authorized by the state and available to the  
3            public which identifies whether land is available to hunters.
- 4            2. A person may not deface, take down, destroy posting signs, or post property without  
5            the permission of the owner or tenant or an individual authorized by the owner.
- 6            3. Even if the conduct of the owner, tenant, or individual authorized by the owner varies  
7            from the provisions of subsection 1, an individual may be found guilty of violating  
8            section 20.1-01-18 if the owner, tenant, or individual authorized by the owner  
9            substantially complied with subsection 1 and notice against hunting or trespassing is  
10           clear from the circumstances.