

SENATE BILL NO. 2181

Introduced by

Senators Clemens, Heitkamp, Larson

Representatives Paur, Satrom, Schauer

1 A BILL ~~for an Act to amend and reenact section 37-17.1-03 of the North Dakota Century Code,~~
2 ~~relating to freedom of religion and assembly.~~for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 12 of
3 section 23-01-05 and section 37-17.1-05 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the state
4 health officer's authority and the governor's authority during a declared disaster or emergency;
5 and to provide a penalty.

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

7 ~~**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 37-17.1-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is~~
8 ~~amended and reenacted as follows:~~

9 ~~**37-17.1-03. Limitations.**~~

10 ~~Nothing in this chapter may:~~

11 ~~1. Interfere with the course or conduct of a labor dispute, except that actions otherwise~~
12 ~~authorized by this chapter or other laws may be taken when necessary to forestall or~~
13 ~~mitigate imminent or existing danger to public health or safety.~~

14 ~~2. Interfere with dissemination of news or comment on public affairs. Any~~
15 ~~communications facility or organization, including radio and television stations, wire~~
16 ~~services, and newspapers may be required to transmit or print public service~~
17 ~~messages furnishing information or instructions in connection with a disaster or~~
18 ~~emergency situation.~~

19 ~~3. Affect the jurisdiction or responsibilities of units of the armed forces of the United~~
20 ~~States or of this state, or of any personnel thereof, when on active duty. State and~~
21 ~~local emergency operational plans must place reliance upon the forces available for~~
22 ~~performance of functions related to disasters or emergencies.~~

23 ~~4. Limit, modify, or abridge the authority of the governor to proclaim martial law, provide~~
24 ~~aid or assistance to civil authorities, or exercise any other powers vested in the~~

1 ~~governor under the Constitution of North Dakota, or statutes, common law, or~~
2 ~~sovereign powers of this state independent of, or in conjunction with, any provisions of~~
3 ~~this chapter.~~

4 ~~5. Change or modify the responsibilities of the American National Red Cross as defined~~
5 ~~by the Congress of the United States in 36 U.S.C. 300101.~~

6 ~~6. Limit the free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship or the right~~
7 ~~of the citizens to assemble for the common good.~~

8 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 12 of section 23-01-05 of the North Dakota
9 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

10 12. Issue any orders relating to disease control measures deemed necessary to prevent
11 the spread of communicable disease. Disease control measures may include special
12 immunization activities and decontamination measures. Written orders issued under
13 this section shall have the same effect as a physician's standing medical order. The
14 state health officer may apply to the district court in a judicial district where a
15 communicable disease is present for an injunction canceling public events or closing
16 places of business. On application of the state health officer showing the necessity of
17 such cancellation, the court may issue an ex parte preliminary injunction, pending a
18 full hearing.

19 a. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an order issued pursuant to this
20 subsection may not:

21 (1) Substantially burden a person's exercise of religion unless the order is in
22 furtherance of a compelling governmental interest and is the least restrictive
23 means of furthering that compelling governmental interest;

24 (2) Treat religious conduct more restrictively than any secular conduct of
25 reasonably comparable risk, unless the government demonstrates through
26 clear and convincing scientific evidence that a particular religious activity
27 poses an extraordinary health risk; or

28 (3) Treat religious conduct more restrictively than comparable secular conduct
29 because of alleged economic need or benefit.

1 b. A person claiming to be aggrieved by a violation of subdivision a may assert that
2 violation as a claim or defense in a judicial proceeding and obtain appropriate
3 relief, including costs and reasonable attorney's fees.

4 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 37-17.1-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **37-17.1-05. The governor and disasters or emergencies - Penalty.**

- 7 1. The governor is responsible to minimize or avert the adverse effects of a disaster or
8 emergency.
- 9 2. Under this chapter, the governor may issue executive orders and proclamations, and
10 amend or rescind them. Executive orders, proclamations, and regulations have the
11 force of law.
- 12 3. A disaster or emergency must be declared by executive order or proclamation of the
13 governor if the governor determines a disaster has occurred or a state of emergency
14 exists. The state of disaster or emergency shall continue until the governor determines
15 that the threat of an emergency has passed or the disaster has been dealt with to the
16 extent that emergency conditions no longer exist. The legislative assembly by
17 concurrent resolution may terminate a state of disaster or emergency at any time. All
18 executive orders or proclamations issued under this subsection must indicate the
19 nature of the disaster or emergency, the area or areas threatened, the conditions
20 which have brought it about or which make possible termination of the state of disaster
21 or emergency. An executive order or proclamation must be disseminated promptly by
22 means calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public, unless the
23 circumstances attendant upon the disaster or emergency prevent or impede such
24 dissemination, and it must be promptly filed with the department of emergency
25 services, the secretary of state, and the county or city auditor of the jurisdictions
26 affected.
- 27 4. An executive order or proclamation of a state of disaster or emergency shall activate
28 the state and local operational plans applicable to the political subdivision or area in
29 question and be authority for the deployment and use of any forces to which the plan
30 or plans apply and for use or distribution of any supplies, equipment, and materials

1 and facilities assembled, stockpiled, or arranged to be made available pursuant to this
2 chapter or any other provision of law relating to a disaster or emergency.

3 5. During the continuance of any state of disaster or emergency declared by the
4 governor, the governor is commander in chief of the emergency management
5 organization and of all other forces available for emergency duty. To the greatest
6 extent practicable, the governor shall delegate or assign command authority by prior
7 arrangement embodied in appropriate executive orders or emergency operational
8 plans, but nothing herein restricts the governor's authority to do so by orders issued at
9 the time of the disaster or emergency.

10 6. In addition to any other powers conferred upon the governor by law, the governor may:

11 a. Suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for
12 conduct of state business, or the orders, rules, or regulations of any state agency,
13 if strict compliance with the provisions of any statute, order, rule, or regulation
14 would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in managing a
15 disaster or emergency.

16 b. Utilize all available resources of the state government as reasonably necessary
17 to manage the disaster or emergency and of each political subdivision of the
18 state.

19 c. Transfer the direction, personnel, or functions of state departments and agencies
20 or units thereof for the purpose of performing or facilitating emergency
21 management activities.

22 d. Subject to any applicable requirements for compensation under section
23 37-17.1-12, commandeer or utilize any private property if the governor finds this
24 necessary to manage the disaster or emergency.

25 e. Direct and compel the evacuation of all or part of the population from any stricken
26 or threatened area within the state if the governor deems this action necessary
27 for the preservation of life or other disaster or emergency mitigation, response, or
28 recovery.

29 f. Prescribe routes, modes of transportation, and destinations in connection with an
30 evacuation.

- 1 g. Control ingress and egress in a designated disaster or emergency area, the
2 movement of persons within the area, and the occupancy of premises therein.
- 3 h. Suspend or limit the sale, dispensing, or transportation of alcoholic beverages,
4 explosives, and combustibles, not including ammunition.
- 5 i. Make provision for the availability and use of temporary emergency housing.
- 6 j. Make provisions for the control, allocation, and the use of quotas for critical
7 shortages of fuel or other life and property sustaining commodities.
- 8 k. Designate members of the highway patrol, North Dakota national guard, or others
9 trained in law enforcement, as peace officers.
- 10 7. Any person who willfully violates any provision of an executive order or proclamation
11 issued by the governor pursuant to this chapter is guilty of an infraction.
- 12 8. Authorize the adjutant general to recall to state active duty, on a volunteer basis,
13 former members of the North Dakota national guard. Those recalled must possess the
14 qualifications required by the disaster or emergency. Recall under this subsection is
15 effective only for the duration of the disaster or emergency and recalled personnel will
16 be released from state active duty upon competent authority that the requirement of
17 their service under this subsection has passed. Compensation for personnel recalled
18 under this subsection will be based upon section 37-07-05.
- 19 9. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an order, proclamation, rule, or regulation
20 issued pursuant to this section may not:
- 21 a. Substantially burden a person's exercise of religion unless the order is in
22 furtherance of a compelling governmental interest and is the least restrictive
23 means of furthering that compelling governmental interest;
- 24 b. Treat religious conduct more restrictively than any secular conduct of reasonably
25 comparable risk, unless the government demonstrates through clear and
26 convincing scientific evidence that a particular religious activity poses an
27 extraordinary health risk; or
- 28 c. Treat religious conduct more restrictively than comparable secular conduct
29 because of alleged economic need or benefit.

1 10. A person claiming to be aggrieved by a violation of subsection 9 may assert that
2 violation as a claim or defense in a judicial proceeding and obtain appropriate relief,
3 including costs and reasonable attorney's fees.