

Sixty-eighth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1160**

Introduced by

Representatives Roers Jones, Klemin, Satrom

Senators Hogue, Larson, Sickler

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new subsection to section 54-23.3-04 of the North  
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to the duties of the director of the department of corrections and  
3 rehabilitation; to amend and reenact subsection 4 of section 27-20.4-01, subsection 3 of section  
4 27-20.4-17, subsections 1 and 8 of section 27-20.4-18, section 27-20.4-21, and section  
5 27-20.4-23 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to delinquent children; and to declare an  
6 emergency.

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

8 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 4 of section 27-20.4-01 of the North Dakota  
9 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

10 4. "Child" means an individual who is:

11 a. Under the age of eighteen years and is not married; or

12 b. ~~Under the age of twenty~~ Eighteen years of age or older with respect to a  
13 delinquent act committed while under the age of eighteen years and not married,  
14 unless an offense is transferred under section 27-20.4-21.

15 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 3 of section 27-20.4-17 of the North Dakota  
16 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

17 3. ~~If the court cannot find a less restrictive alternative, the~~The court may commit a child  
18 to the division of juvenile services. ~~A risk and needs assessment must be the basis for~~  
19 ~~the determination of commitment to the division of juvenile services. The court only~~  
20 ~~may commit a child to the division for a new delinquent offense. Unless all probation~~  
21 ~~extensions have been exhausted, the child's risk and treatment needs continue to be~~  
22 ~~high and the child is refusing to comply with the terms of probation, the court may not~~  
23 ~~commit a child for a violation of the terms of probation, or may order a child over~~

1           eighteen years of age to serve a term of probation under the supervision of the  
2           department of corrections and rehabilitation.

3           **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Subsections 1 and 8 of section 27-20.4-18 of the North Dakota  
4 Century Code are amended and reenacted as follows:

5           1. A probation order entered by the court must place the child under the supervision of  
6           the director, unless the child is over eighteen years of age and the child's risk and  
7           needs require supervision by the department of corrections and rehabilitation under  
8           subsection 1 of section 27-20.4-15.

9           8. The director or assigned probation court officer may request ~~two extensions~~  
10           extensions up to four months each ~~or one extension up to four months for intensive-~~  
11           ~~supervised probation programs~~ for failure to comply or meet the treatment goals of the  
12           court order and case plan.

13           **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 27-20.4-21 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
14 amended and reenacted as follows:

15           **27-20.4-21. Transfer to other courts.**

16           1. After a petition has been filed alleging delinquency based on conduct that is  
17           designated a crime or public offense under the laws, including local ordinances or  
18           resolutions of this state, the court before hearing the petition on the merits shall  
19           transfer the offense for prosecution to the appropriate court having jurisdiction of the  
20           offense if:

21           a. The child is over sixteen years of age and requests the transfer;

22           b. The child was fourteen years of age or more at the time of the alleged conduct  
23           and the court determines that there is probable cause to believe the child  
24           committed the alleged delinquent act and the delinquent act involves the offense  
25           of murder or attempted murder; gross sexual imposition or the attempted gross  
26           sexual imposition of a victim by force or by threat of imminent death, serious  
27           bodily injury, or kidnapping; or

28           c. (1) The child was fourteen or more years of age at the time of the alleged  
29           conduct;

30           (2) A hearing on whether the transfer should be made is held in conformity with  
31           sections 27-20.2-12, 27-20.2-13, and 27-20.4-14;

- 1                   (3) Notice in writing of the time, place, and purpose of the hearing is given to  
2                   the child and the child's parents, guardian, or other custodian at least three  
3                   days before the hearing; and
- 4                   (4) The court finds that there are reasonable grounds to believe:
- 5                   (a) The child committed the delinquent act alleged;
- 6                   (b) The child is not amenable to treatment or rehabilitation as a child  
7                   through available programs;
- 8                   (c) The child is not treatable in an institution for individuals who are  
9                   intellectually disabled or who are mentally ill;
- 10                  (d) The interests of the community require that the child be placed under  
11                  legal restraint or discipline; and
- 12                  (e) If the child is fourteen or fifteen years old, the child committed a  
13                  delinquent act involving the infliction or threat of serious bodily harm.
- 14                  2. The burden of proving reasonable grounds to believe that a child is amenable to  
15                  treatment or rehabilitation as a child through available programs is on the child ~~in~~  
16                  ~~these cases in which:~~
- 17                  a. If the alleged delinquent act involves the offense of manslaughter, aggravated  
18                  assault, robbery, arson involving an inhabited structure, or escape involving the  
19                  use of a firearm, destructive device, or other dangerous weapon ~~or in cases in~~  
20                  ~~which:~~
- 21                  b. If the alleged delinquent act involves an offense that if committed by an adult  
22                  would be a felony and the child has two or more previous delinquency  
23                  adjudications for offenses that would be a felony if committed by an adult; or
- 24                  c. If the child is twenty-five years of age or older.
- 25                  3. In determining a child's amenability to treatment and rehabilitation, the court shall  
26                  consider and make specific findings on the following factors:
- 27                  a. Age;
- 28                  b. Mental capacity;
- 29                  c. Maturity;
- 30                  d. Degree of criminal sophistication exhibited;
- 31                  e. Previous record;

- 1 f. Success or failure of previous attempts to rehabilitate;
  - 2 g. Whether the child can be rehabilitated before expiration of juvenile court
  - 3 jurisdiction;
  - 4 h. Any psychological, probation, or institutional reports;
  - 5 i. The nature and circumstances of the acts for which the transfer is sought;
  - 6 j. The prospect for adequate protection of the public; and
  - 7 k. Any other relevant factors.
- 8 4. A child subject to the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, either before or after reaching
  - 9 eighteen years of age, may not be prosecuted for an offense previously committed
  - 10 unless the case has been transferred as provided in this section.
  - 11 5. Statements made by the child at a hearing under this section are not admissible
  - 12 against the child over objection in the criminal proceedings following the transfer
  - 13 except for impeachment.
  - 14 6. If the case is not transferred, the judge who conducted the hearing may not over
  - 15 objection of an interested party preside at the hearing on the petition. If the case is
  - 16 transferred to a court of which the judge who conducted the hearing is also a judge,
  - 17 the judge likewise is disqualified over objection from presiding in the prosecution.
  - 18 ~~7. An individual at least twenty years of age who committed an offense while a child and~~
  - 19 ~~was not adjudicated for the offense in juvenile court may be prosecuted in district court~~
  - 20 ~~as an adult, unless the state intentionally delayed the prosecution to avoid juvenile~~
  - 21 ~~court jurisdiction. The district court has original and exclusive jurisdiction for the~~
  - 22 ~~prosecution under this subsection.~~

23 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 27-20.4-23 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
24 amended and reenacted as follows:

25 **27-20.4-23. Limitations of orders of disposition.**

- 26 1. An order of disposition may not exceed twelve months from disposition unless
- 27 extended by the court. The director or designee may request ~~two extensions up to four~~
- 28 ~~months each~~ an extension up to one year for the child to complete the treatment goals
- 29 of the court order and the case plan.

- 1           2. An order of disposition committing a delinquent child to the division of juvenile services  
2           may not exceed twelve months. The court may extend the order for an additional  
3           twelve-month period, if:
- 4           a. A hearing is held upon motion of the division, or on the court's own motion, prior  
5           to the expiration of the order;
- 6           b. Reasonable notice of the hearing and an opportunity to be heard are given to the  
7           child and the parent, guardian, or other custodian;
- 8           c. The court finds the extension is necessary for the treatment or rehabilitation of  
9           the child and has determined that such treatment cannot be provided in their  
10          home community; and
- 11          d. The extension does not exceed twelve months from the expiration of an order  
12          limited by subsection 3 or two years from the expiration of any other limited order.
- 13          3. Except as provided in subsection 2, an order of disposition pursuant to which a child is  
14          placed in foster care may not continue for more than twelve months after the child is  
15          considered to have entered foster care. A permanency hearing must be conducted  
16          before the extension of any court order limited under this subsection. Any other order  
17          of disposition may not continue in force for more than twelve months.
- 18          4. The court may terminate an order of disposition before the expiration of the order.
- 19          5. Except as provided in subsection 2, the court may terminate an order of disposition or  
20          extension before its expiration, on or without an application of a party, if it appears to  
21          the court the purposes of the order have been accomplished. If a party may be  
22          adversely affected by the order of termination, the order may be made only after  
23          reasonable notice and opportunity to be heard have been given to the party.
- 24          6. ~~When the child attains the age of twenty years, all orders affecting the child then in-~~  
25          ~~force terminate and the child is discharged from further obligation or control.~~

26           **SECTION 6.** A new subsection to section 54-23.3-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
27          created and enacted as follows:

28           To employ personnel and to establish policies and procedures to supervise a child  
29           when a court orders supervision and management by the department under  
30           subsection 1 of section 27-20.4-18.

31           **SECTION 7. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.