

# North Dakota Peace Officers Association

1100 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite #100 Grand Forks, ND 58203  
Phone (701) 739-3742 email ndpoa2011@outlook.com  
www.ndpoa.org



## 2021/23 NDPOA Executive Board

◦ President:

Adam Dvorak  
NDHP  
Bismarck

◦ 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Steve Gutknecht  
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Grand Forks

TO: Senate Majority Leader David Hogue  
Senator Diane Larson (Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee)  
House Majority Leader Mike Lefor  
Representative Lawrence Klemin (Chair, House Judiciary Committee)

From: The North Dakota Peace Officers Association

Date: January 24, 2023

Re: Support of Senate Bill 2107

The members of the North Dakota Peace Officers Association strongly support Attorney General Drew Wrigley's "tough on violent crime" agenda that is targeting specific offenses to help make North Dakota a safer place. Over the years, North Dakota has seen a constant escalation in violent crime (see table below). This bill sends a clear message to violent offenders and crime victims that North Dakota will hold individuals accountable for their crimes.

This bill creates presumed sentences for varying offenses that put the public and emergency personnel at risk of serious injury or death. One of the offenses is "preventing arrest"; when a suspect creates a substantial risk of bodily injury to another individual or a law enforcement officer when they are trying to physically arrest a suspect. It also addresses instances such as when a suspect assaults: police officers, correctional institution employees, employees of the state hospital, persons engaged in a judicial proceeding, firefighters, EMS providers, or other emergency workers.

The bill eliminates presumed probation for offenders serving sentences for: preventing arrest, simple assault on a police officer, and fleeing from a police officer in a motor vehicle. One of the most dangerous acts a suspect can do is flee from law enforcement while in a motor vehicle. The decision to evade capture puts members of the public at risk.

This bill creates a class B-Felony for discharging a firearm at an inhabited dwelling or camper and adds selected provisions to the list of individuals not allowed to possess a firearm. Those provisions are similar to what is in existing federal law.

Finally, the bill creates mandatory minimum sentences for felony crimes of violence or human trafficking when those crimes involve a firearm.



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## Violent Crime in North Dakota (5 years)

Year	All violent crimes
2016	1642
2017	1767
2018	1833
2019	1871
2020	1959

\*Murder, Sex Assault, Robbery, Agg. Assault, and Human Trafficking

\*The information in this chart was obtained by the North Dakota Attorney General's Office website.

The North Dakota Peace Officers Association respectfully requests your support for Senate Bill 2107 in helping to protect the citizens of the state and the professionals who are tasked with dealing with violent offenders.

Respectfully,

Adam Dvorak  
President of North Dakota Peace Officer Association