

Seventieth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

BILL NO.

Introduced by

Representative Holle

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 12-68 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to public communications during a missing person investigation; and to
3 amend and reenact section 12.1-08-10 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to harboring
4 a missing minor.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 12-68 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
7 and enacted as follows:

8 **Law enforcement communications - Missing minor.**

- 9 1. A law enforcement agency may not refer to a missing minor as a runaway minor in
10 public communications about a missing person case.
11 2. For the purposes of this section, "missing minor" means an unemancipated minor who
12 is voluntarily absent from the minor's home without the consent of a minor's parent
13 entitled to legal custody of the minor or legal guardian with the intention of evading the
14 direction or control of the parent or guardian.

15 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 12.1-08-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is
16 amended and reenacted as follows:

17 **12.1-08-10. Harboring a ~~runaway~~missing minor - Penalty.**

18 ~~A person~~An individual who willfully harbors a ~~runaway~~missing minor with knowledge that the
19 ~~child~~minor is being sought by a law enforcement authority is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.
20 This section does not apply to a ~~person~~an individual who provides temporary sanctuary, not
21 exceeding seventy-two hours, to a ~~runaway~~missing minor who is seeking refuge from a
22 physically, sexually, or mentally abusive ~~person~~individual. For the purposes of this section, a
23 "~~runaway~~missing minor" ~~is~~means an unemancipated minor who is voluntarily absent from the
24 minor's home without the consent of a minor's parent entitled to legal custody of the minor or

- 1 legal guardian with the intention of evading the direction or control of the parent or guardian.
- 2 This section does not apply to ~~persons~~an individual providing temporary sanctuary to ~~minors~~a
- 3 minor accompanied by a parent or legal guardian in a domestic violence shelter or safe home.