

February 10, 2025

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

### HOUSE BILL NO. 1145

Introduced by

Representatives Hoverson, Heilman, Nehring, Osowski, Schatz, VanWinkle, K. Anderson

Senators Paulson, Weston, Enget, Castaneda, Schaible

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact ~~atwo~~ new ~~sectionsections~~ to chapter 15-10~~and~~, a new  
2 section to chapter 15.1-09, and a new section to chapter 15.1-21 of the North Dakota Century  
3 Code, relating to displays of the ten commandments in state educational institutions and public  
4 schools.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
7 and enacted as follows:

#### 8 **Ten commandments - Displays.**

9 1. The state board of higher education shall display the ten commandments in ~~each~~  
10 ~~classroom~~ a prominent and visible location in a cafeteria on the campus of each state  
11 educational institution under its control and administration. A state educational  
12 institution may display the ten commandments in other prominent and visible locations  
13 at its discretion.

14 2. The display must be:

15 a. On a poster or framed document that is at least eleven inches [27.94  
16 centimeters] in width and fourteen inches [35.56 centimeters] in length.

17 b. The central focus of the poster or framed document.

18 c. Printed in a large, easily readable font.

19 3. The text must read as follows:

20 The Ten Commandments

- 1 I AM the LORD thy God.
- 2 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
- 3 Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven images.
- 4 Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain.
- 5 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- 6 Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the
- 7 Lord thy God giveth thee.
- 8 Thou shalt not kill.
- 9 Thou shalt not commit adultery.
- 10 Thou shalt not steal.
- 11 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
- 12 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house.
- 13 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor
- 14 his cattle, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.
- 15 4. The state board of higher education shall adopt rules to implement this section.
- 16 5. The state board of higher education and any state educational institution under its
- 17 control and administration mayshall spend its funds or donated funds to purchase the
- 18 displays and mayor accept donated displays.

19 **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 15-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
20 and enacted as follows:

21 **Ten commandments.**

22 A professor, instructor, or teacher at an institution of higher education may display the  
23 ten commandments in the classroom in which the professor, instructor, or teacher provides  
24 instruction, without first seeking approval from any supervisory authority, including the president  
25 of the institution or the state board of higher education.

26 **SECTION 3.** A new section to chapter 15.1-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
27 and enacted as follows:

28 **Ten commandments - Displays.**

- 29 1. A board of a school district shall display the ten commandments in ~~each classroom~~  
30 ~~and building on school grounds~~ a prominent and visible location in a cafeteria of each  
31 school in the school district. A school may display the ten commandments in other

- 1 prominent and visible locations, at the discretion of the school administrator or board  
2 of the school district.
- 3 2. The display must be:
- 4 a. On a poster or framed document that is at least eleven inches [27.94  
5 centimeters] in width and fourteen inches [35.56 centimeters] in length.
- 6 b. The central focus of the poster or framed document.
- 7 c. Printed in a large, easily readable font.
- 8 3. The text must read as follows:
- 9 The Ten Commandments  
10 I AM the LORD thy God.  
11 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.  
12 Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven images.  
13 Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain.  
14 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.  
15 Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the  
16 Lord thy God giveth thee.  
17 Thou shalt not kill.  
18 Thou shalt not commit adultery.  
19 Thou shalt not steal.  
20 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.  
21 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house.  
22 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor  
23 his cattle, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.
- 24 4. The state board of public school education shall adopt rules to implement this section.
- 25 5. A board of a school district ~~may~~shall spend ~~its funds or~~ donated funds to purchase the  
26 displays ~~and may~~ accept donated displays.
- 27 6. A private law firm may provide legal services to defend a constitutional challenge to  
28 this section at no cost, including representing the state board of higher education or  
29 any institution under the board's control, in court.

30 **SECTION 4.** A new section to chapter 15.1-21 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
31 and enacted as follows:

- 1 **Ten commandments.**
- 2 A teacher may display the ten commandments in the classroom assigned to the teacher,
- 3 without first seeking approval from a school administrator or the board of the school district.