

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1225**

Introduced by

Representatives Klemin, Karls, Lefor, Vetter

Senators Myrdal, Sickler, Larson

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 12.1-17-03 and 12.1-32-09 of the North  
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to reckless endangerment and habitual offenders; and to provide  
3 a penalty.

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

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 12.1-17-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **12.1-17-03. Reckless endangerment.**

8 ~~A person~~An individual is guilty of an offense if ~~he~~the individual creates a substantial risk of  
9 serious bodily injury or death to another. The offense is a class ~~C~~B felony if the  
10 circumstances manifest ~~his~~the individual's extreme indifference to the value of human life.  
11 Otherwise it is a class A misdemeanor. There is risk within the meaning of this section if the  
12 potential for harm exists, whether or not a particular person's safety is actually jeopardized.

13 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 12.1-32-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
14 amended and reenacted as follows:

15 **12.1-32-09. Dangerous special offenders - Habitual offenders - Extended sentences -**  
16 **Procedure.**

- 17 1. A court may sentence a convicted offender to an extended sentence as a dangerous  
18 special offender or a habitual offender in accordance with this section upon a finding of  
19 any one or more of the following:
- 20 a. The convicted offender is a dangerous, mentally abnormal person whose conduct  
21 has been characterized by persistent aggressive behavior and the behavior  
22 makes the offender a serious danger to other persons.
  - 23 b. The convicted offender is a professional criminal who has substantial income or  
24 resources derived from criminal activity.

- 1           c. The convicted offender is a habitual offender. The court may not make such a  
2           finding unless the offender is an adult and has previously been convicted in any  
3           state or states or by the United States of two felonies ~~of class C or above~~  
4           committed at different times when the offender was an adult. For the purposes of  
5           this subdivision, a ~~felony~~ conviction in another state or under the laws of the  
6           United States is considered a felony ~~of class C or above~~ if it is punishable by a  
7           ~~maximum term of imprisonment of five years or more~~ than three hundred sixty  
8           days of imprisonment.
- 9           d. The offender was convicted of an offense that seriously endangered the life of  
10          another person and the offender had previously been convicted of a similar  
11          offense.
- 12          e. The offender is especially dangerous because the offender used a firearm,  
13          dangerous weapon, or destructive device in the commission of the offense or  
14          during the flight therefrom.

15          A conviction shown on direct or collateral review or at the hearing to be invalid or for  
16          which the offender has been pardoned on the ground of innocence must be  
17          disregarded for purposes of subdivision c. In support of findings under subdivision b, it  
18          may be shown that the offender has had control of income or property not explained  
19          as derived from a source other than criminal activity. For purposes of subdivision b, a  
20          substantial source of income means a source of income which for any period of one  
21          year or more exceeds the minimum wage, determined on the basis of a forty-hour  
22          week and a fifty-week year, without reference to exceptions, under section 6(a)(1) of  
23          the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended, for an employee engaged in  
24          commerce or in the production of goods for commerce, and which for the same period  
25          exceeds fifty percent of the offender's declared adjusted gross income under chapter  
26          57-38.

- 27          2. The extended sentence may be imposed in the following manner:
- 28               a. If the offense for which the offender is convicted is a class A felony, the court may  
29               impose a sentence up to a maximum of life imprisonment.
- 30               b. If the offense for which the offender is convicted is a class B felony, the court may  
31               impose a sentence up to a maximum of imprisonment for twenty years.

1           c. If the offense for which the offender is convicted is a class C felony, the court may  
2           impose a sentence up to a maximum of imprisonment for ten years.

3           3. Whenever an attorney charged with the prosecution of a defendant in a court of this  
4           state for an alleged felony committed when the defendant was over the age of  
5           eighteen years has reason to believe that the defendant is a dangerous special  
6           offender or a habitual offender, the attorney, at a reasonable time before trial or  
7           acceptance by the court of a plea of guilty, may sign and file with the court, and may  
8           amend, a notice specifying that the defendant is a dangerous special offender or a  
9           habitual offender who upon conviction for the felony is subject to the imposition of a  
10          sentence under subsection 2, and setting out with particularity the reasons why the  
11          attorney believes the defendant to be a dangerous special offender or a habitual  
12          offender. In no case may the fact that the prosecuting attorney is seeking sentencing  
13          of the defendant as a dangerous special offender or a habitual offender be disclosed  
14          to the jury before a verdict. If the court finds that the filing of the notice as a public  
15          record may prejudice fair consideration of a pending criminal matter, the court may  
16          order the notice sealed and the notice is not subject to subpoena or public inspection  
17          during the pendency of the criminal matter, except on order of the court, but is subject  
18          to inspection by the defendant alleged to be a dangerous special offender or a habitual  
19          offender and the offender's counsel.

20          4. Upon any plea of guilty, or verdict or finding of guilt of the defendant of such felony, a  
21          hearing must be held, before sentence is imposed, in accordance with this subsection  
22          as follows:

23          a. By a jury, or the court if a jury is waived by the defendant, if the notice alleges  
24          that the defendant is a dangerous special offender under subdivision a, b, d, or e  
25          of subsection 1. The jury, or the court if a jury is waived, must find that the  
26          defendant is a dangerous special offender under one or more of these  
27          subdivisions by proof beyond a reasonable doubt. However, in the case of a  
28          notice alleging only subdivision e of subsection 1, the trial jury, or the trial court if  
29          a jury is waived, may make a special finding of proof of this subdivision without  
30          an additional hearing subsequent to a verdict or finding of guilt.

1           b. By the court if the notice alleges that the defendant is a habitual offender under  
2           subdivision c of subsection 1. The court must find that the defendant is a habitual  
3           offender by a preponderance of the evidence.

4           5. Except in the most extraordinary cases, the court shall obtain a presentence report  
5           and may receive a diagnostic testing report under subsection 5 of section 12.1-32-02  
6           before holding a hearing under this subsection. The court shall fix a time for the  
7           hearing and notice thereof must be given to the defendant and the prosecution at least  
8           five days prior thereto. The court shall permit the prosecution and counsel for the  
9           defendant, or the defendant if the defendant is not represented by counsel, to inspect  
10          the presentence report sufficiently before the hearing as to afford a reasonable  
11          opportunity for verification. In extraordinary cases, the court may withhold material not  
12          relevant to a proper sentence, diagnostic opinion that might seriously disrupt a  
13          program of rehabilitation, any source of information obtained on a promise of  
14          confidentiality, and material previously disclosed in open court. A court withholding all  
15          or part of a presentence report shall inform the parties of its action and place in the  
16          record the reasons therefor. The court may require parties inspecting all or part of a  
17          presentence report to give notice of any part thereof intended to be controverted. In  
18          connection with the hearing, the defendant is entitled to compulsory process and  
19          cross-examination of such witnesses as appear at the hearing. A duly authenticated  
20          copy of a former judgment or commitment is prima facie evidence of such former  
21          judgment or commitment. If the jury or the court finds, after hearing, one or more of the  
22          grounds set forth in subsection 1, that the defendant is a dangerous special offender  
23          or a habitual offender, the court shall sentence the defendant to imprisonment for an  
24          appropriate term within the limits specified in subsection 2.