

Legislative Assembly

North Dakota House of Representatives

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COMMITTEES:

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Chairman Klemin and Judiciary committee,

my name is Steve Vetter from district 18 which is Grand Forks along the Red River to Manvel.

We have seen a recent increase in false accusations but nobody ever seems to be punished for false accusations. This past summer, I worked with legislative counsel to get some insight in how many people are charged and/or convicted of making false accusations and/or filing a false police report. It was shocking to find out I have yet to know of any case in North Dakota.

The reason for my inquiry is I have had two different constituents tell me they reported to a police officer a complaint of false accusations and in one case filing a false police report. You would think filing a completely untrue police report would be easy to prove. In both cases, no charges were filed.

I have also been told by some attorneys that these cases may sometimes be a hard case to get a conviction.

When looking to the wisdom of the Bible, a false accuser was punished rather harshly.

The judges must investigate the case thoroughly. If the accuser has brought false charges against his fellow Israelite, you must impose on the accuser the sentence he intended for the other person." Deuteronomy 19:16-19
in essence, those who falsely accuse others are to face consequences that mirror the harm they intended to inflict on the accused, signifying the gravity of the transgression in God's eyes.

However, unfortunately this bill does not solve this issue. It is just a step in the right direction.