

SENATE BILL NO. 2128

Introduced by

Judiciary Committee

(At the request of the Attorney General)

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 12-44.1-01, 12-47-18.1, 12-48.1-01, 12-48.1-02,
2 12-54.1-01, 12-54.1-03, 12.1-08-02, 12.1-17-01, 12.1-32-02.1, 12.1-32-09.1, and 39-10-71 of
3 the North Dakota Century Code, relating to transparent sentencing of criminal offenders, work
4 release eligibility and conditions for criminal offenders, sentences for assaulting and fleeing from
5 law enforcement officers, and sentences for preventing arrest; to provide a legislative
6 management report; ~~and~~ to provide a penalty, and to provide for an application.

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

8 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 12-44.1-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is
9 amended and reenacted as follows:

10 **12-44.1-01. Definitions.**

11 As used in this chapter:

- 12 1. "Administrator" means the sheriff, chief of police, administrator, superintendent,
13 director, or other individual serving as the chief executive officer of a correctional
14 facility.
- 15 2. "Adult lockup" means a secure temporary-hold nonresidential facility that does not
16 hold individuals overnight and includes a facility with cuffing rails or cuffing benches.
- 17 3. "Correctional facility" means a city or county jail or detention center, regional
18 corrections center, or juvenile detention center for the detention or confinement of
19 persons in accordance with law. The use of the term does not imply and may not be
20 used to require the provision of services including treatment, counseling, career and
21 technical education, or other educational services, except as may otherwise be
22 required or provided for under this chapter. The term does not include transitional
23 facilities.

- 1 4. "Correctional facility staff" means correctional personnel with titles such as jailer,
2 deputy, counselor, correctional officer, or any other title, whose duties include the
3 ongoing supervision of inmates in a correctional facility.
- 4 5. "Court holding facility" means a secure facility, other than an adult correctional facility
5 or adult lockup, used to temporarily detain individuals before or after a detention
6 hearing or other court proceedings, and is not used to detain individuals overnight.
- 7 6. "Individual justice planning" means a process to identify, accommodate, and develop
8 appropriate consequences for behaviors caused by or related to an individual's mental
9 or cognitive impairment.
- 10 7. "Inmate" means any individual, whether sentenced or unsentenced, who is detained or
11 confined in a correctional facility. The term does not include an individual who is under
12 the supervision of the correctional facility and is supervised under home detention,
13 electronic monitoring, or a similar program that does not involve physical detention or
14 confinement in the facility.
- 15 8. "Jail" means a correctional facility, including a county or city jail or a regional
16 corrections center.
- 17 9. "Juvenile detention center" means a publicly maintained correctional facility for the
18 detention of juveniles. The term does not include the North Dakota youth correctional
19 center.
- 20 10. "Regional corrections center" means a correctional facility established and maintained
21 by more than one county or city, or a combination of counties and cities, for the
22 confinement of inmates.
- 23 11. "Trained correctional facility staff" means correctional personnel who have completed
24 a course of training approved by the peace officer standards and training board.
- 25 12. "Transitional facility" means an organization or facility, operating under contract, in
26 partnership with, or under the direction of the department of corrections and
27 rehabilitation or a correctional facility, which offers education, counseling, or other
28 programs, with minimum security housing, for offenders.

29 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 12-47-18.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is**
30 **amended and reenacted as follows:**

31 **12-47-18.1. Transfer of persons between correctional facilities.**

32 The Subject to statutory limitations, the director of the department of corrections and

1 rehabilitation may transfer an offender to any facility under the department's control or
2 contract to transfer an offender to another correctional facility for purposes of safety, security,
3 discipline, or medical care, ~~or when the director determines it may be in the best interests of~~
4 ~~the public, the offender, or the department.~~

5 **SECTION 23. AMENDMENT.** Section 12-48.1-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **12-48.1-01. Director may provide certain Work release and education or rehabilitation**
8 **services for offenders.**

9 1. The director of the department of corrections and rehabilitation may participate in
10 programs in which eligible offenders committed to the legal and physical custody of
11 the department may be gainfully employed or participate in an educational or other
12 rehabilitation program either in or outside facilities under the control of the department.
13 ~~The~~For eligible offenders, the director may obtain or contract with separate facilities
14 with minimum security for housing offenders granted release privileges. In areas
15 where facilities are not within reasonable proximity of the place of employment or
16 training of an offender so released, the director may arrange for the housing of the
17 offender in local confinement facilities.

18 2. For purposes of this chapter, an "eligible offender" means an offender who:
19 a. In accordance with section 12.1-32-09.1, has served eighty-five percent of the
20 offender's sentence of imprisonment or had the offender's sentences commuted;
21 or
22 b. Is serving a sentence only for one or more violations of section 12.1-06.1-08,
17 12.1-11-01, 12.1-11-07, 12.1-15-02, or 12.1-15-03; subdivision c of subsection 1
18 of section 12.1-21-02; section 12.1-21-03.1; subdivision b of subsection 1 of
19 section 12.1-21-05; section 12.1-21-06.1, 12.1-22-05, 12.1-23-02, 12.1-23-04,
20 12.1-23-07, 12.1-23-08, or 12.1-24-01; subsection 7 of section 19-03.1-23; or
21 section 19-03.4-03 or 39-08-01.

22 3. The department of corrections and rehabilitation shall provide to the attorney general
23 and the legislative ~~management~~ council each quarter a report, including the names,
24 locations, and sentences of each individual who meets the criteria in subdivision b of
25 subsection 2.

26 **SECTION 34. AMENDMENT.** Section 12-48.1-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is
27 amended and reenacted as follows:

1 **12-48.1-02. Conditions of eligibility for participation in release programs.**

- 2 1. An eligible offender, except an offender sentenced to a penalty of life imprisonment
3 without the opportunity for parole as the result of conviction of a class AA felony under
4 section 12.1-20-03 or of murder under section 12.1-16-01, may ~~be eligible for~~
5 ~~programs~~ participate in a program outside ~~facilities~~ a facility under the control of the
6 department of corrections and rehabilitation when the department determines, with a
7 high degree of reliability, the eligible offender is not a high security risk, not likely to
8 commit a crime of violence, not likely to escape, and is likely to be rehabilitated by
9 such program. An eligible offender may apply to the director of the department for
10 permission to participate in such programs.
- 11 2. The director of the department may authorize participation in outside programs for
12 an eligible offender who has ten years or less remaining on a sentence and has been
13 committed to the legal and physical custody of the department. The parole board, with
14 the approval of the director of the department, may authorize participation in outside
15 programs for eligible offenders who have more than ten years remaining on a
16 sentence and have been committed to the legal and physical custody of the
17 department.
- 18 3. The offender shall submit a signed application which must include a statement
19 that the eligible offender agrees to abide by all terms and conditions of the particular
20 plan adopted for the eligible offender, and must include such other information as the
21 parole board or the director of the department may require.
- 22 4. The parole board may approve, disapprove, or defer action on an application
23 approved by the director of the department. The director of the department or the
24 parole board may revoke approval of the application at any time after granting the
25 application. The department shall prescribe rules of conduct and treatment for all
26 eligible offenders on release programs and shall prescribe objective and subjective
27 criteria for which revocation of approval to participate in release programs is
28 mandatory. A rule violation indicating the eligible offender likely will commit a crime of
29 violence or is likely to attempt to escape must result in revocation of approval to
30 participate in release programs. The department shall document all violations of the
31 rules of conduct and treatment.
- 32 5. The director of the department may grant short leaves, not to exceed seventy-two
33 hours, to eligible offenders who have been committed to the legal and physical

1 custody of the department for ten years or less. The parole board, upon the approval
2 of the director of the department, may grant short leaves, not to exceed seventy-two
1 hours, to offenders committed to the legal and physical custody of the department for
2 more than ten years. Short leaves granted under this subsection may not be granted
3 consecutively to the same individual.

4 6. All rules adopted by the parole board and the director of the department relating to
5 release programs and short leaves must conform, to the extent allowable by law, with
6 executive order no. 11755 issued by the President of the United States.

7 **SECTION 4.5. AMENDMENT.** Section 12-54.1-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is
8 amended and reenacted as follows:

9 **12-54.1-01. Sentence reduction for good time.**

10 ~~Except as provided under~~ Subject to the requirements of section 12.1-32-09.1, an offender
11 committed to the legal and physical custody of the department of corrections and rehabilitation
12 is eligible to earn sentence reductions based upon satisfactory fulfillment of performance criteria
13 established through department and penitentiary rules. Performance criteria ~~includes~~ must
14 include participation in court-ordered or staff-recommended treatment and education programs
15 and good work performance. The department may credit an offender committed to the legal and
16 physical custody of the department who is eligible for sentence reduction up to five days good
17 time per month for each month of the sentence ~~imposed~~ served, up to a maximum of fifteen
18 percent of the offender's sentence. Sentence reductions may not be awarded before they are
19 earned. The department may credit an offender with sentence reduction for time spent in
20 custody before sentencing and commitment to the legal and physical custody of the
21 department. The department may not credit an offender with any sentence reduction for time
22 spent on probation under the supervision and management of the department.

23 **SECTION 5.6. AMENDMENT.** Section 12-54.1-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is
24 amended and reenacted as follows:

25 **12-54.1-03. Meritorious conduct sentence reduction.**

26 ~~Except as provided under section 12.1-32-09.1, offenders~~ Offenders committed to the legal
27 and physical custody of the department of corrections and rehabilitation may receive a lump
28 sum or a monthly rate of meritorious conduct sentence reduction for outstanding performance
29 or heroic acts ~~or as a special control and security measure~~, as provided by penitentiary and
30 department rules and upon written recommendation of a department multidisciplinary team.
31 Meritorious sentence reductions are in addition to sentence reductions under section

1 12-54.1-01 and may be made only after a written recommendation is made by the warden and
2 approved by the director of the department. Any sentence reduction ~~for special control or~~
3 ~~security measures~~ under this section may not exceed ~~two days~~ one day good time per month per
4 offender.

5 **SECTION 6-7. AMENDMENT.** Section 12.1-08-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **12.1-08-02. Preventing arrest or discharge of other duties.**

8 1. A person is guilty of a class A misdemeanor if, with intent to prevent a public servant
9 from effecting an arrest of himself or another for a misdemeanor or infraction, or from
10 discharging any other official duty, he creates a substantial risk of bodily injury to the public
11 servant or to anyone except himself, or employs means justifying or requiring substantial force
12 to overcome resistance to effecting the arrest or the discharge of the duty. A person is guilty of a
13 class C felony if, with intent to prevent a public servant from effecting an arrest of himself or
14 another for a class A, B, or C felony, he creates a substantial risk of bodily injury to the public
15 servant or to anyone except himself, or employs means justifying or requiring substantial force
16 to overcome resistance to effecting such an arrest.

17 2.1. It is a defense to a prosecution under this section that the public servant was not
18 acting lawfully, but it is no defense that the defendant mistakenly believed that the
19 public servant was not acting lawfully. A public servant executing a warrant or other
20 process in good faith and under color of law shall be deemed to be acting lawfully.

21 2. A conviction under this section carries a penalty of at least fourteen days'
22 imprisonment and, if there is an underlying conviction, the imprisonment must be
23 consecutive to any sentence of imprisonment for the underlying conviction.

24 **SECTION 7-8. AMENDMENT.** Section 12.1-17-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is
25 amended and reenacted as follows:

26 **12.1-17-01. Simple assault.**

- 27 1. A person is guilty of an offense if that person:
- 28 a. Willfully causes bodily injury to another human being; or
 - 29 b. Negligently causes bodily injury to another human being by means of a firearm,
30 destructive device, or other weapon, the use of which against a human being is
31 likely to cause death or serious bodily injury.
- 32 2. The offense is:
- 33 a. A class C felony when the victim is a peace officer or correctional institution

1 employee acting in an official capacity, which the actor knows to be a fact; an
2 employee of the state hospital acting in the course and scope of employment,
3 which the actor knows to be a fact, and the actor is an individual committed to or
4 detained at the state hospital pursuant to chapter 25-03.3; a person engaged in a
5 judicial proceeding; or a member of a municipal or volunteer fire department or
6 emergency medical services personnel unit or emergency department worker in
7 the performance of the member's duties.

8 b. A class B misdemeanor except as provided in subdivision a.

9 c. A conviction under subdivision a carries a penalty of at least thirty days'
10 imprisonment and, if there is an underlying conviction, the imprisonment must be
11 consecutive to any sentence of imprisonment for the underlying conviction.

12 **SECTION 8.9. AMENDMENT.** Section 12.1-32-02.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
13 amended and reenacted as follows:

14 **12.1-32-02.1. Mandatory prison terms for armed offenders.**

- 15 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, a term of imprisonment must be
16 imposed upon an offender and served without benefit of parole when:
- 17 a. In the course of committing an offense, the offender inflicts or attempts to inflict
18 bodily injury upon another, threatens or menaces another with imminent bodily
19 injury with a dangerous weapon, explosive, destructive device, or firearm; or
20 b. An offender prohibited from possessing a firearm under section 62.1-02-01
21 possesses a firearm while in the course of committing any felony offense under
22 subsection 1; ~~or 3; or 7~~ of section 19-03.1-23.
- 23 2. This requirement applies only when possession of a dangerous weapon, explosive,
24 destructive device, or firearm has been charged and admitted or found to be true in
25 the manner provided by law, and must be imposed as follows:
- 26 a. If the offense for which the offender is convicted is a class AA, class A, or class B
27 felony, the court shall impose a minimum sentence of four years' imprisonment.
28 b. If the offense for which the offender is convicted is a class C felony, the court
29 shall impose a minimum sentence of two years' imprisonment.

- 1 3. This section applies even when being armed is an element of the offense for which the
2 offender is convicted.
- 3 4. This section applies even if the offender is prosecuted for a violation of section
4 62.1-02-01 for the same conduct.
- 5 5. An offender serving a sentence subject to this section ~~may be eligible to participate in~~
6 ~~a release program under section 12-48.1-02 during the last six months of the~~
7 ~~offender's sentence~~ is not an eligible offender under subdivision b of subsection 2 of
8 section 12-48.1-01.

9 **SECTION 9.10. AMENDMENT.** Section 12.1-32-09.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
10 amended and reenacted as follows:

11 **12.1-32-09.1. Sentencing of violent offenders** Truth in sentencing.

- 12 1. Except as provided under section 12-48.1-01 and 12-48.1-02 ~~and pursuant to rules~~
13 ~~adopted by the department of corrections and rehabilitation and 12-54.1-03~~, an offender
14 who is sentenced as a dangerous special offender or habitual offender under section
15 12.1- 32-09, or is convicted of a crime in violation of section 12.1-16-01, 12.1-16-02,
16 subsection 2 of section 12.1-17-02, section 12.1-18-01, subdivision a of subsection 1 or
17 subdivision b of subsection 2 of section 12.1-20-03, section 12.1-22-01, subdivision b of
18 subsection 2 of section 12.1-22-02, or an attempt to commit the offenses, and who
19 receives a sentence of imprisonment is not eligible for release from confinement on any
20 basis until eighty-five percent of the sentence imposed by the court has been served or
21 the sentence is commuted. All other offenders are not eligible for release from
22 confinement on any basis until the earliest of:
 - 23 a. Fifty percent, not including any time credited pursuant to 12-54.1-01, of the
24 sentence imposed by the court has been served and the offender is paroled;
 - 25 b. The offender's sentence has been commuted and the offender has served the
26 commuted sentence;
 - 27 c. Eighty-five percent of the sentence imposed by the court has been served; or
28 d. The offender is pardoned.
- 29 2. In the case of an offender who is sentenced to a term of life imprisonment with
30 opportunity for parole under subsection 1 of section 12.1-32-01, the term "sentence
31 imposed" means the remaining life expectancy of the offender on the date of
32 sentencing. The remaining life expectancy of the offender must be calculated on the

33 date of sentencing, computed by reference to a recognized mortality table as
34 established by rule by the supreme court.

35 3. Notwithstanding this section, an offender sentenced under subsection 1 of section
36 12.1-32-01 may not be eligible for parole until the requirements of that subsection
37 have been met.

38 4. ~~An offender who is convicted of a class C felony in violation of section 12.1-17-02, or~~
39 ~~an attempt to commit the offense, and who has received a sentence of imprisonment~~
40 ~~or a sentence of imprisonment upon revocation of probation before August 1, 2015, is~~
41 ~~eligible to have the offender's sentence considered by the parole board.~~ "Confinement"
42 does not include placement or residence in a transitional facility, halfway house, or other
43 organization or facility, operating under contract, in partnership with, or under the
44 direction of the department of corrections and rehabilitation or other correctional facility,
45 that offers education, counseling, or other programs, with minimum security housing, for
46 offenders.

47 5. ~~Notwithstanding subsection 4, this section does not apply to a sentence imposed~~
48 ~~upon revocation of probation.~~

49 **SECTION 10.11. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-10-71 of the North Dakota Century Code is
50 amended and reenacted as follows:

51 **39-10-71. Fleeing or attempting to elude a peace officer - Penalty.**

52 1. A driver of a motor vehicle who willfully fails or refuses to bring the vehicle to a
53 stop, or who otherwise flees or attempts to elude, in any manner, a pursuing police
54 vehicle or peace officer, when given a visual or audible signal to bring the vehicle to a
55 stop, is guilty of a:

56 a. Class A misdemeanor for a first offense and a class C felony for a subsequent
57 offense within three years;

58 b Class C felony if the driver violates this section while willfully fleeing during or
59 after the commission of a felony; or

60 c. Class C felony if, at any time during the flight or pursuit, the driver willfully
61 operates the vehicle in a manner constituting an inherent risk of death or serious
62 bodily injury to a third person.

63 2. A signal complies with this section if the signal is perceptible to the driver and:

64 a. If given from a vehicle, the signal is given by hand, voice, emergency light, or

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siren, and the stopping vehicle is appropriately marked showing it to be an official police vehicle; or

b. If not given from a vehicle, the signal is given by hand, voice, emergency light, or siren, and the officer is in uniform or prominently displays the officer's badge of office.

3. A felony conviction under this section carries a penalty of at least thirty days' Imprisonment and, if there is an underlying conviction, the imprisonment must be consecutive to any sentence of imprisonment for the underlying conviction.

4. Upon a motion by a state's attorney, a court may order that a motor vehicle used in the commission of a violation of this section be impounded by a peace officer for up to six months.

SECTION 12. APPLICATION. Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, and 10 of this Act apply to individuals who are charged after July 31, 2025, with violations subject to the provisions of this Act.