

Fifty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2248

Introduced by

Senators Christmann, Andrist, Lindaas

Representatives Haas, L. Meier, Skarphol

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 1 of section 4-41-02, sections 12-60-16.6,  
2 12-60-16.9, 12-60-24, and 15.1-13-14, subsection 1 of section 15.1-13-20, section 15.1-13-23,  
3 subsection 4 of section 43-17-07.1, and sections 43-30-06, 50-11.1-06.2, and 54-59-20 of the  
4 North Dakota Century Code, relating to criminal history record checks; and to declare an  
5 emergency.

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

7 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 4-41-02 of the North Dakota  
8 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

9 1. Any person desiring to grow industrial hemp for commercial purposes shall apply  
10 to the agriculture commissioner for a license on a form prescribed by the  
11 commissioner. The application for a license must include the name and address of  
12 the applicant and the legal description of the land area to be used ~~for the~~  
13 ~~production of~~ to produce industrial hemp. Except for employees of the agricultural  
14 experiment station or the North Dakota state university extension service involved  
15 in research and extension related activities, the commissioner shall require each  
16 applicant for initial licensure to ~~file a set of the applicant's fingerprints, taken by a~~  
17 ~~law enforcement officer, and any other information necessary to complete~~ submit  
18 to a statewide and nationwide criminal history check with the bureau of criminal  
19 investigation for state processing and with the federal bureau of investigation for  
20 federal processing. The nationwide criminal history check must be conducted in  
21 the manner provided in section 12-60-24. All costs associated with the  
22 background check are the responsibility of the applicant. Criminal history records  
23 provided to the commissioner under this section are confidential. The  
24 commissioner may use the records only in determining an applicant's eligibility for

1 licensure. Any person with a prior criminal conviction is not eligible for licensure. If  
2 the applicant has completed the application process to the satisfaction of the  
3 commissioner, the commissioner shall issue the license, which is valid for a period  
4 of one year. Any person licensed under this section is presumed to be growing  
5 industrial hemp for commercial purposes.

6 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 12-60-16.6 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
7 amended and reenacted as follows:

8 **12-60-16.6. Criminal history record information - Dissemination to parties not**  
9 **described in section 12-60-16.5.** Only the bureau may disseminate criminal history record  
10 information to parties not described in section 12-60-16.5. The dissemination may be made  
11 only if all the following requirements are met:

- 12 1. The information has not been purged or sealed.
- 13 2. The information is of a conviction, including a conviction for violating section  
14 12.1-20-03, 12.1-20-03.1, 12.1-20-04, 12.1-20-06.1, or 12.1-20-11 notwithstanding  
15 any disposition following a deferred imposition of sentence; or the information is of  
16 a reportable event occurring within one year preceding the request.
- 17 3. The request is written and contains:
  - 18 a. The name of the requester.
  - 19 b. The name of the record subject.
  - 20 c. At least two items of information used by the bureau to retrieve criminal  
21 history records, including:
    - 22 (1) The fingerprints of the record subject.
    - 23 (2) The state identification number assigned to the record subject by the  
24 bureau.
    - 25 (3) The social security number of the record subject.
    - 26 (4) The date of birth of the record subject.
    - 27 (5) A specific reportable event identified by date and either agency or  
28 court.
- 29 4. The identifying information supporting a request for a criminal history record does  
30 not match the record of more than one individual.

1 In order to confirm a record match, the bureau may contact the requester to collect additional  
2 information if a request contains an item of information that appears to be inaccurate or  
3 incomplete.

4 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 12-60-16.9 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **12-60-16.9. Criminal history record information - Fee for record check.** The  
7 bureau shall impose a fee of ~~thirty~~ fifteen dollars for each state record check. The bureau shall  
8 ~~waive the fee for any criminal justice agency or court, and shall~~ impose a fee of ~~three~~ five  
9 dollars for each record check for a nonprofit organization that is organized and operated in this  
10 state exclusively for charitable purposes for the exclusive benefit of minors. The bureau shall  
11 impose a fee of fifteen dollars for processing fingerprints necessary for each nationwide  
12 criminal history record check. The bureau shall waive the fees for any criminal justice agency  
13 or court.

14 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 12-60-24 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
15 amended and reenacted as follows:

16 **12-60-24. ~~City or county fingerprinting~~ - Criminal history record checks.** The  
17 ~~governing body of a city by ordinance or a county by ordinance or resolution may require each~~  
18 ~~applicant for a specified occupation with the city or county to provide two sets of fingerprints.~~

19 1. a. The agencies and entities named in subsection 2 shall require each applicant,  
20 employee, or petitioner for adoption to consent to a statewide and nationwide  
21 criminal history record check for the purpose of determining suitability or  
22 fitness for a permit, license, employment, or adoption.

23 b. Each applicant, employee, or petitioner for adoption subject to a criminal  
24 history check shall provide to the requesting agency or entity written consent  
25 to conduct the check, two sets of fingerprints from a law enforcement agency  
26 or other local agency authorized to take fingerprints, any other identifying  
27 information requested, and a statement indicating whether the applicant or  
28 employee has ever been convicted of a crime.

29 c. The ~~city or county may~~ agency or entity shall submit these fingerprints to the  
30 bureau of criminal investigation for nationwide criminal history record  
31 information that includes resubmission of the fingerprints by the bureau of

1 criminal investigation to the federal bureau of investigation. ~~Federal~~ Except if  
2 otherwise provided by law, federal bureau of investigation criminal history  
3 record information obtained by ~~a city or county~~ an agency or entity is  
4 confidential. For a request for nationwide criminal history record information  
5 made ~~by the city or county~~ under this section, the bureau of criminal  
6 investigation is the sole source to receive the fingerprint submissions and  
7 responses from the federal bureau of investigation. A person who takes  
8 fingerprints under this section may charge a reasonable fee to offset the cost  
9 of fingerprinting. ~~The~~ Unless otherwise provided by law, the bureau of  
10 criminal investigation may charge appropriate fees for criminal history  
11 information.

- 12 2. The bureau of criminal investigation shall provide to each agency or entity listed in  
13 this subsection who has requested a statewide and nationwide criminal history  
14 record check, the response of the federal bureau of investigation and any  
15 statewide criminal history record information that may lawfully be made available  
16 under this chapter:
- 17 a. The governing body of a city or a county, by ordinance or resolution, for each  
18 applicant for a specified occupation with the city or county.
  - 19 b. The agriculture commissioner for each applicant for a license to grow  
20 industrial hemp under section 4-41-02.
  - 21 c. The education standards and practices board for initial and reciprocal teacher  
22 licenses under sections 15.1-13-14 and 15.1-13-20 and school guidance and  
23 counseling services under section 15.1-13-23.
  - 24 d. The medical examiners board for licenses or disciplinary investigations under  
25 section 43-17-07.1, except that criminal history record checks need not be  
26 made unless required by the board.
  - 27 e. The private investigative and security board for licenses or registrations under  
28 section 43-30-06.
  - 29 f. The human services department for foster care licenses under section  
30 50-11-06.8, appointments of legal guardians under section 50-11.3-01, and  
31 petitions for adoptions under section 50-12-03.2, except that the criminal

- 1           history record investigation must be conducted in accordance with those  
2           sections.
- 3           g. The human services department for carecheck registrations under section  
4           50-11.1-06.2.
- 5           h. The chief information officer of the information technology department for  
6           certain employees under section 54-59-20.
- 7           i. A public peace officer training school that has been approved by the peace  
8           officer standards and training board for enrollees in the school The school  
9           may only disclose the criminal history record information as authorized by  
10           law. The school shall pay the costs for securing the fingerprints, any criminal  
11           history record information made available under this chapter, and for the  
12           nationwide criminal history background check. This subdivision does not  
13           apply to the highway patrol law enforcement training center and enrollees  
14           who have a limited license under section 12-63-09.
- 15           j. The North Dakota public employees retirement board for individuals first  
16           employed by the public employees retirement board after July 31, 2005, who  
17           have unescorted physical access to the office or any security-sensitive area  
18           of the office as designated by the executive director.
- 19           k. The executive director of the retirement and investment office for individuals  
20           first employed by the retirement and investment office after July 31, 2005,  
21           who have unescorted physical access to the office or any security-sensitive  
22           area of the office as designated by the executive director.
- 23           l. The Bank of North Dakota for each applicant for a specified occupation with  
24           the Bank as designated by the president.
- 25           m. Job service North Dakota for each applicant for a specified occupation with  
26           job service as designated by the executive director.
- 27           n. The department of health for employees assigned duties related to  
28           bioterrorism and homeland security issues as designated by the state health  
29           officer; a nurse aide seeking to have a finding of neglect removed from the  
30           nurse aide registry; or an applicant for a license, certificate, or registration in a

1                   health-related field or other individual being investigated by the department of  
2                   health who holds a license, certificate, or registration in a health-related field.

3                   **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-13-14 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
4 amended and reenacted as follows:

5                   **15.1-13-14. Initial licensure of teachers - ~~Background~~ Criminal history record**  
6 **check.** The board shall check, or cause to be checked, the ~~background~~ criminal history record  
7 of each applicant for initial licensure as a teacher in accordance with section 12-60-24. ~~The~~  
8 ~~board shall require each applicant for licensure to file a complete set of the applicant's~~  
9 ~~fingerprints, taken by a law enforcement officer or a properly trained designee of a law~~  
10 ~~enforcement officer, and all other information necessary to complete a statewide and~~  
11 ~~nationwide criminal history check with the bureau of criminal investigation for state processing~~  
12 ~~and filing with the federal bureau of investigation for federal processing.~~ All costs associated  
13 with the background check and with obtaining and processing the fingerprints are the  
14 responsibility of the applicant. Criminal history records provided to the board pursuant to this  
15 section are confidential and closed to the public and may only be used by the board for  
16 determining an applicant's eligibility for licensure and obtaining documentation to support a  
17 denial of licensure.

18                   **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 15.1-13-20 of the North Dakota  
19 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 20                   1. The board shall grant an interim reciprocal teaching license in accordance with  
21 sections 15.1-18-02 and 15.1-18-03 to an individual who holds a regular teaching  
22 license or certificate from another state, provided:
- 23                   a. The individual's licensure or certification is based upon a minimum of a  
24 bachelor's degree with a major that meets the issuing state's requirements in  
25 elementary education, middle-level education, or a content area taught at a  
26 public high school;
  - 27                   b. The individual's licensure or certification is based upon the completion of a  
28 professional education sequence from a state-approved teacher education  
29 program and includes supervised student teaching;
  - 30                   c. The individual submits to a ~~background~~ criminal history record check as  
31 required of initial applicants by this chapter;

- 1           d.    The ~~background~~ criminal history record check reveals nothing for which a  
2                    North Dakota applicant would be denied initial licensure; and  
3           e.    The individual submits a plan for meeting all requirements necessary to  
4                    become a licensed teacher in this state.

5           **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-13-23 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7           **15.1-13-23. School guidance and counseling services - Providers.**

8   Notwithstanding any other law, guidance and counseling services at the elementary and  
9   secondary school level may be provided by a person holding a graduate degree in counseling  
10   from a state-approved school counseling program, with coursework and an internship in school  
11   counseling, as required for all counselors by the superintendent of public instruction, provided  
12   the person has a North Dakota teaching license or will obtain one within seven years from the  
13   date of first employment under this section. The board shall ~~adopt rules relating to the~~  
14   ~~background check of a~~ conduct a criminal history record check in accordance with section  
15   12-60-24 on each person hired under this section. All costs associated with a background  
16   check are the responsibility of the person being hired. The board shall monitor a person hired  
17   under this section to ensure that the person annually completes at least one-seventh of the  
18   total credits required for that person to obtain a teaching license, as determined at the time of  
19   employment under this section.

20           **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 4 of section 43-17-07.1 of the North Dakota  
21 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 22           4.    Require information on an applicant's or licensee's fitness, qualifications, and  
23                    previous professional record and performance from recognized data sources,  
24                    including the federation of state medical boards action data bank, other data  
25                    repositories, licensing and disciplinary authorities of other jurisdictions,  
26                    professional education and training institutions, liability insurers, health care  
27                    institutions, and law enforcement agencies be reported to the board. The board or  
28                    its investigative panels may require an applicant for licensure or a licensee who is  
29                    the subject of a disciplinary investigation to ~~file a complete set of the applicant's or~~  
30                    ~~licensee's fingerprints taken by a law enforcement officer or a properly trained~~  
31                    ~~designee of a law enforcement officer and all other information necessary to~~

1           ~~complete~~ submit to a statewide and nationwide criminal history record check ~~with~~  
2           ~~the bureau of criminal investigation for state processing and filing with the federal~~  
3           ~~bureau of investigation for federal processing.~~ The nationwide criminal history  
4           record check must be conducted in the manner provided by section 12-60-24. All  
5           costs associated with the ~~background~~ criminal history record check ~~and with~~  
6           ~~obtaining and processing the fingerprints~~ are the responsibility of the licensee or  
7           applicant.

8           **SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-30-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
9           amended and reenacted as follows:

10           **43-30-06. License and registration applications.** Every person who desires to  
11           obtain a license or registration shall apply to the board on applications prepared and furnished  
12           by the board. Each application must include the information required by the board and must be  
13           accompanied by the required fee. As a requirement of receiving a license or registration, the  
14           board shall require each applicant to ~~file with the board a complete set of the applicant's~~  
15           ~~fingerprints and all other information necessary to complete~~ submit to a state and nationwide  
16           criminal history record check ~~with the bureau of criminal investigation for state processing and~~  
17           ~~filing with the federal bureau of investigation for federal processing.~~ The nationwide criminal  
18           history check must be conducted in the manner provided in section 12-60-24. All costs  
19           associated with the ~~background~~ criminal history record check ~~and with obtaining and~~  
20           ~~processing the fingerprints~~ are the responsibility of the applicant. Criminal history records  
21           provided to the board pursuant to this section are confidential and closed to the public and may  
22           be used by the board for the sole purpose of determining an applicant's eligibility for licensure  
23           and obtaining documentation to support a denial of licensure. A criminal history record check is  
24           not required under this section if an applicant for registration has previously been the subject of  
25           a state and nationwide criminal history check, has held a registration issued by the board within  
26           the sixty days immediately preceding the application, and is applying for a new registration due  
27           solely to a change in employment. A nationwide criminal history check is not required under  
28           this section if an applicant for licensure or registration provides to the board the results of a  
29           nationwide criminal history check performed by the federal bureau of investigation at the  
30           request of another state and if the nationwide criminal history check was performed within the  
31           sixty days immediately preceding the date of the application. A state criminal history check is



1 not required under this section if an applicant for registration provides to the board the results of  
2 a state ~~background~~ criminal history record check performed by the state in which the applicant  
3 currently resides and if the state ~~background~~ criminal history record check was performed  
4 within the sixty days immediately preceding the date of the application.

5 **SECTION 10. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-11.1-06.2 of the North Dakota Century Code  
6 is amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **50-11.1-06.2. Carecheck registry - Child care providers - Background**  
8 **investigations - Fees.** Placement in the carecheck registry is voluntary. To apply for  
9 placement in the carecheck registry, an in-home provider, a family child care home exempt  
10 from licensure, or a licensed early childhood services provider shall obtain two sets of that  
11 person's own fingerprints from a law enforcement agency or other local agency authorized to  
12 take fingerprints and shall request the agency to submit the fingerprints and a completed  
13 fingerprint card for each set to the division of children and family services of the department or  
14 to any division as determined appropriate by the department. If the division has no record of a  
15 determination of services required for child abuse or neglect, the division shall submit ~~one set~~  
16 ~~of the fingerprints to the federal bureau of investigation and one set to the~~ bureau of criminal  
17 investigation to determine if there is any criminal history record information regarding the  
18 applicant for carecheck in accordance with section 12-60-24. The results of the investigations  
19 must be forwarded to the division of children and family services of the department or to any  
20 other division as determined appropriate by the department. The applicant for placement in the  
21 carecheck registry, after satisfying requirements imposed by the department, must be placed in  
22 the carecheck registry if no relevant criminal history record information is found and no report of  
23 a determination of services required for child abuse or neglect filed pursuant to section  
24 50-25.1-05.2 is found which would disqualify the person. The division may charge the applicant  
25 a fee not to exceed thirty dollars for the purpose of processing the application. The division is  
26 not subject to the fee imposed under section 12-60-16.9 when requesting criminal history  
27 record information from the bureau of criminal investigation. The division, within one hundred  
28 eighty days after July 1, 1991, shall provide, through a toll-free telephone line maintained by the  
29 department, a means to allow interested parents or guardians, employment agencies, or child  
30 care referral groups to determine if a person has met the requirements for placement in the  
31 carecheck registry. The division shall undertake a public awareness effort to explain the

1 existence and purpose of the carecheck toll-free telephone line. An agency that takes  
2 fingerprints as provided under this section may charge a reasonable fee to offset the costs of  
3 the fingerprinting.

4 **SECTION 11. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-59-20 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **54-59-20. Employees of the department - Security background information.** The  
7 chief information officer shall require as a condition of employment with the department that  
8 individuals who have unescorted physical access to the facilities or other security sensitive  
9 areas of the department designated by the chief information officer ~~be fingerprinted. The chief~~  
10 ~~information officer shall ensure that the fingerprints are submitted to the bureau of criminal~~  
11 ~~investigation and the federal bureau of investigation for verification of the identity of the~~  
12 ~~individuals and to obtain records of criminal arrests and convictions~~ submit to a criminal history  
13 record check in accordance with section 12-60-24.

14 **SECTION 12. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.