

**Sixty-third Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 8, 2013**

SENATE BILL NO. 2159
(Senators J. Lee, Sitte, Axness)
(Representatives Weisz, Hogan)

AN ACT to amend and reenact section 14-15-12 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the required residence of the minor before a final decree of adoption.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 14-15-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

14-15-12. Required residence of minor.

1. A final decree of adoption may not be issued and an interlocutory decree of adoption does not become final, until the minor to be adopted, other than a stepchild of the petitioner, has lived in the adoptive home:
 1. a. For at least six months after placement by an agency;
 2. b. For six months after placement by a parent in accordance with an identified relinquishment under chapter 14-15.1;
 3. c. As a foster child for at least six months and has been placed for adoption by an agency;
or
 4. d. For at least six months after the department or the court has been informed of the custody of the minor by the petitioner, and the department or court has had an opportunity to observe or investigate the adoptive home.
2. If a child who has been placed for adoption dies before the six-month residency requirement of subsection 1 is met, the court may grant the final decree of adoption upon a finding that a proper and legitimate reason exists for granting the final decree.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Sixty-third Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2159.

Senate Vote: Yeas 46 Nays 0 Absent 1

House Vote: Yeas 94 Nays 0 Absent 0

Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2013.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2013.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2013,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State