WEAPONS

CHAPTER 475

HOUSE BILL NO. 1241

(Representatives Streyle, Brabandt, Karls, B. Koppelman, Toman) (Senators Armstrong, Larsen, Unruh)

AN ACT to amend and reenact section 20.1-01-36, subsection 1 of section 62.1-01-01, sections 62.1-02-04, 62.1-02-05, 62.1-02-10, and 62.1-03-01, subsection 5 of section 62.1-04-01, section 62.1-04-02, subsections 2 and 7 of section 62.1-04-03, and section 62.1-05-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to firearms and dangerous weapons; and to provide a penalty.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 20.1-01-36 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

20.1-01-36. Suppressor and short-barreled rifle allowed for hunting.

- 1. An individual in lawful possession of a device that will silence or deaden the sound or natural report of a firearm when the firearm is discharged may hunt any game for which the individual is licensed and for which a firearm is allowed with that device for or attached to the firearm.
- 2. An individual in lawful possession of a short-barreled rifle may hunt any game for which the individual is licensed and for which a rifle is allowed.

²⁴⁰ **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 62.1-01-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

"Dangerous weapon" includes any switchblade or gravity knife, machete, scimitar, stiletto, sword, dagger, or knife with a blade of five inches [12.7 centimeters] or more; any throwing star, nunchaku, or other martial arts weapon; any billy, blackjack, sap, bludgeon, cudgel, metal knuckles, or sand club; any slungshot; any bow and arrow, crossbow, or spear; any weapon that will expel, or is readily capable of expelling, a projectile by the action of a spring, compressed air, or compressed gas, including any such weapon, loaded or unloaded, commonly referred to as a BB gun, air rifle, or CO2 gun; and any projector of a bomb or any object containing or capable of producing and emitting any noxious liquid, gas, or substance. "Dangerous weapon" does include a spray or aerosol containing CS. also known ortho-chlorobenzamalonitrile; CN, also known as alpha-chloroacetophenone; or other irritating agent intended for use in the defense of an individual, nor does the term include a device that uses direct contact to deliver voltage for the defense of an individual, unless the device uses a projectile and voltage,

²⁴⁰ Section 62.1-01-01 was also amended by section 1 of House Bill No. 1450, chapter 476.

then the term includes the device for an individual who is prohibited from possessing a firearm under this title. However, the term includes a device that uses a projectile and may be used to apply multiple applications of voltage during a single incident.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Section 62.1-02-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

62.1-02-04. Possession of firearm or dangerous weapon in liquor establishment prohibited - Penalty - Exceptions.

- 1. An individual who enters or remains in that part of the establishment that is set aside for the retail sale of alcoholic beverages and the consumption of purchased alcoholic beverages or used as a gaming site at which bingo is the primary gaming activity while in the possession ofthat individual knowingly possesses a firearm or dangerous weapon is guilty of a class A misdemeanor. In addition, an individual is guilty of an offense under this section for the knowing possession of a device that uses a projectile and voltage in the part of an establishment that is set aside for the retail sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages.
- 2. This section does not apply to:
 - a. A law enforcement officer.
 - b. The proprietor.
 - c. The proprietor's employee.
 - d. A designee of the proprietor when the designee is displaying an unloaded firearm or dangerous weapon as a prize or sale item in a raffle or auction.
 - e. Private security personnel while on duty for the purpose of delivering or receiving moneys used at the liquor establishment or at the gaming site at which bingo is the primary gaming activity.
 - f. The restaurant part of an establishment if an individual under twenty-one years of age is not prohibited in that part of the establishment.

SECTION 4. AMENDMENT. Section 62.1-02-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

62.1-02-05. Possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon at a public gathering - Penalty - Application.

- An individual who knowingly possesses a firearm or dangerous weapon at a
 public gathering is guilty of a class B misdemeanor. For the purpose of this
 section, "public gathering" includesmeans an athletic or sporting events,
 schools or school functions, churches or church functions, political rallies or
 functions, musical concerts, and individuals in publicly owned parks where
 hunting is not allowed by proclamation event, a school, a church, and a
 publicly owned or operated buildingsbuilding.
- 2. This section does not apply to:
 - a. A law enforcement officer:

- A member of the armed forces of the United States or national guard, organized reserves, state defense forces, or state guard organizations, when on duty;
- c. A competitor participating in an organized sport shooting event;
- d. A gun or antique show;
- e. A participant using a blank cartridge firearm at a sporting or theatrical event:
- f. A firearm or dangerous weapon carried in a temporary residence or motor vehicle;
- q. A student and an instructor at a hunter safety class;
- h. Private security personnel while on duty;
- i. A state or federal park;
- j. An instructor, a test administrator, an official, or a participant in educational, training, cultural, or competitive events involving the authorized use of a dangerous weapon if the event occurs with permission of the person or entity with authority over the function or premises in question;
- k. An individual in a publicly owned or operated rest area or restroom;
- I. An individual possessing a valid class 1 concealed weapons license from this state or who has reciprocity under section 62.1-04-03.1 authorizing the individual to carry a dangerous weapon concealed if the individual is in a church building or other place of worship and has the approval to carry in the church building or other place of worship by a primary religious leader of the church or other place of worship or the governing body of the church or other place of worship. If a church or other place of worship authorizes an individual to carry a concealed weapon, local law enforcement must be informed of the name of the authorized individual; and
- H.m. A municipal court judge, a district court judge, a staff member of the office of attorney general, and a retired North Dakota law enforcement officer, if the individual maintains the same level of firearms proficiency as is required by the peace officer standards and training board for law enforcement officers. A local law enforcement agency shall issue a certificate of compliance under this section to an individual who is proficient.
- 3. This section does not prevent any political subdivision from enacting an ordinance that is less restrictive than this section relating to the possession of firearms or dangerous weapons at a public gathering. An enacted ordinance supersedes this section within the jurisdiction of the political subdivision.
- **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 62.1-02-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

62.1-02-10. Carrying loaded firearm in vehicle certain vehicles prohibited - Penalty - Exceptions.

An individual may not keep or carry a loaded firearm in or on any motor vehicle including an off-highway vehicle or snowmobile in this state. An individual violating this section is guilty of a class B misdemeanor. This prohibition does not apply to:

- A member of the armed forces of the United States or national guard, organized reserves, state defense forces, or state guard organizations while possessing the firearm issued to the member by the organization and while on official duty.
- 2. A law enforcement officer, except while the officer is engaged in hunting or trapping activities with a rifle or shotgun.
- 3. An individual possessing a valid North Dakota concealed weapons license from this state or a valid license issued by another state authorizing the individual to carry a firearm or dangerous weapon concealed if that state permits a holder of a valid North Dakota concealed weapons license to carry a firearm or dangerous weapon concealed in that state without obtaining a similar license from that state, except while that individual is in the field engaged in hunting or trapping activities who has reciprocity under section 62.1-04-03.1 with a handgun, or with a rifle or shotgun if not in the field hunting or trapping.
- 4. An individual in the field engaged in lawful hunting or trapping of nongame species or fur-bearing animals.
- 5. A security guard or private investigator properly licensed to carry firearms.
- An individual possessing a valid special permit issued pursuant to section 20.1-02-05.

SECTION 6. AMENDMENT. Section 62.1-03-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 1. An unloadedA handgun may not be carried unless by an individual not otherwise prohibited and if:
 - a. Between the hours of one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset, the handgun is <u>unloaded and either</u> in plain view or is secured.
 - b. Between the hours of one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise, the handgun is <u>unloaded and</u> secured.
- The restrictions provided in subdivisions a and b of subsection 1 do not apply to:
 - a. An individual possessing a valid concealed weapons license from this state or who has reciprocity under section 62.1-04-03.1.
 - An individual on that person's land, or in that individual's permanent or temporary residence, or fixed place of business.
 - c. An individual while lawfully engaged in target shooting.

d. An individual while in the field engaging in the lawful pursuit of hunting or trapping. However, nothing in this exception authorizes the carrying of a loaded handgun in a motor vehicle.

- e. An individual permitted by law to possess a firearm while carrying the handgun unloaded and in a secure wrapper from the place of purchase to that person's home or place of business, or to a place of repair or back from those locations.
- f. Any North Dakota law enforcement officer.
- g. Any law enforcement officer of any other state or political subdivision of another state if on official duty within this state.
- h. Any armed security guard or investigator as authorized by law when on duty or going to or from duty.
- Any member of the armed forces of the United States when on duty or going to or from duty and when carrying the handgun issued to the member.
- j. Any member of the national guard, organized reserves, state defense forces, or state guard organizations, when on duty or going to or from duty and when carrying the handgun issued to the member by the organization.
- k. Any officer or employee of the United States duly authorized to carry a handgun.
- An individual engaged in manufacturing, repairing, or dealing in handguns or the agent or representative of that individual possessing, using, or carrying a handgun in the usual or ordinary course of the business.
- m. Any common carrier, but only when carrying the handgun as part of the cargo in the usual cargo carrying portion of the vehicle.

SECTION 7. AMENDMENT. Subsection 5 of section 62.1-04-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

5. A bow and arrow, an unloaded rifle er, shotgun, unloaded handgun, or an unloadeda weapon that will expel, or is readily capable of expelling, a projectile by the action of a spring, compressed air, or compressed gas including any such weapon commonly referred to as a BB gun, air rifle, or CO₂ gun, while carried in a motor vehicle.

SECTION 8. AMENDMENT. Section 62.1-04-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

62.1-04-02. Carrying concealed firearms or dangerous weapons prohibited.

An individual, other than a law enforcement officer, may not carry any firearm or dangerous weapon concealed unless the individual is licensed to do so or exempted under this chapter. For purposes of this chapter, the term "dangerous weapon" does not include a spray or aerosol containing CS (ortho-chlorobenzamalonitrile), CN-(alpha-chloroacetophenone) or other irritating agent intended for use in the defense of an individual, nor does the term include any stun gun or device that uses direct contact to deliver voltage for the defense of an individual.

241 **SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 2 of section 62.1-04-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 2. The attorney general shall offer class 1 firearm and class 2 firearm and dangerous weapon licenses to carry a firearm or dangerous weapon concealed under the following requirements:
 - a. An applicant for a class 1 firearm license shall successfully participate in a classroom instruction that sets forth weapon safety rules and the deadly force law of North Dakota, complete an open book test based upon a manual, demonstrate familiarity with a firearm, and complete an actual shooting or certified proficiency exercise. Evidence of familiarity with a firearm to be concealed may be satisfied by one of the following:
 - (1) Certification of familiarity with a firearm by an individual who has been certified by the attorney general, which may include a law enforcement officer, military or civilian firearms instructor, or hunter safety instructor;
 - (2) Evidence of equivalent experience with a firearm through participation in an organized shooting competition, law enforcement, or military service;
 - (3) Possession of a license from another state to carry a firearm, concealed or otherwise, which is granted by that state upon completion of a course described in paragraphs 1 and 2; or
 - (4) Evidence that the applicant, during military service, was found to be gualified to operate a firearm.
 - b. An applicant for a class 2 firearm and dangerous weapon license is required to successfully complete the open book test offered for the class 1 firearm license.
 - c. A North Dakota resident who has a valid class 1 firearm license also may carry a class 2 dangerous weapon without any further testing required. Class 1 and class 2 permits are equally valid in this state.
 - d. Additional testing is not required to renew a class 2 firearm and dangerous weapon license. A class 1 firearm license may be renewed upon successful completion of the class 1 firearm requirements within thirty days before submission of the application for renewal.

242 **SECTION 10. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 7 of section 62.1-04-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

7. The director of the bureau of criminal investigation may deny an application or revoke or cancel a license after it has been granted for any material misstatement by an applicant in an application for the license or any violation of this title. The director of the bureau of criminal investigation shall disclose to the applicant the specific reason for denial or revocation of the license.

²⁴¹ Section 62.1-04-03 was also amended by section 10 of House Bill No. 1241, chapter 475.

²⁴² Section 62.1-04-03 was also amended by section 9 of House Bill No. 1241, chapter 475.

SECTION 11. AMENDMENT. Section 62.1-05-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 62.1-05-01. Possession and sale of machine guns, automatic rifles, silencers, and bombs Penalty Forfeiture.
 - 1. NoA person may not purchase, sell, have, or possess a machine gun, fully automatic rifle, silencer, or bomb loaded with explosives or poisonous or dangerous gases, or any other federally licensed firearm or dangerous weapon unless that person has complied with the National Firearms Act [26 U.S.C. 5801-5872].

Any federal licensee who purchases, sells, has, or possesses those items for the licensee's protection or for sale must forward a copy of the licensee's federal license along with the required weapons transfer form to the licensee's local county sheriff and to the chief of the bureau of criminal investigation within five days of the receipt of those forms.

2. A person who violates this section is guilty of a class C felony. Upon arrest of that person, the firearm or dangerous weapon must be seized. Upon conviction of the person and motion to the court in which the conviction occurred, the firearm or dangerous weapon must be forfeited to the jurisdiction in which the arrest was made. The firearm or dangerous weapon may be sold at public auction, retained for use, or destroyed pursuant to the court's order. If a qualified local program as defined under section 12.1-32-02.2 has paid a reward for information that resulted in forfeiture of the item and the item has been sold, the jurisdiction shall, after payment of expenses for forfeiture and sale, repay the qualified local program for the reward that it has paid.

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CHAPTER 476

HOUSE BILL NO. 1450

(Representatives B. Koppelman, Brabandt, Karls, K. Koppelman, Laning, Porter, Ruby, Streyle)
(Senators Larsen, Miller)

AN ACT to amend and reenact subsection 16 of section 62.1-01-01and subdivision a of subsection 6 of section 62.1-02-13 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to concealed weapons and firearms.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

²⁴³ **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 16 of section 62.1-01-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

16. "Unloaded" means the chamber of the firearm does not contain a loaded shell. If the firearm is a revolver, then none of the chambers in the cylinder may contain a loaded shell. Handguns with a removable magazine or clip must have the magazine or clip removed from the firearm if the magazine or clip contains any loaded shells.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Subdivision a of subsection 6 of section 62.1-02-13 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

 Any public or nonpublic elementary school, middle school, or high school, eollege, or university property.

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²⁴³ Section 62.1-01-01 was also amended by section 2 of House Bill No. 1241, chapter 475.

CHAPTER 477

HOUSE BILL NO. 1457

(Representatives Karls, Brabandt, B. Koppelman, K. Koppelman, Porter) (Senators Armstrong, Cook)

AN ACT to amend and reenact section 62.1-01-02 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the forfeiture and disposition of firearms; and to provide for application.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 62.1-01-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

62.1-01-02. Forfeiture of dangerous weapon or firearm by person arrested and convicted of crime.

- 1. Any firearm or dangerous weapon used or possessed while in the commission of a felony or a misdemeanor involving violence or intimidation must be seized and, upon conviction and by motion, forfeited to the jurisdiction in which the arrest was made or the jurisdiction in which the charge arose. Except as provided in chapter 29-01 for stolen property, the forfeited firearm or dangerous weapon may be, pursuant to court order, sold at public auction, sold or traded to other law enforcement agencies or authorized firearm-dealers, retained for use, or destroyed.
- 2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law; and subject to the duty to return firearms to innocent owners under this section, section 29-31.1-02, and as provided in chapter 29-01 for stolen property; all firearms, as defined in section 62.1-01-01, which are forfeited, recovered as stolen and unclaimed, or abandoned to any law enforcement agency of this state or a political subdivision of this state, including the game and fish department, or that are otherwise acquired by the state or a political subdivision of the state and are no longer needed, shall be disposed of as provided in this section. Except as provided in chapter 29-01 for stolen property, this section does not apply to firearms that are seized or confiscated and disposed of under chapter 20.1-10.
- 3. a. Before the disposal of any firearm under this section, the agency with custody of the firearm shall use its best efforts to determine if the firearm has been lost by, or stolen or otherwise unlawfully obtained from, an innocent owner and, if so, shall provide notification to the innocent owner of its custody of the firearm. An innocent owner may also notify the agency to claim a firearm.
 - b. After notification, the agency shall return the firearm to its innocent owner provided the owner submits sufficient proof of ownership, as determined by the agency, and pays the costs, if any, of returning the firearm to the innocent owner. Costs are limited to the actual costs of shipping to the innocent owner and associated costs from any transfer and background check fees charged when delivering the firearm to the innocent owner.

- c. If six months elapse after notification to the innocent owner of the custody of the firearm by an agency and the innocent owner fails to bear the costs of return of his or her firearm or fails to respond to the agency notification. or if six months elapse after notice of a claim by an innocent owner and the innocent owner fails to bear the costs of return of the innocent owner's firearm or take away the innocent owner's firearm, then the agency shall dispose of the firearm as provided in this section.
- 4. a. Except as provided in subdivision b of subsection 3 or subsection 5, the agency shall dispose of the firearms that it receives under subsection 2 by sale at public auction to persons that may lawfully possess a firearm and persons licensed as firearms collectors, dealers, importers, or manufacturers under the provisions of 18 U.S.C. section 921 et seq., and authorized to receive such firearms under the terms of the licenses.
 - b. The auction required by this subsection may occur online on a rolling basis or at live events, but in no event may the auction occur less frequently than once every year during any time the agency has an inventory of saleable firearms. The agency shall establish a procedure to notify persons of its auctions.
 - c. The agency may not retain proceeds above that which are necessary to cover the costs of administering this subsection, with any surplus to be transferred to the general fund of the jurisdiction in which the agency is located, provided that an agency may be reimbursed for any firearms formerly in use by the agency that are sold under this section.
 - d. Employees of the agency are not eligible to bid on the firearms at an auction conducted under this subsection, and except for the amounts authorized under subdivision c of this subsection, neither the agency nor its employees may retain any proceeds from any sale required by this subsection, nor may the agency or its employees retain any firearm required to be sold under this subsection.
- 5. a. The requirements of subsection 4 do not apply to a firearm if there are not any bids from eligible persons received within six months from when bidding opened on the firearm, or if the agency director, sheriff, chief of police, or a designee of the official certifies that the firearm is unsafe for use because of wear, damage, age, or modification or because any federal or state law prohibits the sale or distribution of the firearm. The agency director, sheriff, chief of police, or a designee of the official, may transfer any of these firearms to the attorney general's crime laboratory for training or experimental purposes, or to a museum or historical society that displays these items to the public and is lawfully eligible to receive the firearm, or the firearm may be destroyed. The requirements of subsection 4 do not apply to a firearm and an agency director, sheriff, chief of police, or a designee of the official may destroy the firearm, if:
 - (1) The firearm was used in a violent crime, in an accidental shooting, or a self-inflicted shooting resulting in the death of an individual;
 - (2) There is not a claim for the firearm by an innocent owner; and
 - (3) A family member of the deceased individual makes a written request for the destruction of the firearm.

 Agencies subject to the provisions of this subsection may establish a procedure to destroy firearms and may expend necessary funds for that purpose.

- 6. All agencies subject to the provisions of this section shall keep records of the firearms acquired and disposed of as provided in this section, as well as the proceeds of the sales and the disbursement of the proceeds, and shall maintain these records for not less than ten years from the date on which a firearm is disposed of or on which a disbursement of funds is made, as the case may be.
- 7. Neither the state nor any political subdivision of the state, nor any of their officers, agents, and employees, is liable to any person, including the purchaser of a firearm, for personal injuries or damage to property arising from the sale or disposal of a firearm under subsection 4 or 5 of this section, unless an officer, agent, or employee of the state or political subdivision acted with gross negligence or recklessness.
- 8. As used in this section, the term "innocent owner" means a person who:
 - a. Did not beforehand know or in the exercise of ordinary care would not have known of the conduct which caused that person's firearm to be forfeited, seized, or abandoned to any law enforcement agency of the state or any political subdivision of the state, including the game and fish department;
 - <u>Did not participate in the commission of a crime or delinquent act involving</u> that person's firearm;
 - <u>Legally owned and presently owns the firearm forfeited, seized, or abandoned; and</u>
 - d. Is authorized by state and federal law to receive and possess his or her firearm.

SECTION 2. APPLICATION. Any firearm held by an agency on August 1, 2015, is subject to the disposal and sale provisions of this Act.

Approved April 15, 2015 Filed April 15, 2015

CHAPTER 478

SENATE BILL NO. 2274

(Senators Armstrong, Poolman, Unruh) (Representatives Karls, Streyle, Toman)

AN ACT to create and enact a new section to chapter 62.1-05 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to chief law enforcement officer certification for certain firearms.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. A new section to chapter 62.1-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Chief law enforcement officer certification - Certain firearms.

- 1. For purposes of this section:
 - a. "Chief law enforcement officer" means any official, or the designee of the official, the bureau of alcohol, tobacco, firearms and explosives, or any successor agency, identified by regulation as eligible to provide any required certification for the making or transfer of a firearm.
 - b. "Certification" means the participation and assent of the chief law enforcement officer necessary under federal law for the approval of the application to transfer or make a firearm. A chief law enforcement officer is not required to make any certification under this section the officer knows to be untrue, but the officer may not refuse to provide certification based on a generalized objection to private persons or entities making, possessing, or receiving firearms or any certain type of firearm the possession of which is not prohibited by law.
 - c. "Firearm" has the same meaning as provided in the National Firearms Act [26 U.S.C. § 5845(a)].
- 2. When a chief law enforcement officer's certification is required by federal law or regulation for the transfer or making of a firearm, the chief law enforcement officer, within thirty days of receipt of a request for certification, shall provide the certification if the applicant is not prohibited by law from receiving or possessing the firearm or is not the subject of a proceeding that could result in the applicant being prohibited by law from receiving or possessing the firearm. If the chief law enforcement officer is unable to make a certification as required by this section, the officer shall provide the applicant with a written notification of the denial and the reason for this determination.
- 3. In making the certification required by subsection 2, a chief law enforcement officer or designee may require the applicant to provide only the information as is required by federal or state law to identify the applicant and conduct a criminal background check, including a check of the national instant criminal background check system, or to determine the disposition of an arrest or proceeding relevant to the applicant's eligibility to lawfully possess or receive a

firearm. A chief law enforcement officer may not require access to or consent for an inspection of any private premises as a condition of making a certification under this section.

- 4. Chief law enforcement officers and their employees who act in good faith are immune from liability arising from any act or omission in making a certification as required by this section.
- 5. An applicant whose request for certification is denied may appeal the chief law enforcement officer's decision to the district court for the county in which the applicant resides in accordance with the procedures provided in section 28-34-01. If the court finds that the applicant is not prohibited by law from receiving or possessing the firearm, or is not the subject of a proceeding that could result in the prohibition, or that there is insufficient evidence to support the chief law enforcement officer's determination that the officer cannot truthfully make the certification, the court shall order the chief law enforcement officer to issue the certification and award court costs and reasonable attorney's fees to the applicant.

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