

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1537**

Introduced by

Representatives Schneider, Boschee, Conmy, Dakane, Davis, Dobervich, Finley-DeVille,  
Hanson

Senators Braunberger, Mathern, Piepkorn

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-12 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to the data collection and reporting of bias crimes; to amend and reenact  
3 sections 12-63-04, 12.1-17-02, 12.1-17-07, and 12.1-21-05 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
4 relating to the duty of ~~the peace officer standards and training board~~ a law enforcement agency  
5 to provide training approved by the peace officer standards and training board on bias crimes,  
6 aggravated assault, harassment, and criminal mischief; to provide for a report to the legislative  
7 management; and to provide a penalty.

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

9 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 12-63-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
10 amended and reenacted as follows:

11 **12-63-04. Board - Powers - Duties - Authority.**

12 The board shall administer, coordinate, and enforce the provisions of this chapter, evaluate  
13 the qualifications of applicants, and approve the examinations for licensing under this chapter.

14 1. The board shall:

- 15 a. Prescribe the criteria for certification of basic, advanced, and specialized peace  
16 officer training curriculum, instructors, and schools;  
17 b. Certify curriculum, instructors, schools, and officers that have met the training  
18 certification criteria;  
19 c. Establish the curriculum for basic and advanced peace officer training, including  
20 a course of instruction, and ongoing training in identifying and responding to bias  
21 crimes; and  
22 d. Prescribe minimum standards of sidearm training and certification for peace  
23 officers before they may carry a sidearm.

- 1       2. The board shall keep records and minutes necessary to carry out its functions. The  
2       board may:
- 3       a. Issue subpoenas, examine witnesses, administer oaths, and investigate  
4       allegations of practices violating the provisions of this chapter or rules adopted by  
5       the board.
- 6       b. Examine, under oath, any applicant for licensing.
- 7       c. Examine, under oath, any licensed peace officer during a hearing to suspend,  
8       revoke, or to not renew a license of a peace officer.
- 9       d. Adopt rules relating to the professional conduct of peace officers and to  
10      implement the requirements of this chapter, including rules relating to  
11      professional licensure, continuing education, and ethical standards of practice,  
12      for persons holding a license to practice peace officer duties.
- 13      3. ~~The board shall provide refresher training to all licensed peace officers every~~  
14      ~~two years in identifying and responding to bias crimes~~require peace officers complete  
15      bias crimes refresher training every three years, as a requirement for license renewal.
- 16      a. The course of instruction and ongoing training in identifying and responding to  
17      bias crimes established under subdivision c of subsection 1 must:
- 18          (1) Include material to help peace officers distinguish a bias crime from any  
19          other crime;
- 20          (2) Help peace officers understand and assist a victim of a bias crime; and
- 21          (3) ~~Ensure a bias crime is accurately reported~~Include instruction on proper  
22          reporting requirements as required under section 5 of this Act.
- 23      b. The board shall update the ~~course~~ training criteria periodically as necessary.
- 24      c. As used in this subsection, "bias crime" has the same meaning as in section 5 of  
25      this Act.
- 26      4. The board shall adopt rules relating to the professional conduct of licensed peace  
27      officers involved in confidential informant agreements under chapter 29-29.5, and shall  
28      receive complaints and make determinations if an officer's conduct violated the  
29      protections provided in chapter 29-29.5. Annually, the board shall conduct an audit  
30      evaluating the effectiveness of confidential informant training requirements.

- 1     ~~4.5.~~   The board shall establish penalties and enforce violations of protections provided in  
2           chapter 29-29.5. The penalties established must be formulated based on the nature,  
3           severity, gravity, and recurrence of violations. The board may deny, suspend, or  
4           revoke a license or may impose probationary conditions, including remedial training.  
5     ~~5.6.~~   The board may issue certifications indicating whether law enforcement agencies  
6           comply with requirements for grant funding purposes.

7       **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 12.1-17-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
8   amended and reenacted as follows:

9       **12.1-17-02. Aggravated assault.**

- 10      1.   Except as provided in subsection 2, a person is guilty of a class C felony if that person:  
11          a.   Willfully causes serious bodily injury to another human being;  
12          b.   Knowingly causes bodily injury or substantial bodily injury to another human  
13               being with a dangerous weapon or other weapon, the possession of which under  
14               the circumstances indicates an intent or readiness to inflict serious bodily injury;  
15          c.   Causes bodily injury or substantial bodily injury to another human being while  
16               attempting to inflict serious bodily injury on any human being; ~~or~~  
17          d.   Fires a firearm or hurls a destructive device at another human being; or  
18          e.   Causes bodily injury or substantial bodily injury to another human being because  
19               of the victim's actual or perceived race, color, religion, gender, disability, sexual  
20               orientation, gender identity, national origin, or ancestry.  
21      2.   The person is guilty of a class B felony if the person violates subsection 1 and the  
22          victim:  
23          a.   Is under twelve years of age;  
24          b.   Is a peace officer or correctional institution employee acting in an official capacity,  
25               which the actor knows to be a fact; or  
26          c.   Suffers permanent loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member or  
27               organ.

28       **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 12.1-17-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
29   amended and reenacted as follows:

30       **12.1-17-07. Harassment.**

- 31      1.   A person is guilty of an offense if, with intent to frighten or harass another, the person:



- 1 a. Communicates in writing or by electronic communication a threat to inflict injury  
2 on any person, to any person's reputation, or to any property;
- 3 b. Makes a telephone call anonymously or in offensively coarse language;
- 4 c. Makes repeated telephone calls or other electronic communication, whether or  
5 not a conversation ensues, with no purpose of legitimate communication; ~~or~~
- 6 d. Communicates a falsehood in writing or by electronic communication and causes  
7 mental anguish; or
- 8 e. Commits an offense in violation of subdivisions a, b, c, or d in whole or in part on  
9 the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, gender, disability, sexual  
10 orientation, gender identity, national origin, or ancestry.
- 11 2. The offense is a class A misdemeanor if it is under subdivision a of subsection 1 or  
12 subsection 4. Otherwise it is a class B misdemeanor.
- 13 3. Any offense defined herein and committed by use of electronic communication may be  
14 deemed to have been committed at either the place at which the electronic  
15 communication was made or at the place where the electronic communication was  
16 received.
- 17 4. A person is guilty of an offense if the person initiates communication with a  
18 911 emergency line, public safety answering point, or an emergency responder  
19 communication system with the intent to annoy or harass another person or a public  
20 safety agency or who makes a false report to a public safety agency.
  - 21 a. Intent to annoy or harass is established by proof of one or more calls with no  
22 legitimate emergency purpose.
  - 23 b. Upon conviction of a violation of this subsection, a person is also liable for all  
24 costs incurred by any unnecessary emergency response.
- 25 5. Any offense defined herein is deemed communicated in writing if it is transmitted  
26 electronically, by electronic mail, facsimile, or other similar means. Electronic  
27 communication means transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data, or  
28 intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio,  
29 electromagnetic, photo-electronic, or photo-optical system.

30 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 12.1-21-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
31 amended and reenacted as follows:

**12.1-21-05. Criminal mischief.**

1. A person is guilty of an offense if that person:
  - a. Willfully tampers with tangible property of another so as to endanger person or property; or
  - b. Willfully damages tangible property of another.
2. The offense is:
  - a. A class B felony if the actor intentionally causes pecuniary loss in excess of ten thousand dollars.
  - b. A class C felony if the actor intentionally causes pecuniary loss in excess of two thousand dollars but not in excess of ten thousand dollars or damages tangible property of another by means of an explosive or a destructive device.
  - c. A class A misdemeanor if the actor recklessly causes pecuniary loss in excess of two thousand dollars or if the actor intentionally causes pecuniary loss of from one hundred dollars through two thousand dollars.
  - d. A class A misdemeanor if the actor damages the property in whole or in part because of:
    - (1) The owner's actual or perceived race, color, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, or ancestry; or
    - (2) The property's believed association or affiliation with or representation of race, color, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, or ancestry.

Otherwise the offense is a class B misdemeanor.

**SECTION 5.** A new section to chapter 54-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

**Collection of bias crime information - Report.**

1. As used in this section:
  - a. "Bias crime" means:
    - (1) A criminal act committed against a person or a person's property in whole or in part because of actual or perceived race, color, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, or ancestry or which is committed for the purpose of restraining that person from exercising the

- 1                    person's rights under the Constitution or laws of this state or of the United  
2                    States in whole or in part because of actual or perceived race, color,  
3                    religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin,  
4                    or ancestry;
- 5                    (2) An illegal act directed against any person or any person's property in whole  
6                    or in part because of the person's actual or perceived race, color, religion,  
7                    gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, or  
8                    ancestry; and
- 9                    (3) All other incidents, as determined by a law enforcement agency, intended to  
10                   intimidate or harass an individual or group in whole or in part because of  
11                   actual or perceived race, color, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation,  
12                   gender identity, national origin, or ancestry.
- 13                   b. "Law enforcement agency" means a nonfederal public agency authorized by law  
14                   or by a government agency or branch to enforce the law and to conduct or  
15                   engage in investigations or prosecutions for violations of law. The term includes a  
16                   multijurisdictional task force.
- 17                   2. Each law enforcement agency shall collect information on reported bias crimes, ~~bias~~  
18                   ~~motivations,~~ and on groups and individuals committing bias crimes.
- 19                   3. Annually, each law enforcement agency shall submit information collected under  
20                   subsection 2 to the attorney general in a form, time, and manner prescribed by the  
21                   attorney general.
- 22                   4. The data and reports compiled under this section are public information and not  
23                   exempt from disclosure but may not contain the name of an individual who:  
24                   a. Committed or allegedly committed a bias crime; or  
25                   b. Was the victim or the alleged victim of a bias crime.
- 26                   5. By July first of each year, the attorney general shall submit to the legislative  
27                   management and the governor a written report summarizing the data from the  
28                   preceding calendar year including:  
29                   a. The type of bias crimes occurring in the state;  
30                   b. The number of bias crimes alleged, prosecuted, and for which a conviction was  
31                   obtained; and



- 1           c. Bias crime victim demographics.
- 2       6. The attorney general may require the reporting of additional information not specified  
3       in this section. The attorney general shall develop standard forms, processes, and  
4       deadlines for the biannual submission of bias crime data by law enforcement  
5       agencies.
- 6       7. If a law enforcement agency fails to file a report within thirty days after the report is  
7       due, the attorney general may compel compliance by any means until the report is  
8       filed.
- 9       8. Annually the attorney general shall submit to the federal bureau of investigation the  
10       statistical data collected under this section regarding the occurrence of bias crimes  
11       within the state.