

Introduced by

Legislative Management

(Judiciary Committee)

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new subsection to section 62.1-02-01 and a new  
2 subsection to section 62.1-02-10 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the possession  
3 of firearms; to amend and reenact subsections 3 and 7 of section 62.1-01-01, subdivision c of  
4 subsection 1 of section 62.1-02-01, subsection 1 of section 62.1-02-01.1, subsection 1 of  
5 section 62.1-02-05, subdivision l of subsection 2 of section 62.1-02-05, section 62.1-02-07,  
6 subdivision a of subsection 6 of section 62.1-02-13, and sections 62.1-03-01 and 62.1-04-02 of  
7 the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the possession of firearms; and to provide a penalty.

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

9 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsections 3 and 7 of section 62.1-01-01 of the North Dakota  
10 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 11 3. "Firearm" or "weapon" means any device ~~which will expel,~~that expels or is readily  
12 capable of expelling; a projectile by the action of an explosive and includes any such  
13 device, loaded or unloaded, commonly referred to as a pistol, revolver, rifle, gun,  
14 machine gun, shotgun, bazooka, or cannon. ~~For a felon who is not sentenced under~~  
15 ~~section 12.1-32-09.1, the term does not include a firearm or weapon that is a rifle that~~  
16 ~~has a barrel sixteen inches [40.64 centimeters] or longer or a shotgun that has a barrel~~  
17 ~~eighteen inches [45.72 centimeters] or longer and which is one of the following:~~  
18 a. ~~A firearm, including any firearm with a matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap, or~~  
19 ~~similar type of ignition system, manufactured before 1899.~~  
20 b. ~~A replica of any firearm described in subdivision a, if the replica is not designed~~  
21 ~~or redesigned for using rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition or~~  
22 ~~uses rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition that is no longer~~  
23 ~~manufactured in the United States and which is not readily available in the~~  
24 ~~ordinary channels of commercial trade.~~

- 1 e. ~~A muzzleloading rifle or muzzleloading shotgun that is designed to use black-~~  
2 ~~powder, or a black powder substitute, and cannot use fixed ammunition.~~
- 3 7. "Law enforcement officer" means:
- 4 a. A public servant authorized by law or by a government agency or branch to  
5 enforce the law and to conduct or engage in investigations or prosecutions for  
6 violations of law; or
- 7 b. A retired public servant in good standing who:
- 8 (1) Was authorized by law or by a government agency or branch for at least ten  
9 years to enforce the law and to conduct or engage in investigations or  
10 prosecutions for violations of law or who was separated from service due to  
11 a service-related disability;
- 12 (2) Maintains the same level of firearms proficiency as is required by the peace  
13 officers standards and training board for law enforcement officers, maintains  
14 the standards for qualifications in firearms training for active law  
15 enforcement officers as determined by the former agency of the individual in  
16 the state in which the individual resides, or maintains the standards used by  
17 a certified firearms instructor qualified to conduct a firearms qualification test  
18 for active duty officers in the state in which the individual resides;
- 19 (3) Has a photo identification card issued by a local law enforcement agency  
20 which identifies the individual as having been employed by a government  
21 agency or branch as a law enforcement officer and indicates the individual  
22 has passed the firearms proficiency test within twelve months from the date  
23 of issue; and
- 24 (4) Has not been found by a qualified medical professional to be unqualified for  
25 reasons relating to mental health or entered an agreement with a  
26 government agency or branch in which the public servant acknowledges a  
27 lack of qualifications for reasons relating to the mental health of the public  
28 servant; ~~or~~
- 29 e. ~~A retired public servant in good standing who:~~
- 30 (1) ~~Was separated from service due to a service-related disability;~~

- 1           (2) ~~Maintains the same level of firearms proficiency as is required by the peace-~~  
2           ~~officers standards and training board for law enforcement officers, maintains~~  
3           ~~the standards for qualifications in firearms training for active law-~~  
4           ~~enforcement officers as determined by the former agency of the individual in~~  
5           ~~the state in which the individual resides, or maintains the standards used by~~  
6           ~~a certified firearms instructor qualified to conduct a firearms qualification test~~  
7           ~~for active duty officers in the state in which the individual resides;~~  
8           (3) ~~Has a photo identification card issued by a local law enforcement agency-~~  
9           ~~which identifies the individual as having been employed by a government-~~  
10          ~~agency or branch as a law enforcement officer and indicates the individual-~~  
11          ~~has passed the firearms proficiency test within twelve months from the date-~~  
12          ~~of issue; and~~  
13          (4) ~~Has not been found by a qualified medical professional to be unqualified for~~  
14          ~~reasons relating to mental health or entered an agreement with a-~~  
15          ~~government agency or branch in which the public servant acknowledges a-~~  
16          ~~lack of qualifications for reasons relating to the mental health of the public-~~  
17          ~~servant.~~

18           **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Subdivision c of subsection 1 of section 62.1-02-01 of the  
19 North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 20           c. A person who is or has ever been diagnosed and confined or committed to a  
21           hospital or other institution in this state or elsewhere by a court of competent  
22           jurisdiction, other than a person who has had the petition that provided the basis  
23           for the diagnosis, confinement, or commitment dismissed under section  
24           25-03.1-17, 25-03.1-18, or 25-03.1-19, or equivalent statutes of another  
25           jurisdiction, as a person requiring treatment as defined in section 25-03.1-02, or  
26           as a mentally deficient individual, is prohibited from purchasing a firearm or  
27           having one in possession or under control. This limitation does not apply to a  
28           person who has not suffered from ~~the~~ a mental disability for the previous three  
29           years ~~or~~ and who has successfully petitioned for relief under section 62.1-02-01.2.

30           **SECTION 3.** A new subsection to section 62.1-02-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
31 created and enacted as follows:

1 A felon who is not sentenced under section 12.1-32-09.1 may possess a rifle that has  
2 a barrel sixteen inches [40.72 centimeters] or longer or a shotgun that has a barrel  
3 eighteen inches [45.72 centimeters] or longer and which is one of the following:

4 a. A firearm, including any firearm with a matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap, or  
5 similar type of ignition system, manufactured before 1899.

6 b. A replica of any firearm described in subdivision a, if the replica is not designed  
7 or redesigned for using rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition or  
8 uses rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition that is no longer  
9 manufactured in the United States and which is not readily available in the  
10 ordinary channels of commercial trade.

11 c. A muzzleloading rifle or muzzleloading shotgun designed to use black powder or  
12 a black powder substitute and which cannot use fixed ammunition.

13 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 62.1-02-01.1 of the North Dakota  
14 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 15 1. An individual ~~who is~~ prohibited from possessing a firearm due to a conviction of a  
16 felony under subdivision b of subsection 1 of section 62.1-02-01 may petition the  
17 district court for restoration of the individual's firearm rights. If the felony offense was  
18 committed in this state, the petition must be filed with the district court in the county  
19 where the offense occurred. If the offense was a felony of another state or the federal  
20 government, the petition must be filed ~~with the district court in the county where the~~  
21 ~~petitioner resides~~ in the venue where the rights of the individual were revoked. A copy  
22 of the petition must be served on the state's attorney's office in the county where the  
23 petition is filed in accordance with Rule 5 of the North Dakota Rules of Civil Procedure.  
24 The state's attorney's office ~~shall have~~ has twenty days to file a written response to the  
25 petition with the district court.

26 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 62.1-02-05 of the North Dakota  
27 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 28 1. An individual who knowingly possesses a firearm or dangerous weapon at a public  
29 gathering is guilty of a class B misdemeanor. For the purpose of this section, "public  
30 gathering" means an athletic or sporting event, a school, a church or other place of  
31 worship, and a publicly owned or operated building.

1       **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Subdivision I of subsection 2 of section 62.1-02-05 of the North  
2 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

3           I. An individual possessing a valid concealed weapons license from this state or  
4           who has reciprocity under section 62.1-04-03.1 authorizing the individual to carry  
5           a firearm or dangerous weapon concealed if the individual is in a church building  
6           or other place of worship and has the approval to carry in the church building or  
7           other place of worship by a primary religious leader of the church or other place  
8           of worship or the governing body of the church or other place of worship;

9       **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 62.1-02-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
10 amended and reenacted as follows:

11       **62.1-02-07. Use of firearm by certain minors prohibited - Penalty.**

12       Any parent, guardian, or other person ~~having charge or custody~~authorized by the parent or  
13 guardian of any minor under fifteen years of age who permits that minor to carry or use ~~in public~~  
14 any firearm of any description loaded with powder and projectile, ~~except when the minor is~~  
15 ~~under the direct supervision of the parent, guardian, or other person authorized by the parent or~~  
16 guardian in public, is guilty of a class B misdemeanor. This section does not apply if the minor is  
17 under the direct supervision of the parent, guardian, or other person authorized by the parent or  
18 guardian.

19       **SECTION 8.** A new subsection to section 62.1-02-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
20 created and enacted as follows:

21           An individual who is not otherwise precluded from possessing a class 2 firearm and  
22           dangerous weapon license under chapter 62.1-04 and who has possessed for at least  
23           one year a valid driver's license or nondriver identification card issued by the  
24           department of transportation.

25       **SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Subdivision a of subsection 6 of section 62.1-02-13 of the  
26 North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

27           a. Any public or nonpublic elementary school, middle school, or high school  
28           property, except as otherwise provided in subsection 2 of section 62.1-02-05.

29       **SECTION 10. AMENDMENT.** Section 62.1-03-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
30 amended and reenacted as follows:

1       **62.1-03-01. Carrying handgun - ~~Restrictions~~Limitations - Exceptions.**

2       1. ~~A handgun may not be carried unless by an individual not otherwise prohibited~~  
3       ~~and~~Unless otherwise prohibited by law, an individual may carry a handgun if:

4       a. ~~Between the hours of one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset, the~~  
5       ~~handgun is unloaded and either in plain view or secured~~The handgun is  
6       unloaded, in plain view or secured, and between the hours of one hour before  
7       sunrise and one hour after sunset.

8       b. ~~Between the hours of one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise, the~~  
9       ~~handgun is unloaded and secured~~The handgun is unloaded and secured and  
10       between the hours of one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise.

11       2. ~~The restrictions provided in subdivisions~~A limitation under subdivision a ~~and~~or b of  
12       subsection 1 ~~does~~ not apply to:

13       a. An individual possessing a valid concealed weapons license from this state, an  
14       individual not otherwise precluded from possessing a class 2 firearm and  
15       dangerous weapon license under chapter 62.1-04 and who has possessed for at  
16       least one year a valid driver's license or nondriver identification card issued by  
17       the department of transportation, or an individual who has reciprocity under  
18       section 62.1-04-03.1.

19       b. An individual on that person's land, or in that individual's permanent or temporary  
20       residence, or fixed place of business.

21       c. An individual while lawfully engaged in target shooting.

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

25       e. An individual permitted by law to possess a firearm while carrying the handgun  
26       unloaded and in a secure wrapper from the place of purchase to that person's  
27       home or place of business, or to a place of repair or back from those locations.

28       f. Any North Dakota law enforcement officer.

29       g. Any law enforcement officer of any other state or political subdivision of another  
30       state if on official duty within this state.

- 1           h. Any armed security guard or investigator as authorized by law when on duty or  
2           going to or from duty.
- 3           i. Any member of the armed forces of the United States when on duty or going to or  
4           from duty and when carrying the handgun issued to the member.
- 5           j. Any member of the national guard, organized reserves, state defense forces, or  
6           state guard organizations, when on duty or going to or from duty and when  
7           carrying the handgun issued to the member by the organization.
- 8           k. Any officer or employee of the United States duly authorized to carry a handgun.
- 9           l. An individual engaged in manufacturing, repairing, or dealing in handguns or the  
10          agent or representative of that individual possessing, using, or carrying a  
11          handgun in the usual or ordinary course of the business.
- 12          m. Any common carrier, but only when carrying the handgun as part of the cargo in  
13          the usual cargo carrying portion of the vehicle.
- 14          n. ~~An individual who is not otherwise precluded from possessing a class 2 firearm  
15          and dangerous weapon license under chapter 62.1-04 and has possessed for at  
16          least one year a valid driver's license or nondriver identification card issued by  
17          the department of transportation.~~

18           **SECTION 11. AMENDMENT.** Section 62.1-04-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
19 amended and reenacted as follows:

20           **62.1-04-02. Carrying concealed firearms or dangerous weapons - License**  
21 **distinctions.**

- 22           1. An individual, other than a law enforcement officer, may not carry a firearm or  
23           dangerous weapon concealed unless the individual is licensed to do so or exempted  
24           under this chapter.
- 25           2. An individual who is not otherwise precluded from possessing a class 2 firearm and  
26           dangerous weapon license under this chapter and who has possessed for at least one  
27           year a valid driver's license or nondriver identification card issued by the department of  
28           transportation may carry a firearm concealed under this chapter.
- 29           3. For purposes of this chapter, the difference between a class 1 and class 2 firearm and  
30           dangerous weapon license is only the extent to which a holder of either license may  
31           be eligible to receive reciprocal rights in other jurisdictions. A class 1 firearm and

1           dangerous weapon licenseholder is eligible to receive reciprocal rights in more  
2           jurisdictions than a class 2 firearm and dangerous weapon licenseholder. The rights  
3           and privileges conveyed by a class 1 or class 2 firearm and dangerous weapon  
4           license within the state are identical.