

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1213**

Introduced by

Representatives N. Johnson, Maragos

Senator Wardner

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 14-09-06.1 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
2 relating to the awarding of custody of a minor.

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

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-09-06.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **14-09-06.1. Awarding custody - Best interests and welfare of child.** An order for  
7 custody of an unmarried minor child entered pursuant to this chapter must award the custody of  
8 the child to a person, agency, organization, or institution as will, in the opinion of the judge,  
9 promote the best interests and welfare of the child. Between the mother and father, whether  
10 natural or adoptive, there is no presumption as to who will better promote the best interests and  
11 welfare of the child. The court may order joint legal custody of the child which means that both  
12 parents must share the right and responsibility to make decisions relating to the health,  
13 education, and welfare of the child.