

**Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly, State of North Dakota, begun in the
Capitol in the City of Bismarck, on Tuesday, the fifth day of January,
one thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine**

SENATE BILL NO. 2125
(Senators Thane, Kilzer, Krebsbach)
(Representatives Jensen, Rose)
(At the request of the State Department of Health)

AN ACT to amend and reenact section 12.1-31-03 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the purchase, possession, and use of tobacco by minors; to provide a penalty; and to declare an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 12.1-31-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

12.1-31-03. Sale of tobacco to minors and use by minors prohibited.

1. It is ~~a class B misdemeanor~~ an infraction for any person to sell or furnish to a minor, or procure for a minor, cigarettes, cigarette papers, cigars, snuff, or tobacco in any other form in which it may be utilized for smoking or chewing. As used in this subsection, "sell" includes dispensing from a vending machine under the control of the actor.
2. It is ~~a class B misdemeanor~~ an infraction for a minor to purchase, possess, smoke, or use cigarettes, cigars, cigarette papers, snuff, or tobacco in any other form in which it may be utilized for smoking or chewing. However, an individual under eighteen years of age may purchase and possess tobacco as part of a compliance survey program when acting with the permission of the individual's parent or guardian and while acting under the supervision of any law enforcement authority. A state agency, city, county, board of health, tobacco retailer, or association of tobacco retailers may also conduct compliance surveys, after coordination with the appropriate local law enforcement authority.
3. A city or county may adopt an ordinance or resolution regarding the sale of tobacco to minors and use of tobacco by minors which is more stringent than this section. Any ordinance or resolution adopted which deems a violation of subsection 1 or 2 a noncriminal violation must provide for a fee of not less than twenty-five dollars.
 - a. Any individual who has been cited for a violation that is designated a noncriminal offense may appear before a court of competent jurisdiction and pay the statutory fee by the time scheduled for a hearing, or if bond has been posted, may forfeit the bond by not appearing at the scheduled time. An individual appearing at the time scheduled in the citation may make a statement in explanation of that individual's action and the judge may waive, reduce, or suspend the statutory fee or bond, or both. If the individual cited follows the procedures of this subdivision, that individual has admitted the violation and has waived the right to a hearing on the issue of commission of the violation. The bond required to secure appearance before the court must be identical to the statutory fee. This subdivision does not allow a halting officer to receive the statutory fee or bond.
 - b. If an individual cited for a violation that is designated a noncriminal offense does not choose to follow any procedure provided under subdivision a, that individual may request a hearing on the issue of the commission of the violation charged. The hearing must be held at the time scheduled in the citation or at some future time, not to exceed ninety days later, set at that first appearance. At the time of a request for a hearing on the issue on commission of the violation, the individual charged shall

deposit with the court an appearance bond equal to the statutory fee for the violation charged. The state must prove the commission of a charged violation at the hearing under this section by a preponderance of the evidence.

4. A law enforcement officer or juvenile court that cites a minor for violation of this section shall mail a notice of the violation to the parent or legal guardian of the minor within ten days of the citation.

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY. This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.

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 Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2125 and that two-thirds of the members-elect of the Senate voted in favor of said law.

Vote: Yeas 47 Nays 0 Absent 2

President of the Senate

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that two-thirds of the members-elect of the House of Representatives voted in favor of said law.

Vote: Yeas 85 Nays 11 Absent 2

Speaker of the House

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 1999.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 1999.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 1999,

at ___ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State