

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1267**

Introduced by

Representatives Carlisle, R. Kelsch, Mahoney, Weiler

Senators Freborg, Klein

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15.1-19 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to records of a school law enforcement unit; and to amend and reenact  
3 sections 27-20-51 and 27-20-52 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to court and law  
4 enforcement records of a juvenile.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15.1-19 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
7 created and enacted as follows:

8 **School law enforcement unit.**

- 9 1. The board of a school district may create or designate a school law enforcement  
10 unit as defined in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act [20 U.S.C.  
11 1232(g)] and rules adopted under the Act. Records of a school law enforcement  
12 unit regarding a student at a school are confidential but may be released to:  
13 a. A juvenile court having the student before it in any proceeding;  
14 b. Counsel for a party to the proceeding;  
15 c. Officers of public entities to whom the student is committed;  
16 d. Officers of a state or local law enforcement agency for use in the discharge of  
17 their official duties;  
18 e. Officials of other schools in which the student wishes to enroll; and  
19 f. The student's parent or legal guardian.  
20 2. Nothing in this section restricts the release of general information that does not  
21 identify the student.  
22 3. This section does not apply to education records that are confidential under federal  
23 law.

1           **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 27-20-51 of the 1999 Supplement to the North  
2 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

3           **27-20-51. Inspection of court files and records.**

- 4           1. Except as provided in this section, all files and records of the juvenile court,  
5           whether in the office of the clerk of district court or juvenile court, of a proceeding  
6           under this chapter are closed to the public. Juvenile court files and records are  
7           open to inspection only by:
- 8           a. The judge and staff of the juvenile court.
  - 9           b. The parties to the proceeding or their counsel or the guardian ad litem of any  
10           party.
  - 11           c. A public or private agency or institution providing supervision or having  
12           custody of the child under order of the juvenile court, which must be given a  
13           copy of the findings and order of disposition when it receives custody of the  
14           child.
  - 15           d. Any court and its probation and other officials or professional staff and the  
16           attorney for the defendant for use in preparing a presentence report in a  
17           criminal case in which the defendant is convicted and who, prior to the  
18           criminal case, had been a party to the proceeding in juvenile court.
  - 19           e. The professional staff of the uniform crime victims compensation program  
20           when necessary for the discharge of their duties pursuant to chapter 54-23.4.
  - 21           f. A staff member of the division of children and family services of the  
22           department of human services or a law enforcement officer when necessary  
23           for the performance of that person's duties under section 50-11.1-06.2 or the  
24           National Child Protection Act of 1993 [Pub. L. 103-209; 107 Stat. 2490; 42  
25           U.S.C. 5119 et seq.].
  - 26           g. An employee or agent of the department of human services when necessary  
27           for performance of that individual's duty under chapter 50-11 or 50-11.1 to  
28           investigate the background of an individual living or working in the facility,  
29           home, or residence for which licensure is sought.

- 1           2. Juvenile court files and records are also open to inspection with written leave of a  
2 juvenile court judge or judicial referee to whom juvenile court matters have been  
3 referred:
- 4           a. Upon a showing in writing of a legitimate interest in a proceeding or in the  
5 work of the juvenile court, but only to the extent necessary to respond to the  
6 legitimate interest; and
- 7           b. By the principal of any public or private school that is a member of the North  
8 Dakota high school activities association, or the superintendent of any school  
9 district that has one or more schools involved in the association, but only to  
10 the extent necessary to enforce the rules and regulations of the North Dakota  
11 high school activities association.
- 12          3. In a proceeding under this chapter, if the juvenile court finds that a child committed  
13 a delinquent or unruly act that constitutes a violation of a law or local ordinance  
14 governing the operation of a motor vehicle or a delinquent act of manslaughter or  
15 negligent homicide caused by the child's operation of a motor vehicle, the juvenile  
16 court shall report the finding to the director of the department of transportation  
17 within ten days.
- 18          4. ~~Following an adjudication of delinquency for an offense that would be a felony if~~  
19 ~~committed by an adult, the juvenile's school principal, chief administrative officer,~~  
20 ~~or designated school guidance counselor, if requested, must be allowed access to~~  
21 ~~the disposition order. Juvenile court files and records may be disclosed to officials~~  
22 ~~of the school in which the child is currently enrolled or in which the child wishes to~~  
23 ~~enroll.~~
- 24          5. Following an adjudication of delinquency for an offense that results in the  
25 prohibitions included in subsection 1 or 2 of section 62.1-02-01, if requested, a law  
26 enforcement officer must be allowed access to the disposition order.
- 27          6. The juvenile court may notify a referring agency of the disposition of a case.
- 28          7. Notwithstanding that juvenile court records are closed to the public, nothing in this  
29 section may be construed to limit the release upon request of general information  
30 not identifying the identity of any juvenile, witness, or victim in any proceeding

1 under this chapter. Files in the clerk of court's office are open to public inspection  
2 if the related hearing was open to the public under section 27-20-24.

3 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 27-20-52 of the 1999 Supplement to the North  
4 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

5 **27-20-52. Law enforcement records.** Law enforcement records and files of a child  
6 alleged or found to be delinquent, unruly, or deprived must be kept separate from the records  
7 and files of arrests of adults. Unless a charge of delinquency is transferred for criminal  
8 prosecution under section 27-20-34, the interest of national security requires, or the court  
9 otherwise orders in the interest of the child, these records and files may not be open to public  
10 inspection; but inspection of these records and files is permitted by:

- 11 1. A juvenile court having the child before it in any proceeding;
- 12 2. Counsel for a party to the proceeding;
- 13 3. The officers of public institutions or agencies to whom the child is committed;
- 14 4. Law enforcement officers of other jurisdictions when necessary for the discharge of  
15 their official duties;
- 16 5. A court in which the child is convicted of a criminal offense for the purpose of a  
17 presentence report or other dispositional proceeding, or by officials of penal  
18 institutions and other penal facilities to which the child is committed, or by the  
19 parole board, the governor, or the pardon advisory board, if one has been  
20 appointed, in considering the child's parole or discharge or in exercising  
21 supervision over the child; ~~and~~
- 22 6. The professional staff of the uniform crime victims compensation program when  
23 necessary for the discharge of their duties pursuant to chapter 54-23.4.; and
- 24 7. Officials of the school in which the child is currently enrolled or officials of a school  
25 in which the child wishes to enroll.

26 Notwithstanding that law enforcement records and files of a child alleged or found to be  
27 delinquent, unruly, or deprived are not open to public inspection, nothing in this section may be  
28 construed to limit the release of general information not identifying the identity of the child.