

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1438**

Introduced by

Representatives S. Kelsh, DeKrey, J. Nelson, Gruchalla, Onstad

Senator Lyson

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 62.1-02 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to an employer's prohibition on firearm possession.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 62.1-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
5 and enacted as follows:

6 **Possession of secured firearm - Prohibition by employer prohibited.**

7 1. A public or private employer may not:

- 8 a. Prohibit any customer, employee, or invitee from possessing any legally owned  
9 firearm, if the firearm is lawfully possessed and locked inside or locked to a  
10 private motor vehicle in a parking lot and if the customer, employee, or invitee is  
11 lawfully in the area.
- 12 b. Make a verbal or written inquiry regarding the presence of a firearm inside or  
13 locked to a private motor vehicle in a parking lot or make an actual search of a  
14 private motor vehicle in a parking lot to ascertain the presence of a firearm within  
15 the vehicle. In addition, a public or private employer may not take any action  
16 against a customer, employee, or invitee based upon verbal or written statements  
17 of any party concerning possession of a firearm stored inside a private motor  
18 vehicle in a parking lot for lawful purposes. A search of a private motor vehicle in  
19 the parking lot of a public or private employer to ascertain the presence of a  
20 firearm within the vehicle may only be conducted by an on-duty law enforcement  
21 officer.
- 22 c. Condition employment upon the fact that an employee or prospective employee  
23 holds or does not hold a concealed weapons license or any agreement by an  
24 employee or a prospective employee that prohibits an employee from keeping a

- 1           legal firearm locked inside or locked to a private motor vehicle in a parking lot, if  
2           the firearm is kept for lawful purposes.
- 3           d. Prohibit or attempt to prevent any customer, employee, or invitee from entering  
4           the parking lot or the employer's place of business because the customer's,  
5           employee's, or invitee's private motor vehicle contains a legal firearm being  
6           carried for lawful purposes, that is out of sight within the customer's, employee's,  
7           or invitee's private motor vehicle.
- 8           e. Terminate the employment of or otherwise discriminate against an employee, or  
9           expel a customer or invitee for exercising the constitutional right to keep and bear  
10           arms or for exercising the right of self-defense as long as a firearm is never  
11           exhibited on company property for any reason other than lawful defensive  
12           purposes.
- 13           2. A public or private employer has no duty of care related to the actions prohibited under  
14           this section.
- 15           3. A public or private employer is not liable in a civil action based on actions or inactions  
16           taken in compliance with this section. The immunity provided in this subsection does  
17           not apply to civil actions based on actions or inactions of public or private employers  
18           that are unrelated to compliance with this section.
- 19           4. This section does not expand any existing duty, or create any additional duty, on the  
20           part of a public or private employer, property owner, or property owner's agent.
- 21           5. A person aggrieved under this section may bring a civil action for violation of rights  
22           protected under this section. In any successful action brought by a customer,  
23           employee, or invitee aggrieved under this section, the court shall award all reasonable  
24           personal costs and losses suffered by the aggrieved person as a result of the violation  
25           of rights under this section. In any action brought under this section, the court shall  
26           award all court costs and attorney's fees to the prevailing party.
- 27           6. The prohibitions in subsection 1 do not apply to:
- 28           a. Any public or nonpublic elementary school, middle school, high school, college,  
29           or university property.
- 30           b. Any correctional facility or institution.

- 1           c. Property owned or leased by a public or private employer or the landlord of a  
2           public or private employer upon which are conducted substantial activities  
3           involving national defense, aerospace, or homeland security.
- 4           d. Property owned or leased by a public or private employer or the landlord of a  
5           public or private employer upon which the primary business conducted is the  
6           manufacture, use, storage, or transportation of combustible or explosive  
7           materials regulated under state or federal law, or property owned or leased by an  
8           employer who has obtained a permit required under 18 U.S.C. 842 to engage in  
9           the business of importing, manufacturing, or dealing in explosive materials on the  
10          property.
- 11          e. A motor vehicle owned, leased, or rented by a public or private employer or the  
12          landlord of a public or private employer.
- 13          f. Any other property owned or leased by a public or private employer or the  
14          landlord of a public or private employer upon which possession of a firearm or  
15          other legal product by a customer, employee, or invitee is prohibited under any  
16          federal law, contract with a federal governmental entity, or other law of this state.