

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1305**

Introduced by

Representatives K. Koppelman, Brabandt, Klemin, Louser, Olson, Paur, Schreiber Beck  
Senator Armstrong

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 32-28-02 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
2 relating to requirements for a change of name.

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

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 32-28-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **32-28-02. Change of name of person - Petition - Criminal history record checks -**  
7 **Exceptions.**

8 1. Any person desiring to change that person's name may file a petition in the district  
9 court of the county in which the person is a resident, setting forth:

10 a. That the petitioner is:

11 (1) A natural born citizen of the United States; or

12 (2) A naturalized citizen of the United States.

13 b. That the petitioner has been a bona fide resident of the county for at least six  
14 months before the filing of the petition.

15 b-c. The reason for which the change of the petitioner's name is sought.

16 e-d. The name requested.

17 2. When an individual files a petition for a name change, the court shall determine  
18 whether the petitioner has a criminal history in this state or any other state. The court  
19 may require the petitioner to submit to a statewide and nationwide criminal history  
20 record check. The criminal history record check must be conducted in the manner  
21 provided for in section 12-60-24. All costs associated with the criminal history record  
22 check are the responsibility of the petitioner. This subsection does not apply to a  
23 request for a name change as part of an application for a marriage license under  
24 section 14-03-20, to a request for a name change in conjunction with the annulment of

1 a marriage under chapter 14-04 or the dissolution or separation of a marriage under  
2 chapter 14-05, or to the change of a minor's name unless the court has reason to  
3 believe the request is being made to defraud or mislead, is not being made in good  
4 faith, will cause injury to an individual, or will compromise public safety. If the individual  
5 petitioning for a name change has a felony conviction under a law of this state or a law  
6 of another state or the federal government, the request is presumed to be made in bad  
7 faith, to defraud or mislead, to cause injury to an individual, or to compromise public  
8 safety. The name change may not be granted unless the individual requesting the  
9 name change proves by clear and convincing evidence that the request is not based  
10 upon an intent to defraud or mislead, is made in good faith, will not cause injury to an  
11 individual, and will not compromise public safety.

12 3. The judge of the district court, upon being duly satisfied by affidavit or proof in open  
13 court of the truth of the allegations set forth in the petition, that there exists proper and  
14 reasonable cause for changing the name of the petitioner, and that thirty days'  
15 previous notice of the intended application has been given in the official newspaper of  
16 the county in which the petitioner resides, shall order a change of the name of the  
17 petitioner. Proper and reasonable cause does not exist if the court determines that the  
18 request for a name change is made to defraud or mislead, is not made in good faith,  
19 will cause injury to an individual, or will compromise public safety. The court may  
20 waive publication of the notice when the proposed change relates only to a first or  
21 given name as distinguished from a surname or upon evidence satisfactory to the  
22 court that the petitioner has been the victim of domestic violence as defined in section  
23 14-07.1-01.

24 4. If the person whose name is to be changed is a minor, the court shall consider the  
25 appointment of a guardian ad litem, and notice of the intended application must be  
26 published in the official newspaper of the county in which the minor resides and, if  
27 different, the official newspaper of the county in which each of the minor's parents  
28 reside. If the minor has a noncustodial parent, a copy of the notice must be deposited  
29 in a post office in this state, postage prepaid, not later than ten days after the  
30 publication of the notice, and directed to the noncustodial parent's last reasonably  
31 ascertained post-office address. An affidavit of mailing of the notice prepared in

- 1           accordance with the North Dakota Rules of Civil Procedure must be filed with the  
2           court.
- 3        5.    If the court issues a name change order for a petitioner who has a criminal history in  
4           this or any other state, the court, within ten days after the issuance of the change of  
5           name order, shall report the name change to the bureau of criminal investigation.
- 6        6.    The provisions of this section may not delay the granting of a marriage license under  
7           section 14-03-20, which may be granted without the change of name.