

**Sixty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota  
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 5, 2021**

SENATE BILL NO. 2246  
(Senators Meyer, D. Larsen, Larson)  
(Representatives Ista, Roers Jones, Schneider)

AN ACT to amend and reenact subsection 1 of section 12.1-32-02 and sections 19-03.1-23 and 39-08-01.5 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to drug court and the creation of a veterans treatment docket.

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

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 12.1-32-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

1. Every person convicted of an offense who is sentenced by the court must be sentenced to one or a combination of the following alternatives, unless the sentencing alternatives are otherwise specifically provided in the statute defining the offense or sentencing is deferred under subsection 4:
  - a. Payment of the reasonable costs of the person's prosecution.
  - b. Probation.
  - c. A term of imprisonment, including intermittent imprisonment:
    - (1) In a state correctional facility in accordance with section 29-27-07, in a regional corrections center, or in a county jail, if convicted of a felony or a class A misdemeanor.
    - (2) In a county jail or in a regional corrections center, if convicted of a class B misdemeanor.
    - (3) In a facility or program deemed appropriate for the treatment of the individual offender, including available community-based or faith-based programs.
    - (4) In the case of persons convicted of an offense who are under eighteen years of age at the time of sentencing, the court is limited to sentencing the minor defendant to a term of imprisonment in the custody of the department of corrections and rehabilitation.
  - d. A fine.
  - e. Restitution for damages resulting from the commission of the offense.
  - f. Restoration of damaged property or other appropriate work detail.
  - g. Commitment to an appropriate licensed public or private institution for treatment of alcoholism, drug addiction, or mental disease or defect.
  - h. Commitment to a sexual offender treatment program.
  - i. Drug court program. A drug court is a district court supervised treatment program approved by the supreme court which combines judicial supervision with alcohol and drug testing and substance use disorder treatment in a licensed treatment program. The supreme court may adopt rules, including rules of procedure, for drug court programs.

- j. Veterans treatment docket. A veterans treatment docket is a district court supervised docket approved by the supreme court which combines judicial supervision with licensed treatment programs to treat substance use disorders, mental health conditions, behavioral health conditions, traumatic brain injuries, military sexual trauma and co-occurring disorders. The supreme court may adopt rules, including rules of procedure, for veterans treatment dockets.

Except as provided by section 12.1-32-06.1, sentences imposed under this subsection may not exceed in duration the maximum sentences of imprisonment provided by section 12.1-32-01, section 12.1-32-09, or as provided specifically in a statute defining an offense. This subsection does not permit the unconditional discharge of an offender following conviction. A sentence under subdivision e or f must be imposed in the manner provided in section 12.1-32-08. If the person is sentenced to a term of imprisonment, the court may prohibit the person from contacting the victim during the term of imprisonment. For purposes of this subsection, "victim" means victim as defined in section 12.1-34-01.

**SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 19-03.1-23 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**19-03.1-23. Prohibited acts - Penalties.**

1. Except as authorized by this chapter, it is unlawful for a person to willfully, as defined in section 12.1-02-02, manufacture, deliver, or possess with intent to manufacture or deliver, a controlled substance, or to deliver, distribute, or dispense a controlled substance by means of the internet, but a person who violates section 12-46-24 or 12-47-21 may not be prosecuted under this subsection. A person who violates this subsection with respect to:
  - a. A controlled substance classified in schedule I or II which is a narcotic drug, or methamphetamine, is guilty of a class B felony.
  - b. Any other controlled substance classified in schedule I, II, or III, or a controlled substance analog is guilty of a class B felony.
  - c. A substance classified in schedule IV, is guilty of a class C felony.
  - d. A substance classified in schedule V, is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.
2. A prior misdemeanor conviction under subsection 7 or a prior conviction under subsection 3 or 4 of section 19-03.4-03 may not be considered a prior offense under subsection 1.
3. Except as authorized by this chapter, it is unlawful for any person to willfully, as defined in section 12.1-02-02, create, deliver, distribute, or dispense a counterfeit substance by means of the internet or any other means, or possess with intent to deliver, a counterfeit substance by means of the internet or any other means, but any person who violates section 12-46-24 or 12-47-21 may not be prosecuted under this subsection. Any person who violates this subsection with respect to:
  - a. A counterfeit substance classified in schedule I, II, or III, is guilty of a class B felony.
  - b. A counterfeit substance classified in schedule IV, is guilty of a class C felony.
  - c. A counterfeit substance classified in schedule V, is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.
4. A person at least eighteen years of age who solicits, induces, intimidates, employs, hires, or uses a person under eighteen years of age to aid or assist in the manufacture, delivery, or possession with intent to manufacture or deliver a controlled substance for the purpose of receiving consideration or payment for the manufacture or delivery of any controlled substance is guilty of a class B felony. It is not a defense to a violation of this subsection that the defendant did not know the age of a person protected under this subsection.

5. Except for a prior conviction equivalent to a misdemeanor violation of subsection 7 or a prior conviction under subsection 3 or 4 of section 19-03.4-03, a violation of this title or a law of another state or the federal government which is equivalent to an offense with respect to the manufacture, delivery, or intent to deliver a controlled substance under this title committed while the offender was an adult and which resulted in a plea or finding of guilt must be considered a prior offense under subsection 1. The prior offense must be alleged in the complaint, information, or indictment. The plea or finding of guilt for the prior offense must have occurred before the date of the commission of the offense or offenses charged in the complaint, information, or indictment.
6. It is unlawful for a person to willfully, as defined in section 12.1-02-02:
  - a. Serve as an agent, intermediary, or other entity that causes the internet to be used to bring together a buyer and seller to engage in the delivery, distribution, or dispensing of a controlled substance in a manner not authorized by this chapter; or
  - b. Offer to fill or refill a prescription for a controlled substance based solely on a consumer's completion of an online medical questionnaire.

A person who violates this subsection is guilty of a class C felony.

7.
  - a. It is unlawful for any person to willfully, as defined in section 12.1-02-02, possess a controlled substance or a controlled substance analog unless the substance was obtained directly from, or pursuant to, a valid prescription or order of a practitioner while acting in the course of the practitioner's professional practice, or except as otherwise authorized by this chapter, but any person who violates section 12-46-24 or 12-47-21 may not be prosecuted under this subsection.
  - b. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, any person who violates this subsection is guilty of a class A misdemeanor for the first offense under this subsection and a class C felony for a second or subsequent offense under this subsection.
  - c. If, at the time of the offense the person is in or on the real property comprising a public or private elementary or secondary school or a public career and technical education school, the person is guilty of a class B felony, unless the offense involves marijuana.
  - d. A person who violates this subsection by possessing:
    - (1) Marijuana in an amount of less than one-half ounce [14.175 grams] is guilty of an infraction.
    - (2) At least one-half ounce [14.175 grams] but not more than 500 grams of marijuana is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.
    - (3) More than 500 grams of marijuana is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.
  - e. If an individual is sentenced to the legal and physical custody of the department of corrections and rehabilitation under this subsection, the department may place the individual in a drug and alcohol treatment program designated by the department. Upon the successful completion of the drug and alcohol treatment program, the department shall release the individual from imprisonment to begin any court-ordered period of probation.
  - f. If the individual is not subject to any court-ordered probation, the court shall order the individual to serve the remainder of the sentence of imprisonment on supervised probation subject to the terms and conditions imposed by the court.
  - g. Probation under this subsection may include placement in another facility, treatment program, ~~or drug court~~, or veterans treatment docket. If an individual is placed in another

facility or treatment program upon release from imprisonment, the remainder of the sentence must be considered as time spent in custody.

- h. An individual incarcerated under this subsection as a result of a second probation revocation is not eligible for release from imprisonment upon the successful completion of treatment.
  - i. A person who violates this subsection regarding possession of five or fewer capsules, pills, or tablets of a schedule II, III, IV, or V controlled substance or controlled substance analog is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.
8. Except as provided by section 19-03.1-45, a court may order a person who violates this chapter or chapter 19-03.4 to undergo a drug addiction evaluation by a licensed addiction counselor. The evaluation must indicate the prospects for rehabilitation and whether addiction treatment is required. If ordered, the evaluation must be submitted to the court before imposing punishment for a felony violation or a misdemeanor violation.
  9. If a person pleads guilty or is found guilty of a first offense regarding possession of one ounce [28.35 grams] or less of marijuana and a judgment of guilt is entered, a court, upon motion, shall seal the court record of that conviction if the person is not subsequently convicted within two years of a further violation of this chapter. Once sealed, the court record may not be opened even by order of the court.
  10. Upon successful completion of a drug court program or veterans treatment docket, a person who has been convicted of a felony under this section and sentenced to drug court or veterans treatment docket is deemed to have been convicted of a misdemeanor.
  11. If a person convicted of a misdemeanor under this section is sentenced to drug court or veterans treatment docket and successfully completes a drug court program or veterans treatment docket, the court shall dismiss the case and seal the file in accordance with section 12.1-32-07.2.

**SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-08-01.5 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**39-08-01.5. Partial suspension of sentence for drug court program or veterans treatment docket completion.**

1. Notwithstanding section 39-08-01, all but ten days of the minimum mandatory sentence required for a defendant charged with a third or subsequent violation of section 39-08-01 may be suspended on the condition the defendant successfully completes a drug court program or veterans treatment docket approved by the supreme court.
2. Upon successful completion of a drug court program or veterans treatment docket, a defendant convicted of a felony under section 39-08-01 and sentenced to drug court or veterans treatment docket is deemed to have been convicted of a misdemeanor.
3. If a defendant convicted of a misdemeanor under section 39-08-01 is sentenced to drug court or veterans treatment docket and successfully completes a drug court program or veterans treatment docket, the court shall dismiss the case and seal the file in accordance with section 12.1-32-07.2.
4. ~~For purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise requires, "drug court program" means a district court supervised treatment program approved by the supreme court which combines judicial supervision with alcohol and drug testing and chemical addiction treatment in a licensed treatment program. The supreme court may adopt rules, including rules of procedure, for drug courts and the drug court program.~~

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

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Secretary of the Senate

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Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Sixty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2246.

Senate Vote:    Yeas 40            Nays 6            Absent 1

House Vote:    Yeas 87            Nays 6            Absent 1

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Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

Approved at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

Filed in this office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021,

at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

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Secretary of State