

Introduced by

Senators Bakke, Hogan, Piepkorn

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 1 of section 14-15-01 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to termination of parental rights.

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

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 14-15-01 of the North Dakota Century
5 Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

6 1. "Abandon" means:

7 a. As to a parent of a child not in the custody of that parent, failure by the
8 noncustodial parent significantly without justifiable cause to:

9 (1) Communicate ~~through physical or verbal communication or contact~~ or oral
10 conversation with the child; or

11 (2) Provide for the care and support of the child as required by law.

12 b. As to a parent of a child in that parent's custody:

13 (1) To leave the child for an indefinite period without making firm and agreed
14 plans, with the child's immediate caregiver, for the parent's resumption of
15 physical custody;

16 (2) Following the child's birth or treatment at a hospital, to fail to arrange for the
17 child's discharge within ten days after the child no longer requires hospital
18 care; or

19 (3) To willfully fail to furnish food, shelter, clothing, or medical attention
20 reasonably sufficient to meet the child's needs.