

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

SENATE BILL NO. 2340
(Senators Bakke, Hogan, Piepkorn)

AN ACT to amend and reenact subsection 1 of section 14-15-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to termination of parental rights.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

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

1. "Abandon" means:
 - a. As to a parent of a child not in the custody of that parent, failure by the noncustodial parent significantly without justifiable cause to:
 - (1) Communicate through physical contact or oral conversation with the child; or
 - (2) Provide for the care and support of the child as required by law.
 - b. As to a parent of a child in that parent's custody:
 - (1) To leave the child for an indefinite period without making firm and agreed plans, with the child's immediate caregiver, for the parent's resumption of physical custody;
 - (2) Following the child's birth or treatment at a hospital, to fail to arrange for the child's discharge within ten days after the child no longer requires hospital care; or
 - (3) To willfully fail to furnish food, shelter, clothing, or medical attention reasonably sufficient to meet the child's needs.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

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. 2340.

Senate Vote: Yeas 46 Nays 0 Absent 1

House Vote: Yeas 62 Nays 31 Absent 1

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.

Secretary of State