

**SENATE BILL NO. 2251
with House Amendments
SENATE BILL NO. 2251**

Sixty-third
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

Introduced by

Senators Armstrong, Schaible, Nelson

Representatives Steiner, Thoreson, Oversen

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 1 of section 6-08-16, subsection 3 of section
2 6-08-16.2, sections 12.1-23-02.1, 12.1-23-05, 12.1-23-06, 12.1-23-07, and 12.1-23-08,
3 subsection 1 of section 12.1-23-09, and sections 12.1-24-01, 12.1-24-03, 12.1-32-01,
4 12.1-32-01.1, 26.1-02.1-05, and 29-03-22 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the
5 penalties for crimes for which a monetary amount triggers the level of penalty; and to provide a
6 penalty.

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

8 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 6-08-16 of the North Dakota Century
9 Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 10 1. A person may not, for that person, as the agent or representative of another, or as an
11 officer or member of a firm, company, copartnership, or corporation, make, draw, utter,
12 or deliver any check, draft, or order, or authorize an electronic funds transfer, for the
13 payment of money upon a bank, banker, or depository, if at the time of the making,
14 drawing, uttering, electronically authorizing, or delivery, or at the time of presentation
15 for payment, if the presentation for payment is made within fourteen days after the
16 original delivery thereof, there are not sufficient funds in or credit with the bank,
17 banker, or depository to meet the check, draft, electronic funds transfer, or order in full
18 upon its authorized presentation. Violation of this subsection is:
- 19 a. An infraction if the amount of insufficient funds or credit is not more than fiftyone
20 hundred dollars;
- 21 b. A class B misdemeanor if the amount of insufficient funds or credit is more than
22 fiftyone hundred dollars but not more than two five hundred fifty dollars, or if the
23 individual has pled guilty or been found guilty of a violation of this section within
24 three years of issuing an insufficient funds check, draft, or order;

- 1 c. A class A misdemeanor if the amount of insufficient funds or credit is more than
2 ~~twofive~~ hundred fifty dollars but not more than ~~five hundred~~one thousand dollars,
3 or if the individual has pled guilty or been found guilty of two violations of this
4 section within three years of issuing an insufficient funds check, draft, or order; or
5 d. A class C felony if the amount of insufficient funds or credit is more than ~~five-~~
6 ~~hundred~~one thousand dollars, or an individual has pled guilty or been found guilty
7 of three or more violations of this section within five years of willfully issuing an
8 insufficient funds check, draft, or order.

9 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 3 of section 6-08-16.2 of the North Dakota Century
10 Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 11 3. A person who, for that person or an agent or representative of another, willfully as
12 defined in section 12.1-02-02 issues any instrument is guilty of a class C felony if the
13 instrument was for at least ~~five hundred~~one thousand dollars or that person, agent, or
14 representative of another, issues more than one instrument wherein the aggregate
15 total of all instruments issued exceeds ~~five hundred~~one thousand dollars, and at the
16 time of issuing the instrument, the drawer does not have an account with the bank or
17 depository on which the instrument is drawn.

18 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 12.1-23-02.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
19 amended and reenacted as follows:

20 **12.1-23-02.1. Disarming or attempting to disarm a law enforcement officer.**

21 Notwithstanding subdivision d of subsection ~~23~~ of section 12.1-23-05, a person is guilty of a
22 class C felony if, without the consent of the law enforcement officer, the person willfully takes or
23 removes, or attempts to take or remove, a firearm from a law enforcement officer engaged in
24 the performance of official duties.

25 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 12.1-23-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is
26 amended and reenacted as follows:

27 **12.1-23-05. Grading of theft offenses.**

- 28 1. Notwithstanding subsection 3, theft under this chapter is a class A felony if the
29 property or services stolen exceed fifty thousand dollars in value.
30 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection ~~23~~, theft under this chapter is a class B
31 felony if the property or services stolen exceed ten thousand dollars in value but do

1 ~~not exceed fifty thousand dollars~~ or are acquired or retained by a threat to commit a
2 ~~class A or class B felony or to inflict serious bodily injury on the person threatened or~~
3 ~~on any other person.~~

4 2-3. Theft under this chapter is a class C felony if:

- 5 a. The property or services stolen exceed ~~five hundred~~ one thousand dollars in
6 value;
- 7 b. The property or services stolen are acquired or retained by threat and (1) are
8 acquired or retained by a public servant by a threat to take or withhold official
9 action, or (2) exceed ~~fifty~~ one hundred dollars in value;
- 10 c. The property or services stolen exceed ~~fifty~~ one hundred dollars in value and are
11 acquired or retained by a public servant in the course of official duties;
- 12 d. The property stolen is a firearm, ammunition, explosive or destructive device, or
13 an automobile, aircraft, or other motor-propelled vehicle;
- 14 e. The property consists of any government file, record, document, or other
15 government paper stolen from any government office or from any public servant;
- 16 f. The defendant is in the business of buying or selling stolen property and the
17 defendant receives, retains, or disposes of the property in the course of that
18 business;
- 19 g. The property stolen consists of any implement, paper, or other thing uniquely
20 associated with the preparation of any money, stamp, bond, or other document,
21 instrument, or obligation of this state;
- 22 h. The property stolen consists of livestock taken from the premises of the owner;
- 23 i. The property stolen consists of a key or other implement uniquely suited to
24 provide access to property the theft of which would be a felony and it was stolen
25 to gain such access;
- 26 j. The property stolen is a card, plate, or other credit device existing for the purpose
27 of obtaining money, property, labor, or services on credit, or is a debit card,
28 electronic fund transfer card, code, or other means of access to an account for
29 the purposes of initiating electronic fund transfers; or
- 30 k. The property stolen is a prescription drug as defined in section 43-15.3-01.

1 ~~3.4.~~ All other theft under this chapter is a class A misdemeanor, unless the requirements of
2 subsection ~~4~~5 are met.

3 ~~4.5.~~ Theft under this chapter of property or services of a value not exceeding ~~two~~five
4 hundred ~~fifty~~ dollars ~~shall be~~is a class B misdemeanor if:

5 a. The theft was not committed by threat;

6 b. The theft was not committed by deception by one who stood in a confidential or
7 fiduciary relationship to the victim of the theft; and

8 c. The defendant was not a public servant or an officer or employee of a financial
9 institution who committed the theft in the course of official duties.

10 The special classification provided in this subsection ~~shall apply~~applies if the offense is
11 classified under this subsection in the charge or if, at sentencing, the required factors
12 are established by a preponderance of the evidence.

13 ~~5.6.~~ Notwithstanding ~~the provisions of~~ subsection 3 of section 12.1-06-01, an attempt to
14 commit a theft under this chapter is punishable equally with the completed offense
15 when the actor has completed all of the conduct which the actor believes necessary
16 on the actor's part to complete the theft except receipt of the property.

17 ~~6.7.~~ For purposes of grading, the amount involved in a theft under this chapter ~~shall be~~is
18 the highest value by any reasonable standard, regardless of the actor's knowledge of
19 such value, of the property or services which were stolen by the actor, or which the
20 actor believed that the actor was stealing, or which the actor could reasonably have
21 anticipated to have been the property or services involved. Thefts committed pursuant
22 to one scheme or course of conduct, whether from the same person or several
23 persons, may be charged as one offense and the amounts proved to have been stolen
24 may be aggregated in determining the grade of the offense.

25 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 12.1-23-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is
26 amended and reenacted as follows:

27 **12.1-23-06. Unauthorized use of a vehicle.**

28 1. A person is guilty of an offense if, knowing that ~~he~~the person does not have the
29 consent of the owner, ~~he~~the person takes, operates, or exercises control over an
30 automobile, train, aircraft, motorcycle, motorboat, or other motor-propelled vehicle of
31 another.

1 2. It is a defense to a prosecution under this section that the actor reasonably believed
2 that the owner would have consented had ~~he~~the owner known of the conduct on which
3 the prosecution was based.

4 3. The offense is a class C felony if the vehicle is an aircraft or if the value of the use of
5 the vehicle and the cost of retrieval and restoration exceeds ~~five hundred~~one thousand
6 dollars. Otherwise the offense is a class A misdemeanor.

7 **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 12.1-23-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is
8 amended and reenacted as follows:

9 **12.1-23-07. Misapplication of entrusted property.**

10 1. A person is guilty of misapplication of entrusted property if the person disposes of,
11 uses, or transfers any interest in property that has been entrusted to the person as a
12 fiduciary, or in the person's capacity as a public servant or an officer, director, agent,
13 employee of, or a person controlling a financial institution, in a manner that the person
14 knows is not authorized and that the person knows to involve a risk of loss or
15 detriment to the owner of the property or to the government or other person for whose
16 benefit the property was entrusted.

17 2. Misapplication of entrusted property is:

18 a. A class A felony if the value of the property misapplied exceeds fifty thousand
19 dollars.

20 b. A class B felony if the value of the property misapplied exceeds ten thousand
21 dollars but does not exceed fifty thousand dollars.

22 ~~b.c.~~ A class C felony if the value of the property misapplied exceeds ~~five hundred~~one
23 thousand dollars but does not exceed ten thousand dollars.

24 ~~e.d.~~ A class A misdemeanor if the value of the property misapplied exceeds ~~two~~five
25 hundred ~~fifty~~ dollars but does not exceed ~~five hundred~~one thousand dollars.

26 ~~d.e.~~ A class B misdemeanor in all other cases.

27 **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 12.1-23-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is
28 amended and reenacted as follows:

29 **12.1-23-08. Defrauding secured creditors.**

30 1. An owner of property who creates a security interest in such property may not
31 intentionally alter, conceal, destroy, damage, encumber, transfer, remove, or otherwise

1 deal with property that is subject to the security interest without the prior consent of the
2 secured party if that action has the effect of hindering the enforcement of the security
3 interest.

4 2. A person may not destroy, remove, damage, conceal, encumber, transfer, or otherwise
5 deal with property that is subject to a security interest with the intent to prevent
6 collection of the debt represented by the security interest.

7 3. A person may not, at the time of sale of property that is subject to a security interest,
8 or is described in a certificate provided for under section 41-09-28, make false
9 statements as to the existence of security interests in the property, or as to the
10 ownership or location of the property.

11 4. A violation of subsection 2 or 3 must be prosecuted as theft under section 12.1-23-02
12 or 12.1-23-04. Violation of subsection 2 or 3 is a class C felony if the property has a
13 value of more than ~~five hundred~~ one thousand dollars, as determined under
14 subsection ~~6~~ 7 of section 12.1-23-05. In all other cases, violation of this section is a
15 class A misdemeanor.

16 **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 12.1-23-09 of the North Dakota
17 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

18 1. It is a defense to a prosecution under this chapter that:

19 a. The actor ~~honestly~~ reasonably believed that ~~he~~ the actor had a claim to the
20 property or services involved which ~~he~~ the actor was entitled to assert in the
21 manner which forms the basis for the charge against ~~him~~ the actor; or

22 b. The victim is the actor's spouse, but only when the property involved constitutes
23 household or personal effects or other property normally accessible to both
24 spouses and the parties involved are living together. The term "spouse", as used
25 in this section, includes persons living together as husband and wife.

26 **SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Section 12.1-24-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is
27 amended and reenacted as follows:

28 **12.1-24-01. Forgery or counterfeiting.**

29 1. A person is guilty of forgery or counterfeiting if, with intent to deceive or harm the
30 government or another person, or with knowledge that ~~he~~ the person is facilitating such
31 deception or harm by another person, ~~he~~ the person:

- 1 a. Knowingly and falsely makes, completes, or alters any writing; or
- 2 b. Knowingly utters or possesses a forged or counterfeited writing.
- 3 2. Forgery or counterfeiting is:
- 4 a. A class B felony if:
- 5 (1) The actor forges or counterfeits an obligation or other security of the
- 6 government; or
- 7 (2) The offense is committed pursuant to a scheme to defraud another or others
- 8 of money or property of a value in excess of ten thousand dollars, but not in
- 9 excess of fifty thousand dollars. If the value of the property exceeds fifty
- 10 thousand dollars, the offense is a class A felony.
- 11 b. A class C felony if:
- 12 (1) The actor is a public servant or an officer or employee of a financial
- 13 institution and the offense is committed under color of office or is made
- 14 possible by ~~his~~the actor's office;
- 15 (2) The actor forges or counterfeits foreign money or other legal tender, or
- 16 utters or possesses any forged or counterfeited obligation or security of the
- 17 government or foreign money or legal tender;
- 18 (3) The actor forges or counterfeits any writing from plates, dies, molds,
- 19 photographs, or other similar instruments designed for multiple
- 20 reproduction;
- 21 (4) The actor forges or counterfeits a writing which purports to have been made
- 22 by the government; or
- 23 (5) The offense is committed pursuant to a scheme to defraud another or others
- 24 of money or property of a value in excess of one ~~hundred~~ thousand dollars.
- 25 c. A class A misdemeanor in all other cases.

26 **SECTION 10. AMENDMENT.** Section 12.1-24-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is
27 amended and reenacted as follows:

28 **12.1-24-03. Deceptive writings.**

- 29 1. A person is guilty of an offense if, with intent to deceive or harm the government or
- 30 another person, or with knowledge that ~~he~~the person is facilitating such a deception or

1 harm by another person, ~~he~~the person knowingly issues a writing without authority to
2 issue it or knowingly utters or possesses a deceptive writing.

3 2. The offense is a:

4 a. A class B felony if it is committed pursuant to a scheme to defraud another or
5 others of money or property of a value in excess of ten thousand dollars. ~~The~~
6 ~~offense is a~~

7 b. A class C felony if:

8 a. (1) The actor is a public servant or an officer or employee of a financial
9 institution and the offense is committed under color of office or is made
10 possible by ~~his~~the actor's office; or

11 b. (2) The offense is committed pursuant to a scheme to defraud another or others
12 of money or property of a value in excess of one hundred thousand dollars.

13 ~~Otherwise it is a~~

14 c. A class A misdemeanor in all other cases.

15 **SECTION 11. AMENDMENT.** Section 12.1-32-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is
16 amended and reenacted as follows:

17 **12.1-32-01. Classification of offenses - Penalties.**

18 Offenses are divided into seven classes, which are denominated and subject to maximum
19 penalties, as follows:

20 1. Class AA felony, for which a maximum penalty of life imprisonment without parole may
21 be imposed. The court must designate whether the life imprisonment sentence
22 imposed is with or without an opportunity for parole. Notwithstanding the provisions of
23 section 12-59-05, a person found guilty of a class AA felony and who receives a
24 sentence of life imprisonment with parole, shall not be eligible to have that person's
25 sentence considered by the parole board for thirty years, less sentence reduction
26 earned for good conduct, after that person's admission to the penitentiary.

27 2. Class A felony, for which a maximum penalty of twenty years' imprisonment, a fine of
28 ~~ten~~twenty thousand dollars, or both, may be imposed.

29 3. Class B felony, for which a maximum penalty of ten years' imprisonment, a fine of
30 ~~ten~~twenty thousand dollars, or both, may be imposed.

- 1 4. Class C felony, for which a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment, a fine of
2 ~~five~~ten thousand dollars, or both, may be imposed.
- 3 5. Class A misdemeanor, for which a maximum penalty of one year's imprisonment, a
4 fine of ~~two~~three thousand dollars, or both, may be imposed.
- 5 6. Class B misdemeanor, for which a maximum penalty of thirty days' imprisonment, a
6 fine of one thousand five hundred dollars, or both, may be imposed.
- 7 7. Infraction, for which a maximum fine of ~~five hundred~~one thousand dollars may be
8 imposed. Any person convicted of an infraction who has, within one year prior to
9 commission of the infraction of which the person was convicted, been previously
10 convicted of an offense classified as an infraction may be sentenced as though
11 convicted of a class B misdemeanor. If the prosecution contends that the infraction is
12 punishable as a class B misdemeanor, the complaint shall specify that the offense is a
13 misdemeanor.

14 This section shall not be construed to forbid sentencing under section 12.1-32-09, relating to
15 extended sentences.

16 **SECTION 12. AMENDMENT.** Section 12.1-32-01.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
17 amended and reenacted as follows:

18 **12.1-32-01.1. Organizational fines.**

19 Any organization, as defined in section 12.1-03-04, shall, upon conviction, be subject to a
20 maximum fine in accordance with the following classification:

- 21 1. For a class A felony, a maximum fine of ~~five~~one hundred thousand dollars.
- 22 2. For a class B felony, a maximum fine of ~~thirty-five~~seventy thousand dollars.
- 23 3. For a class C felony, a maximum fine of ~~twenty-five~~fifty thousand dollars.
- 24 4. For a class A misdemeanor, a maximum fine of ~~fifteen~~thirty thousand dollars.
- 25 5. For a class B misdemeanor, a maximum fine of ~~ten~~twenty thousand dollars.

26 Nothing in this section shall be construed as preventing the imposition of the sanction provided
27 for in section 12.1-32-03, nor as preventing the prosecution of agents of the organization under
28 section 12.1-03-03.

29 **SECTION 13. AMENDMENT.** Section 26.1-02.1-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is
30 amended and reenacted as follows:

1 **26.1-02.1-05. Penalties - Restitution.**

- 2 1. A violation of section 26.1-02.1-02.1 is a class C felony if the value of any property or
3 services retained exceeds five thousand dollars and a class A misdemeanor in all
4 other cases. For purposes of this section, the value of any property and services must
5 be determined in accordance with subsection 67 of section 12.1-23-05.
- 6 2. In the event that a practitioner is adjudicated guilty of a violation of section
7 26.1-02.1-02.1, the court shall notify the appropriate licensing authority of this state of
8 the adjudication. The appropriate licensing authority shall hold an administrative
9 hearing to consider the imposition of administrative sanctions as provided by law
10 against the practitioner.
- 11 3. In addition to any other punishment, a person who violates section 26.1-02.1-02.1
12 must be ordered to make restitution to the insurer or to any other person for any
13 financial loss sustained as a result of the violation of section 26.1-02.1-02.1. The court
14 shall determine the extent and method of restitution.

15 **SECTION 14. AMENDMENT.** Section 29-03-22 of the North Dakota Century Code is
16 amended and reenacted as follows:

17 **29-03-22. Venue of multiple theft offenses involving credit cards.**

18 If any of a series of thefts can be charged as one offense for purposes of grading under
19 subsection 67 of section 12.1-23-05, if each of those thefts involved the use of a credit card,
20 and if the total value of the property or services stolen is at least fifty dollars, venue for the
21 criminal action, in which the series of thefts is charged as one offense, is in any county where
22 any of the thefts was committed.