

Introduced by

Representatives Dobervich, Holman

Senator Mathern

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15.1-19 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to students declining participation in animal dissections.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15.1-19 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
5 and enacted as follows:

6 **Animal dissection - Participation.**

7 1. For purposes of this section:

8 a. "Alternative education project" means the use of video equipment, models, films,
9 books, photos, pictures, computers, live observation in the wild or in zoos, or any
10 other tools that provide an alternative method of learning about the physiology of
11 an animal, the life cycle of an animal, or any other information required by a
12 course of study in place of dissection.

13 b. "Animal" means any living organism, the cadaver of an organism, or the severed
14 parts of an organism.

15 2. A student may decline to participate in or observe any of the following as part of a
16 course of study of an animal:

17 a. Dissection;

18 b. Vivisection;

19 c. Incubation;

20 d. Infliction of harm;

21 e. Capture;

22 f. Destruction;

23 g. Surgery;

24 h. Invasive procedures;

- 1 i. Experiments; or
- 2 j. Termination of life.
- 3 3. A student who exercises the right of refusal to participate or observe under this section
4 must be given a comparable alternative education project designed to provide the
5 student with the factual knowledge, information, or experience required by the course
6 of study. If an assessment requires the use of dissection or dissected animals, a
7 student who exercises the right of refusal must be offered an alternative assessment
8 that does not use animals. A student may not be penalized or discriminated against,
9 with regard to grade or removed from class for refusing to participate in or observe the
10 activities under subsection 2. An assigned alternative education project may not
11 require more time or effort than the activity in which the student declined to participate.
12 A comparable grading method must be used to assess the alternative education
13 project. A student must be given the opportunity to decline participation on the day the
14 activity is scheduled.
- 15 4. The superintendent of public instruction shall notify each school, in writing, at the
16 beginning of each school year of the right to refuse to participate or observe under this
17 section. The superintendent of public instruction may adopt rules to administer this
18 section.