

**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

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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. 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