

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

HOUSE BILL NO. 1185

(Representatives K. Koppelman, Christensen, Jones, Klemin, Paulson, Satrom, Schauer, Vigesaa)  
(Senators Clemens, Dwyer)

AN ACT to amend and reenact sections 39-06-09 and 39-08-13 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to liability for negligence of a minor driver and accident report forms; to provide a penalty; and to declare an emergency.

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

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-06-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**39-06-09. Liability for negligence of minor - General.**

Any

1. Subject to subsection 2, any negligence of a minor when driving a motor vehicle upon a highway must be imputed to the individual who has signed the application of the minor for an operator's license, or upon the father, mother, or legal guardian if signing authority has been temporarily transferred under section 39-06-08. This individual is jointly and severally liable with the minor for any damages caused by the negligence, except as provided in section 39-06-10.
2. The negligence of a minor under subsection 1 may not be imputed to the individual who signed the application of the minor for an operator's license, or upon the father, mother, or legal guardian if signing authority temporarily has been transferred under section 39-06-08 for any injury or damage to that individual which was caused by the minor's negligence.

**SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-08-13 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**39-08-13. Accident report forms.**


1. The director shall prepare and supply to law enforcement agencies, garages, and other suitable agencies or individuals forms for accident reports required by law, appropriate with respect to the purposes to be served. The reports to be made by investigating officers shall call for sufficiently detailed information to disclose the cause of a traffic accident, conditions then existing, persons and vehicles involved, and whether the requirements for the deposit of security under section 39-16-05 are applicable.
2. Every accident report required to be made to the director must be made in the appropriate format or approved by the director and must contain all the information required therein unless not available.
3. Every law enforcement officer who investigates a vehicle accident for which a report must be made as required in this chapter shall forward a report of such accident to the department within ten days after the accident.
4. The Except as provided in subsection 5, reports required to be forwarded by law enforcement officers and the information contained in the reports is not privileged or confidential. If, however, the investigating officer expresses an opinion as to fault or responsibility for the accident, the opinion is confidential and not open to public inspection, except as provided in subsection 5~~6~~. In addition, the following information contained in the report is an exempt

record as defined in section 44-04-17.1 unless the requester is a party to the accident, a party's legal representative, the insurer of any party to the accident, the agent of that insurer, or the legal representative or insurer of an individual involved in defending or investigating a prior or subsequent claim or accident involving a party to the accident:

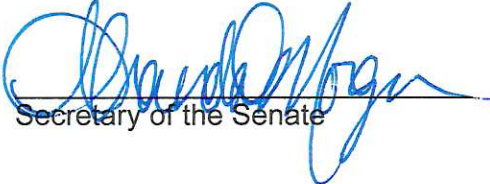
- a. Driver identification number of a party in the report;
  - b. Telephone number of a party in the report;
  - c. Insurance company name and policy number of a party in the report; and
  - d. Day and month of birth of a party in the report.
5. a. Unless the requester is a party to the accident, a party's legal representative, the insurer of any party to the accident, the agent of that insurer, or the legal representative or insurer of an individual involved in defending or investigating a prior or subsequent claim or accident involving a party to the accident, the following information contained in the report is exempt:
- (1) The name of a minor party in the report;
  - (2) Driver identification number of a minor party in the report; and
  - (3) Telephone number uniquely owned by a minor party in the report.
- b. A person may not forward a report in which a minor party's information is disclosed to a person that is not an authorized requester under subdivision a. A person that violates this subdivision is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.
6. Upon affirmation by a party to the accident, a party's legal representative, or the insurer of any party to the accident that the investigating officer's opinion is material to a determination of liability and upon payment of a fee of five dollars, the director or investigating agency shall release a completed copy of the investigating officer's opinion to the entity requesting the information. The request must be made on an appropriate form approved by the director.
- 6-7. Upon request of any person and upon payment of a fee of two dollars, the director or the law enforcement agency may furnish to a requester a copy of that portion of an investigating officer's accident report which does not disclose the opinion of the reporting officer or contain any exempt information that may not be disclosed, if the report shows that the accident is one for which a driver is required to file a report under section 39-08-09.
- 7-8. Copies of accident reports are not admissible as evidence in any action for damages or criminal proceedings arising out of a motor vehicle accident.
- 8-9. The director, without a request under subsection 4 ~~or~~ 5, or 6 may send a copy of an accident report to the registered owner of each vehicle involved as indicated by the report.

**SECTION 3. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.

  
Speaker of the House

  
President of the Senate

  
Chief Clerk of the House

  
Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1185 and that two-thirds of the members-elect of the House of Representatives voted in favor of said law.

Vote:        Yeas 93                      Nays 0                      Absent 1

  
Speaker of the House

  
Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that two-thirds of the members-elect of the Senate voted in favor of said law.

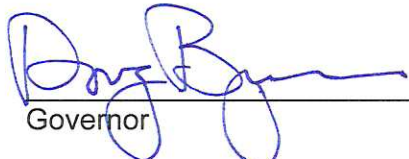
Vote:        Yeas 47                      Nays 0                      Absent 0

  
President of the Senate

  
Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at 3:25 P.M. on April 8, 2021.

Approved at 6:11 P.M. on April 12, 2021.

  
Governor

Filed in this office this 13<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2021,  
at 9:42 o'clock A. M.

  
Secretary of State