

**Sixty-first Legislative Assembly of North Dakota  
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 6, 2009**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1146  
(Representative DeKrey)  
(Senator Lyson)

AN ACT to amend and reenact subsection 1 of section 54-61-01 and section 54-61-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the commission on legal counsel for indigents.

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

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 54-61-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

1. The commission on legal counsel for indigents is established for the purpose of developing and monitoring a process for the delivery of state-funded legal counsel services for indigents which are required under the Constitution of North Dakota and the United States Constitution and any applicable statute or court rule. The commission shall provide indigent defense services for ~~these~~ indigent individuals determined by the court to be eligible for and in need of those services pursuant to the standards and policies of the commission governing eligibility for such services.

**SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-61-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**54-61-04. Records, files, and information - Accessibility - Confidentiality.** Any file, record, or information regarding representation of a ~~defendant~~ party under sections 54-61-01 through 54-61-03 which are attorney work-product or otherwise subject to any attorney-client privilege are confidential and may not be disclosed except in accordance with a court order or in response to applicable discovery rules. All other case-related records are exempt from disclosure except as otherwise provided in rules adopted by the commission. Information or records obtained by the commission relating to allegations of misconduct by an attorney in the employ of, or providing indigent services for, the commission are exempt from disclosure except as otherwise provided in rules adopted by the commission unless and until the matter is referred for formal disposition under rules adopted by the supreme court.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

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Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-first Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1146.

House Vote:      Yeas    92      Nays    0      Absent    2

Senate Vote:    Yeas    46      Nays    0      Absent    1

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2009.

Approved at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2009.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

Filed in this office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2009,

at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State