

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1458**

Introduced by

Representatives Henderson, Schatz, Wolff, Maki, Morton, Rios, Frelich, VanWinkle

Senator Magrum

- 1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 23-12 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to releasing a self-spreading virus; and to provide a penalty.

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

- 4 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 23-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
5 and enacted as follows:

6 **Releasing a self-spreading virus - Written consent required.**

7 **1. As used in this section:**

8 **a. "Release" means any act that results in the actual or potential infection or**  
9 **transmission of, or exposure to, a self-spreading virus or bacteria.**

10 **b. "Self-spreading virus or bacteria" means any engineered virus or bacteria,**  
11 **including any recombinant, attenuated or modified version of any virus or**  
12 **bacteria, or particles or substance similar to any virus or bacteria, capable of**  
13 **spreading from individual to individual.**

14 **2. A person may not develop, release, or take part in causing the release of any self-**  
15 **spreading virus or bacteria without the express written consent of each individual that**  
16 **may potentially be exposed to the self-spreading virus or bacteria.**

17 **3. Any person may bring an action to enjoin any violation of this section and to recover**  
18 **actual monetary loss or five thousand dollars for each violation of this section,**  
19 **whichever is greater.**