

Sixty-sixth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2340

Introduced by

Senators Unruh, Cook

Representatives Heinert, Porter

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact subsection 6 of section 44-04-18.10 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to protection of records shared for emergency purposes; and to amend  
3 and reenact section 44-04-18.4 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to confidentiality of  
4 records regarding emergency planning and response.

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

6 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 44-04-18.4 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
7 amended and reenacted as follows:

8 **44-04-18.4. Confidentiality of trade secret, proprietary, commercial, financial, and**  
9 **research information.**

- 10 1. Trade secret, proprietary, commercial, and financial information is confidential if it is of  
11 a privileged nature and it has not been previously publicly disclosed.
- 12 2. Under this section, unless the context otherwise requires:
- 13 a. "Commercial information" means information pertaining to buying or selling of  
14 goods and services that has not been previously publicly disclosed and that if the  
15 information were to be disclosed would impair the public entity's future ability to  
16 obtain necessary information or would cause substantial competitive injury to the  
17 person from which the information was obtained.
- 18 b. "Financial information" means information pertaining to monetary resources of a  
19 person that has not been previously publicly disclosed and that if the information  
20 were to be disclosed would impair the public entity's future ability to obtain  
21 necessary information or would cause substantial competitive injury to the person  
22 from which the information was obtained.
- 23 c. "Proprietary information" includes:

- 1 (1) Information shared between a sponsor of research or a potential sponsor of  
2 research and a public entity conducting or negotiating an agreement for the  
3 research.
- 4 (2) Information received from a private business that has entered or is  
5 negotiating an agreement with a public entity to conduct research or  
6 manufacture or create a product for potential commercialization.
- 7 (3) A discovery or innovation generated by the research information, technical  
8 information, financial information, or marketing information acquired under  
9 activities described under paragraph 1 or 2.
- 10 (4) A document specifically and directly related to the licensing or  
11 commercialization resulting from activities described under paragraph 1, 2,  
12 or 6.
- 13 (5) Technical, financial, or marketing records that are received by a public  
14 entity, which are owned or controlled by the submitting person, are intended  
15 to be and are treated by the submitting person as private, and the disclosure  
16 of which would cause harm to the submitting person's business.
- 17 (6) A discovery or innovation produced by the public entity that an employee or  
18 the entity intends to commercialize.
- 19 (7) A computer software program and components of a computer software  
20 program that are subject to a copyright or a patent and any formula, pattern,  
21 compilation, program, device, method, technique, or process supplied to a  
22 public entity that is the subject of efforts by the supplying person to maintain  
23 its secrecy and that may derive independent economic value, actual or  
24 potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily  
25 ascertainable by proper means by, other persons that might obtain  
26 economic value from its disclosure or use.
- 27 (8) A discovery or innovation that is subject to a patent or a copyright, and any  
28 formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, combination of devices,  
29 method, technique, technical know-how or process that is for use, or is  
30 used, in the operation of a business and is supplied to or prepared by a  
31 public entity that is the subject of efforts by the supplying or preparing

1 person to maintain its secrecy and provides the preparing person an  
2 advantage or an opportunity to obtain an advantage over those who do not  
3 know or use it or that may derive independent economic value, actual or  
4 potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily  
5 ascertainable by proper means by, a person that might obtain economic  
6 value from its disclosure or use.

7 d. "Trade secret" means information, including a formula, pattern, compilation,  
8 program, device, method, technique, technical know-how, or process, that:

9 (1) Derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being  
10 generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by,  
11 other persons that can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use;

12 and

13 (2) Is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to  
14 maintain the secrecy of the information.

15 3. This section does not limit or otherwise affect a record pertaining to any rule of the  
16 state department of health or to any record pertaining to the application for a permit or  
17 license necessary to do business or to expand business operations within this state,  
18 except as otherwise provided by law.

19 4. This section does not limit the release or use of records obtained in an investigation by  
20 the attorney general or other law enforcement official.

21 5. Unless made confidential under subsection 1, the following economic development  
22 records and information are exempt:

23 a. Records and information pertaining to a prospective location of a business or  
24 industry, including the identity, nature, and location of the business or industry,  
25 when no previous public disclosure has been made by the business or industry of  
26 the interest or intent of the business or industry to locate in, relocate within,  
27 expand within this state, or partner with a public entity to conduct research or to  
28 license a discovery or innovation. This exemption does not include records  
29 pertaining to the application for permits or licenses necessary to do business or  
30 to expand business operations within this state, except as otherwise provided by  
31 law.

- 1           b. Trade secrets and proprietary, commercial, or financial information received from  
2           a person that is interested in applying for or receiving financing, technical  
3           assistance, or other forms of business assistance.
- 4        6. Unless made confidential under subsection 1 or made exempt under subsection 5:
- 5           a. Bids received by a public entity in response to an invitation for bids by the public  
6           entity are exempt until all of the bids have been received and opened by the  
7           public entity.
- 8           b. Proposals received by a public entity in response to a request for proposals are  
9           exempt records until a notice of intent to award is issued.
- 10          c. Records included with any bid or proposal naming and generally describing the  
11          entity submitting the proposal are open.
- 12        7. Unless made confidential under subsection 1, records received or distributed by the  
13        state department of emergency services under chapter 37-17.1 and the state local  
14        intelligence center from the federal government and any public or private agency or  
15        entity for emergency or disaster prevention, protection, mitigation, preparation,  
16        response, and recovery, or for cyber or physical threat are exempt. Records in the  
17        possession or under the control of a political subdivision which relate to cybersecurity  
18        information or critical infrastructure, the disclosure of which may expose or create  
19        vulnerability of critical infrastructure systems; or the safeguarding of  
20        telecommunications, electric, water, sanitary sewage, storm water drainage, energy,  
21        fuel supply, hazardous liquid, natural gas, coal, or other critical infrastructure system,  
22        are exempt.
- 23           a. Upon receipt of a request for records under this subsection which originated in a  
24           federal agency or entity and are in the possession of the state department of  
25           emergency services, state local intelligence center, or a political subdivision, the  
26           requester must be referred to the federal agency or entity from which the records  
27           originated.
- 28           b. For purposes of this section, "cybersecurity" means processes or capabilities that  
29           protect and defend systems, communications, and information from exploitation  
30           and unauthorized use or modification.

1           c. For purposes of this section, "critical infrastructure" has the same meaning as in  
2           subdivision a of subsection 2 of section 44-04-24.

3           8. Unless made confidential under subsection 1, university research records are exempt.  
4           "University research records" means data and records, other than a financial or  
5           administrative record, produced or collected by or for faculty or staff of an institution  
6           under the control of the state board of higher education in the conduct of or as a result  
7           of study or research on an educational, commercial, scientific, artistic, technical, or  
8           scholarly issue, regardless of whether the study or research was sponsored by the  
9           institution alone, or in conjunction with a governmental or private entity, provided the  
10          information has not been publicly released, published, or patented.

11          9. Personally identifiable study information is confidential. "Personally identifiable study  
12          information" means information about an individual participating in a human research  
13          study or project at an institution under the control of the state board of higher  
14          education which requires prospective institutional review board review or a  
15          determination of exemption, if the information can be used to distinguish or trace the  
16          individual's identity, or is linked or linkable to the individual. Examples of personally  
17          identifiable study information include name, maiden name, mother's maiden name,  
18          alias, personal identification number, social security number, passport number, driver's  
19          license number, taxpayer identification number, financial account or credit card  
20          number, address, email address, photographic images, fingerprints, handwriting, and  
21          other biometric data. Information about participants in human subjects research which  
22          does not constitute personally identifiable study information but is part of a human  
23          subjects research study or project at an institution under the control of the state board  
24          of higher education requiring prospective institutional review board review or a  
25          determination of exemption is a university research record under subsection 8.

26          10. Subsections 8 and 9 do not apply to a student record or other information disclosed by  
27          an institution under the control of the state board of higher education to the statewide  
28          longitudinal data system.

29          **(Contingent effective date - [See note](#)) Confidentiality of trade secret, proprietary,**  
30          **commercial, financial, and research information.**

- 1       1. Trade secret, proprietary, commercial, and financial information is confidential if it is of  
2           a privileged nature and it has not been previously publicly disclosed.
- 3       2. Under this section, unless the context otherwise requires:
  - 4           a. "Commercial information" means information pertaining to buying or selling of  
5                goods and services that has not been previously publicly disclosed and that if the  
6                information were to be disclosed would impair the public entity's future ability to  
7                obtain necessary information or would cause substantial competitive injury to the  
8                person from which the information was obtained.
  - 9           b. "Financial information" means information pertaining to monetary resources of a  
10               person that has not been previously publicly disclosed and that if the information  
11               were to be disclosed would impair the public entity's future ability to obtain  
12               necessary information or would cause substantial competitive injury to the person  
13               from which the information was obtained.
  - 14          c. "Proprietary information" includes:
    - 15               (1) Information shared between a sponsor of research or a potential sponsor of  
16                    research and a public entity conducting or negotiating an agreement for the  
17                    research.
    - 18               (2) Information received from a private business that has entered or is  
19                    negotiating an agreement with a public entity to conduct research or  
20                    manufacture or create a product for potential commercialization.
    - 21               (3) A discovery or innovation generated by the research information, technical  
22                    information, financial information, or marketing information acquired under  
23                    activities described under paragraph 1 or 2.
    - 24               (4) A document specifically and directly related to the licensing or  
25                    commercialization resulting from activities described under paragraph 1, 2,  
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    - 27               (5) Technical, financial, or marketing records that are received by a public  
28                    entity, which are owned or controlled by the submitting person, are intended  
29                    to be and are treated by the submitting person as private, and the disclosure  
30                    of which would cause harm to the submitting person's business.

1 (6) A discovery or innovation produced by the public entity that an employee or  
2 the entity intends to commercialize.

3 (7) A computer software program and components of a computer software  
4 program that are subject to a copyright or a patent and any formula, pattern,  
5 compilation, program, device, method, technique, or process supplied to a  
6 public entity that is the subject of efforts by the supplying person to maintain  
7 its secrecy and that may derive independent economic value, actual or  
8 potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily  
9 ascertainable by proper means by, other persons that might obtain  
10 economic value from its disclosure or use.

11 (8) A discovery or innovation that is subject to a patent or a copyright, and any  
12 formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, combination of devices,  
13 method, technique, technical know-how or process that is for use, or is  
14 used, in the operation of a business and is supplied to or prepared by a  
15 public entity that is the subject of efforts by the supplying or preparing  
16 person to maintain its secrecy and provides the preparing person an  
17 advantage or an opportunity to obtain an advantage over those who do not  
18 know or use it or that may derive independent economic value, actual or  
19 potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily  
20 ascertainable by proper means by, a person that might obtain economic  
21 value from its disclosure or use.

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24 (1) Derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being  
25 generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by,  
26 other persons that can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use;  
27 and

28 (2) Is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to  
29 maintain the secrecy of the information.

30 3. This section does not limit or otherwise affect a record pertaining to any rule of the  
31 state department of health or department of environmental quality or to any record

- 1           pertaining to the application for a permit or license necessary to do business or to  
2           expand business operations within this state, except as otherwise provided by law.
- 3       4. This section does not limit the release or use of records obtained in an investigation by  
4           the attorney general or other law enforcement official.
- 5       5. Unless made confidential under subsection 1, the following economic development  
6           records and information are exempt:
- 7           a. Records and information pertaining to a prospective location of a business or  
8           industry, including the identity, nature, and location of the business or industry,  
9           when no previous public disclosure has been made by the business or industry of  
10          the interest or intent of the business or industry to locate in, relocate within,  
11          expand within this state, or partner with a public entity to conduct research or to  
12          license a discovery or innovation. This exemption does not include records  
13          pertaining to the application for permits or licenses necessary to do business or  
14          to expand business operations within this state, except as otherwise provided by  
15          law.
- 16          b. Trade secrets and proprietary, commercial, or financial information received from  
17          a person that is interested in applying for or receiving financing, technical  
18          assistance, or other forms of business assistance.
- 19       6. Unless made confidential under subsection 1 or made exempt under subsection 5:
- 20          a. Bids received by a public entity in response to an invitation for bids by the public  
21          entity are exempt until all of the bids have been received and opened by the  
22          public entity.
- 23          b. Proposals received by a public entity in response to a request for proposals are  
24          exempt records until a notice of intent to award is issued.
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26          entity submitting the proposal are open.
- 27       7. Unless made confidential under subsection 1, records received or distributed by the  
28          state department of emergency services under chapter 37-17.1 and the state local  
29          intelligence center from the federal government and any public or private agency or  
30          entity for emergency or disaster prevention, protection, mitigation, preparation,  
31          response, and recovery, or for cyber or physical threat are exempt. Records in the



1 possession or under the control of a political subdivision which relate to cybersecurity  
2 information or critical infrastructure, the disclosure of which may expose or create  
3 vulnerability of critical infrastructure systems; or the safeguarding of  
4 telecommunications, electric, water, sanitary sewage, storm water drainage, energy,  
5 fuel supply, hazardous liquid, natural gas, coal, or other critical infrastructure system,  
6 are exempt.

7 a. Upon receipt of a request for records under this subsection which originated in a  
8 federal agency or entity and are in the possession of the state department of  
9 emergency services, state local intelligence center, or a political subdivision, the  
10 requester must be referred to the federal agency or entity from which the records  
11 originated.

12 b. For purposes of this section, "cybersecurity" means processes or capabilities that  
13 protect and defend systems, communications, and information from exploitation  
14 and unauthorized use or modification.

15 c. For purposes of this section, "critical infrastructure" has the same meaning as in  
16 subdivision a of subsection 2 of section 44-04-24.

- 17 8. Unless made confidential under subsection 1, university research records are exempt.  
18 "University research records" means data and records, other than a financial or  
19 administrative record, produced or collected by or for faculty or staff of an institution  
20 under the control of the state board of higher education in the conduct of or as a result  
21 of study or research on an educational, commercial, scientific, artistic, technical, or  
22 scholarly issue, regardless of whether the study or research was sponsored by the  
23 institution alone, or in conjunction with a governmental or private entity, provided the  
24 information has not been publicly released, published, or patented.
- 25 9. Personally identifiable study information is confidential. "Personally identifiable study  
26 information" means information about an individual participating in a human research  
27 study or project at an institution under the control of the state board of higher  
28 education which requires prospective institutional review board review or a  
29 determination of exemption, if the information can be used to distinguish or trace the  
30 individual's identity, or is linked or linkable to the individual. Examples of personally  
31 identifiable study information include name, maiden name, mother's maiden name,

1 alias, personal identification number, social security number, passport number, driver's  
2 license number, taxpayer identification number, financial account or credit card  
3 number, address, email address, photographic images, fingerprints, handwriting, and  
4 other biometric data. Information about participants in human subjects research which  
5 does not constitute personally identifiable study information but is part of a human  
6 subjects research study or project at an institution under the control of the state board  
7 of higher education requiring prospective institutional review board review or a  
8 determination of exemption is a university research record under subsection 8.

9 10. Subsections 8 and 9 do not apply to a student record or other information disclosed by  
10 an institution under the control of the state board of higher education to the statewide  
11 longitudinal data system.

12 **SECTION 2.** Subsection 6 of section 44-04-18.10 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
13 created and enacted as follows:

14 6. Records confidential or exempt under subsection 7 of section 44-04-18.4 and which  
15 are required to be disclosed to another entity for emergency or disaster prevention,  
16 protection, mitigation, response, and recovery or for cybersecurity planning, mitigation,  
17 or threat remain confidential or exempt after the required disclosure.