North Dakota Legislative History Basics

The North Dakota Century Code provides a list of historical source material for each statute. This information is located immediately after the text of a section of the North Dakota Century Code.

[http://libguides.law.und.edu/legislation](http://libguides.law.und.edu/legislation)

14-03-09. Who may solemnize marriages. Marriages may be solemnized by all judges of courts of record; municipal judges; recorders, unless the board of county commissioners designates a different official; ordained ministers of the gospel; priests; clergy licensed by recognized denominations pursuant to chapter 10-33; and by any person authorized by the rituals and practices of any religious persuasion.


Cross-References. Performing marriage without authority, penalty, see N.D.C.C. §§ 14-03-25, 14-03-28.

Collateral References. Marriage ≡ 26, 27.
52 Am. Jur. 2d, Marriage, §§ 33, 34.
55 C.J.S. Marriage, § 31.

The ND Session Laws, titled “Laws of North Dakota” contain the laws from each of the ND legislative sessions territorial days to the 2013 legislative session. The Strinden temporary Law Library have volumes from 1959 to 2013. Prior years are in storage.

Here we are looking for a 1997 amendment to the law, referenced as Ch. 146 § 1.
Go to the 1997 Laws of North Dakota (2 volumes). Volume 1 contains Chapter 146.

The Session Laws reference you to the House or Senate bill number. This law started in the Senate as Senate Bill No. 2359.

In North Dakota, language added to the text of a law in effect at the time of the legislative session is underlined.

Language removed from a law in effect at the time of the legislative session has a line drawn through the text of the removed language.

New statutory language appears without underlines or strike throughs.
Session Laws (S.L.) - laws originating from a North Dakota Legislative session and are titled “Laws of North Dakota.”

The North Dakota Century Code provides a reference to “Sources” immediately following the text of the statute. This is a listing the historical development of the particular statute. Common Abbreviations used in these sources are as follows:

- Ter. – Dakota Territory Laws
- S.L. – Session Laws
- R.C. – Revised Code
- C.L. – Codified Laws
- NDCC – North Dakota Century Code

The North Dakota Legislature website (http://www.legis.nd.gov/) has PDF versions of committee information and legislative history from the 2001-2013 sessions.

Information for legislative sessions prior to 2001 are on microfiche in the Law Library. Information needed to access these materials are bill number, and prior to 1981, the name of the session’s committee hearing the bill.

Other sources of interest are minutes of interim committees and the Legislative Management Final Report published just prior to the opening of the session.