

Fifty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

SENATE BILL NO.

Introduced by

Senator Bowman

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact two new sections to chapter 37-17.1 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to intrastate mutual aid by emergency response units; and to declare an
3 emergency.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 37-17.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 created and enacted as follows:

7 **Definitions.** In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

- 8 1. "Assisting unit" means an emergency response unit that renders mutual aid
9 assistance to a requesting unit.
- 10 2. "Emergency response unit" includes a fire department, law enforcement agency,
11 ambulance service, and any other public, tribal, and private group that responds to
12 a request for assistance at the scene of an incident.
- 13 3. "Incident" means any situation that requires actions to immediately protect lives
14 and property, to provide for public health and safety, or to avert or lessen the threat
15 of a disaster.
- 16 4. "Incident command system" means a recognized system adopted by the United
17 States department of homeland security and the division of emergency
18 management for the command, control, and coordination of resources and
19 personnel at the scene of an incident.
- 20 5. "Requesting unit" means the emergency response unit with responsibility for
21 responding to an incident which seeks mutual aid assistance from another
22 emergency response unit.

23 **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 37-17.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
24 created and enacted as follows:

1 **Intrastate mutual aid.** Unless other terms have been specifically agreed upon, an
2 emergency response unit may render mutual aid to another emergency response unit in the
3 state under the following terms and conditions:

- 4 1. An incident command system must be designated by the requesting unit, and the
5 incident command system must be used. The incident commander may request
6 mutual aid and is responsible for all resources assigned to or responding to an
7 incident.
- 8 2. The individual in charge of an emergency response unit may determine whether
9 personnel or equipment is sent beyond the area of responsibility of the unit to
10 respond to a call by a requesting unit. An emergency response unit declining to
11 provide assistance outside its area of responsibility is not liable for damage to a
12 requesting unit.
- 13 3. All resources assigned to an incident are under the command of the incident
14 commander. The individual in charge of an assisting unit may retain the ability to
15 withdraw personnel or resources upon notification to the incident commander. An
16 assisting unit withdrawing from an emergency response operation is not liable for
17 damage to the requesting unit.
- 18 4. Each assisting unit shall continue to provide the same salaries and benefits to its
19 personnel assigned to render assistance to a requesting unit as the personnel
20 would receive if on duty within their area of responsibility. If emergency grant
21 funds or other assistance becomes available to the requesting unit, the requesting
22 unit shall reimburse any assisting units, on an equitable basis, for costs incurred by
23 the assisting units for salaries and benefits. The cost of repair and maintenance of
24 equipment used or expended while rendering assistance must be borne by the
25 emergency response unit owning the equipment unless emergency grant funds or
26 other assistance becomes available to cover the costs. An emergency response
27 unit taking independent action outside a mutual aid request by the requesting unit
28 is not eligible for reimbursement or compensation of costs.
- 29 5. Personnel of an assisting unit who sustain injury or death in the course of their
30 employment are entitled to all applicable benefits normally available to personnel
31 while performing duties for their unit.

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