

HOUSE BILL NO. 1146

Ward County Emergency Management Talking Points

- SECTION 2. AMENDMENT
 - Section 37-17.3-03
 - 1.
 - We support the language change in this bill for the following reasons:
 - Not all first responder agencies that will utilize the new SIRN radio system are governed by county/city jurisdictions.
 - Ex: Fire Protection Districts, Private Ambulance, etc.
 - Fire Protection Districts: Roughly 78%
Percentage of the state
 - FD's in 2019:
 - 366 Total
 - 281 Fire Protection Districts
 - 83 Departments
 - 344 Volunteer
Departments/Districts
 - 13 Combination
Departments/Districts
 - 7 Career Departments/Districts
 - The amended bill will support first responder agencies such as Fire Protection Districts, which represent 78% of the fire protection for the state of North Dakota.
 - 2.
 - The current reimbursement per radio, despite the type, is \$1,500. We would recommend a change to the language to increase this amount to \$2,500 per radio.
 - The cheapest option for radios are as follows:
 - Handheld Non-Encrypted - \$1800-\$4700
 - Handheld Encrypted - \$4000-\$5500
 - Mobile Non-Encrypted - \$2100-\$4800
 - Mobile Encrypted - \$4300-5600
 - This does not allow smaller fire departments/fire protection districts to utilize the SIRN radio system due to budget constraints.
 - Examples
 - Fire Protection District 1:
 - Budget: \$4000
 - Radio Replacement Cost: \$28000
 - Not including costs to program radio

Communication is the number one failure in any incident or disaster. By not creating the opportunity for all agencies to utilize such an important communication system, we are setting them up for failure.