

**SENATE BILL NO. 2137**

Introduced by

Political Subdivisions Committee

(At the request of the Adjutant General)

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 37-17.1-02, 37-17.1-02.1, and 37-17.1-04,  
2 subsections 3 and 6 of section 37-17.1-06, subsections 3 and 4 of section 37-17.1-07,  
3 subsections 1 and 2 of section 37-17.1-07.1, subsection 3 of section 37-17.1-11, subsection 1  
4 of section 37-17.1-12, section 37-17.1-13, subsections 2 and 4 of section 37-17.1-14.2,  
5 sections 37-17.1-19, 37-17.1-20, 37-17.1-21, and 37-17.1-24, and subsections 1 and 3 of  
6 section 37-17.1-25 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the department of emergency  
7 services and the North Dakota Disaster Act of 1985.

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

9 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 37-17.1-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
10 amended and reenacted as follows:

11 **37-17.1-02. Purposes.** The purposes of this chapter are to:

- 12 1. Reduce vulnerability of people and communities of this state to damage, injury, and  
13 loss of life and property resulting from natural or manmade disasters or  
14 emergencies, threats to homeland security, or hostile military or paramilitary action.
- 15 2. Provide a setting conducive to the rapid and orderly start of restoration and  
16 rehabilitation of persons and property affected by disasters or emergencies.
- 17 3. Clarify the roles of the governor, state agencies, and local governments in  
18 prevention of, in mitigation of, preparation for, ~~and~~ response to, and recovery from  
19 disasters or emergencies.
- 20 4. Authorize and provide for coordination of emergency management activities by  
21 agencies and officers of this state, and similar state-local, interstate, federal-state,  
22 and foreign activities in which the state and its political subdivisions may  
23 participate.

1           5. Provide for a statewide emergency management system embodying all aspects of  
2           prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery and incorporating  
3           the principles of the national incident management system and its incident  
4           command system, as well as other applicable federal mandates.

5           **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 37-17.1-02.1 of the North Dakota Century Code  
6 is amended and reenacted as follows:

7           **37-17.1-02.1. Department of emergency services.** The department of emergency  
8 services consists of a division of state radio and a division of homeland security. The adjutant  
9 general is the director of the department. The adjutant general shall provide for shared  
10 administration of both divisions. The division of homeland security consists of the state  
11 emergency operations center section, the disaster recovery section, and the homeland security  
12 section. The adjutant general shall appoint a separate director of each division. A division  
13 director serves at the pleasure of the adjutant general. The adjutant general shall fix the  
14 compensation of a division director within limits of legislative appropriation.

15           **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 37-17.1-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
16 amended and reenacted as follows:

17           **37-17.1-04. Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

- 18           1. "Disaster" means the occurrence of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss  
19           of life or property resulting from any natural or manmade cause, including fire,  
20           flood, earthquake, severe high and low temperatures, tornado storm, wave action,  
21           ~~or~~ chemical spill, or other water or air contamination, epidemic, blight, drought,  
22           infestation, explosion, riot, or hostile military or paramilitary action, which is  
23           determined by the governor to require state or state and federal assistance or  
24           actions to supplement the recovery efforts of local governments in alleviating the  
25           damage, loss, hardship, or suffering caused thereby.
- 26           2. "Disaster or emergency worker" means any person performing disaster or  
27           emergency responsibilities or duties at any place in this state subject to the order  
28           or control of, or pursuant to a request of, the state government or any political  
29           subdivision.
- 30           3. "Emergency" means any situation that is determined by the governor to require  
31           state or state and federal response or mitigation actions to immediately supplement

- 1 local governments to protect lives and property, to provide for public health and  
2 safety, or to avert or lessen the threat of a disaster.
- 3 4. "Emergency management" means a comprehensive integrated system at all levels  
4 of government and in the private sector which provides for the development and  
5 maintenance of an effective capability to prevent, mitigate, prepare for, respond to,  
6 and recover from known and unforeseen hazards or situations, caused by an act of  
7 nature or man, which may threaten, injure, damage, or destroy lives, property, or  
8 our environment.
- 9 5. "Homeland security" means a concerted national effort to prevent terrorist attacks  
10 within the United States, reduce America's vulnerability to terrorism, and minimize  
11 the damage and recover from attacks in the United States.
- 12 6. "Incident command system" means a standardized on-scene incident management  
13 concept designated specifically to allow responders to adopt an integrated  
14 organizational structure equal to the complexity and demands of any single  
15 incident or multiple incidents without being hindered by jurisdictional boundaries.
- 16 7. "Mass care" means food, clothing, shelter, and other necessary and essential  
17 assistance provided to a large number of affected people in response to, or  
18 recovery from, a disaster or emergency.
- 19 8. "National incident management system" means a system that provides a  
20 consistent nationwide approach for federal, state, and local governments to work  
21 effectively and efficiently together to prepare for, respond to, and recover from  
22 domestic incidents regardless of cause, size, or complexity.

23 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Subsections 3 and 6 of section 37-17.1-06 of the North  
24 Dakota Century Code are amended and reenacted as follows:

- 25 3. The division of homeland security shall ~~take an integral part in~~ provide technical  
26 assistance for the development and revision of local disaster or emergency  
27 operations plans prepared under section 37-17.1-07. ~~To this end it shall employ or~~  
28 ~~otherwise secure the services of professional and technical personnel capable of~~  
29 ~~providing expert assistance to local emergency management organizations. These~~  
30 ~~personnel shall consult with local emergency management organizations on a~~  
31 ~~regularly scheduled basis and shall make field examinations of the areas,~~

- 1 ~~circumstances, and conditions to which particular local disaster or emergency~~  
2 ~~plans are intended to apply and may suggest or require revisions.~~
- 3 6. The division of homeland security, in coordination with lead and support agencies,  
4 shall:
- 5 a. Coordinate the procurement ~~and prepositioning~~ of supplies, materials, and  
6 equipment ~~for~~ during disaster or emergency operations.
- 7 b. Provide guidance and standards for local disaster or emergency operational  
8 plans.
- 9 c. Periodically review local disaster or emergency operational plans.
- 10 d. Coordinate state or state and federal assistance to local emergency  
11 management organizations.
- 12 e. Establish and operate or assist local emergency management organizations  
13 to establish and operate training programs and programs for emergency  
14 public information.
- 15 f. Make surveys of industries, resources, and facilities, within the state, both  
16 public and private, as are necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter.  
17 The use of sensitive and proprietary logistical data submitted to the state in  
18 confidence by individual industries and suppliers must be accorded full  
19 confidentiality and will be released only in aggregate form.
- 20 g. Plan and make arrangements for the availability and use of any private  
21 facilities, services, and property, and, if necessary and if in fact used,  
22 coordinate payment for that use under terms and conditions agreed upon.
- 23 h. Establish access to a register of persons with types of training and skills  
24 important in prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.
- 25 i. Establish access to a register of equipment and facilities available for use in a  
26 disaster or emergency.
- 27 j. Prepare, for issuance by the governor, executive orders, proclamations, and  
28 guidance as necessary or appropriate in managing a disaster or emergency.
- 29 k. Coordinate with the federal government and any public or private agency or  
30 entity in achieving any purpose of this chapter and in implementing programs  
31 for disaster mitigation, preparation, response, and recovery.

- 1           l.    Be the state search and rescue coordinating agency, establish access to a  
2                    register of search and rescue equipment and personnel in the state, and plan  
3                    for its effective utilization ~~in carrying out the search for and rescue of persons~~  
4                    ~~when no violation of criminal laws exists.~~
- 5            m.    Do other things necessary, incidental, or appropriate for the implementation of  
6                    this chapter.

7            **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Subsections 3 and 4 of section 37-17.1-07 of the North  
8   Dakota Century Code are amended and reenacted as follows:

- 9            3.    Each city shall provide an emergency management organization of its own  
10                   coordinated through the county, or it shall participate in the countywide emergency  
11                    management organization. Each governing board of a city shall make its  
12                    determination on the basis of the city's emergency management requirements,  
13                    hazards, capabilities, and resources. ~~The division of homeland security shall~~  
14                    ~~publish and keep current a list of cities desiring to have an emergency~~  
15                    ~~management organization of their own.~~
- 16            4.    The ~~mayor of a city or~~ chairman of the board of county commissioners shall notify  
17                    the division of homeland security of the manner in which the ~~city or county is~~ and  
18                    the cities within that county are providing or securing emergency management  
19                    activities, identify the person who will coordinate the activities of the local  
20                    emergency management organization, and furnish additional information relating  
21                    thereto as the division requires.

22            **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Subsections 1 and 2 of section 37-17.1-07.1 of the North  
23   Dakota Century Code are amended and reenacted as follows:

- 24            1.    Program components.
- 25                    a.    The governor shall appoint members of the state emergency response  
26                    commission to carry out the commission's responsibilities as outlined in Public  
27                    Law 99-499, 42 U.S.C. 11001, et seq., also referred to as SARA title III, and  
28                    the responsibilities of the commission members as outlined in the North  
29                    Dakota emergency operations plan.
- 30                    b.    In conjunction with the state emergency response commission, the local  
31                    emergency planning committees, as appointed by the boards of county

1            commissioners, and the local emergency management organizations, ~~the~~  
2            ~~division of homeland security~~ shall coordinate the development and  
3            maintenance of a state hazardous chemicals preparedness and response  
4            program.

5            c. The director of the division of homeland security shall serve as the chairman  
6            of the state emergency response commission. In the absence of the  
7            chairman, the designated vice chairman shall serve as chairman. The state  
8            emergency response commission by vote will select the vice chairman to fulfill  
9            a two-year term. The chairman shall recognize the assignment of  
10           representatives to the commission who are designated through a delegation  
11           of authority by a member. The chairman shall designate a commission  
12           secretary, solely for the purpose of documenting and distributing clerical  
13           proceedings, from the staff of the division of homeland security.

14           d. For the purpose of complying with the reporting requirements set forth in  
15           sections 302, 304, 311, 312, and 313 of Public Law 99-499, 42 U.S.C. 11001,  
16           et seq., also referred to as SARA title III, the owner and operator of any  
17           facility, as defined in SARA title III, shall submit those reports to the North  
18           Dakota division of homeland security as required by SARA title III, which shall  
19           establish and maintain the state repository for these reports.

20           2. Establishment of funds.

21           a. There is created in the state treasury a nonlapsing restricted account to be  
22           known as a state hazardous chemicals preparedness and response fund.  
23           The fund consists of revenue collected from the state hazardous chemical fee  
24           system and funds appropriated by the general assembly. Moneys in the fund  
25           shall be appropriated biennially to the division of homeland security for  
26           carrying out the purposes, goals, and objectives of SARA title III, and the state  
27           hazardous chemicals preparedness and response program.

28           b. The county treasurer of each county shall establish a nonlapsing restricted  
29           account, to be known as the county hazardous chemicals preparedness and  
30           response account. The county hazardous chemicals preparedness and  
31           response account consists of revenue from the state hazardous chemicals fee

- 1 system, county, federal or state funds, grants, and any private donations  
2 provided to finance the county hazardous chemicals preparedness and  
3 response program.
- 4 c. Each owner and operator of a facility, as defined in SARA title III, shall pay an  
5 annual hazardous chemicals fee to the division of homeland security by  
6 March first of each year. The fee is twenty-five dollars for each chemical  
7 within the meaning of 40 CFR 355.20 or its successor which is required under  
8 section 312 of SARA title III, to be listed on the hazardous chemical inventory  
9 form (tier II) which the owner or operator must submit to the division. The  
10 federal requirements must be used for completing the tier II form, including  
11 the threshold amounts, as outlined in 40 CFR 370.20. The maximum fee for a  
12 facility under this section is one hundred fifty dollars. The division of  
13 homeland security shall transfer to the county hazardous chemicals  
14 preparedness and response account one-half of the funds collected from the  
15 state's hazardous chemicals fee system.
- 16 d. The owners or operators of family farm enterprises that are not engaged in  
17 the retail or wholesale of hazardous chemicals and facilities owned by the  
18 state or local governments are exempt from the fee under subdivision c. For  
19 purposes of this section, the terms "family farm" and "farmer" have the same  
20 meaning as set forth in section 6-09.11-01.
- 21 e. The state and county governments are authorized to accept and may deposit  
22 grants, gifts, and federal funds into the hazardous chemicals preparedness  
23 and response fund and accounts for the purpose of carrying out the  
24 hazardous chemicals preparedness and response ~~program~~ programs to  
25 include training, exercising, equipment, response, and salaries.
- 26 f. "Hazardous chemical" means as defined in 40 CFR 355.20 and 29 CFR  
27 1910.1200.
- 28 g. The state hazardous chemicals fee system does not supersede a city fee  
29 system for hazardous chemicals.

30 **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 3 of section 37-17.1-11 of the North Dakota  
31 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

1           3. If the division of homeland security determines, in coordination with lead and  
2           support agencies, on the basis of the studies or other competent evidence, that an  
3           area is susceptible to a disaster of catastrophic proportions without adequate  
4           warning; existing building standards and land use controls in that area are  
5           inadequate and could add substantially to the magnitude of the disaster or  
6           emergency; and changes in zoning regulations, other land use regulations, or  
7           building requirements are needed in order to further the purposes of this section, it  
8           shall specify the essential changes to the governor. If the governor, upon review of  
9           the determination, finds after public hearing, that the changes are essential, the  
10          governor shall so recommend to the agencies or local governments with  
11          jurisdiction over that area and subject matter. If no action or insufficient action  
12          pursuant to the governor's recommendations is taken within the time specified by  
13          the governor, the governor shall so inform the legislative assembly and request  
14          legislative action appropriate to mitigate the impact of the disaster or emergency.

15          **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 37-17.1-12 of the North Dakota  
16 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

17          1. Persons within this state shall conduct themselves and keep and manage their  
18          affairs and property in ways that will reasonably assist and will not unreasonably  
19          detract from the ability of the state and the public to effectively prevent, mitigate,  
20          prepare for, respond to, and recover from a disaster or emergency. This obligation  
21          includes appropriate personal service and use or restriction on the use of property  
22          in time of disaster or emergency. This chapter neither increases nor decreases  
23          these obligations but recognizes their existence under the Constitution of North  
24          Dakota and statutes of this state and the common law. Compensation for services  
25          or for the taking or use of property must be only to the extent that obligations  
26          recognized herein are exceeded in a particular case and then only to the extent  
27          that the claimant may not be deemed to have volunteered that person's services or  
28          property without compensation.

29          **SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Section 37-17.1-13 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
30 amended and reenacted as follows:

1           **37-17.1-13. Communications.** The ~~division of homeland security~~ department of  
2 emergency services shall ascertain what means exist for rapid and efficient communications in  
3 times of a disaster or emergency. The ~~division~~ department shall consider the desirability of  
4 supplementing these communications resources or of integrating them into a comprehensive  
5 state or state and federal telecommunications or other communications system or network,  
6 including the military installations. In studying the character and feasibility of any system or its  
7 several parts, the ~~division~~ department shall evaluate the possibility of multipurpose use thereof  
8 for general state and local governmental purposes. The ~~division~~ department shall make  
9 recommendations to the governor as appropriate.

10           **SECTION 10. AMENDMENT.** Subsections 2 and 4 of section 37-17.1-14.2 of the  
11 North Dakota Century Code are amended and reenacted as follows:

- 12           2. The governor may enter into an interstate agreement with any state if the governor  
13 finds that joint action with that state is desirable in meeting common  
14 intergovernmental problems of emergency or disaster prevention, preparedness,  
15 mitigation, response, and recovery.
- 16           4. All interstate mutual aid compacts and other interstate agreements to which this  
17 state is a party dealing with disaster or emergency prevention, preparedness,  
18 response, recovery, or mitigation must be reviewed and made current every four  
19 years.

20           **SECTION 11. AMENDMENT.** Section 37-17.1-19 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
21 amended and reenacted as follows:

22           **37-17.1-19. Temporary housing for disaster victims and site acquisition and**  
23 **preparation.** ~~In accordance with the provisions of the United States Disaster Relief Act of 1974~~  
24 ~~[Pub. L. 93-288; 88 Stat. 143], the~~ The governor is authorized to enter into such agreements  
25 and execute such assurances on behalf of the state of North Dakota as may be necessary to  
26 establish, in the event of a disaster or emergency, a program of temporary housing for disaster  
27 victims adversely affected by a disaster or emergency ~~in those cases when such disaster or~~  
28 ~~emergency victims are unable to meet their needs through assistance under provisions other~~  
29 ~~than section 404 of the Disaster Relief Act or through other means.~~ The governor is authorized:

- 1           1. To receive temporary housing units to be occupied by disaster or emergency  
2           victims from any agency of the United States and to make such units available to  
3           any county or city of the state.
- 4           2. To assist any county or city of this state which is the site of temporary housing for  
5           disaster or emergency victims, to acquire and to prepare sites necessary for such  
6           temporary housing, and to "pass through" funds made available by any agency,  
7           public or private.

8           Any county or city of this state is expressly authorized to acquire, temporarily or  
9           permanently, by purchase, lease, or otherwise, sites required for installation of temporary  
10          housing units for disaster or emergency victims and to enter into whatever arrangements,  
11          including purchase of temporary housing units and payment of transportation charges, which  
12          are necessary to prepare or equip such sites to utilize the housing units.

13          The governor shall establish guidelines necessary to carry out the purposes of sections  
14          37-17.1-19, 37-17.1-20, and 37-17.1-21.

15          **SECTION 12. AMENDMENT.** Section 37-17.1-20 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
16          amended and reenacted as follows:

17          **37-17.1-20. Community disaster loans.** ~~In accordance with the provisions of the~~  
18          ~~United States Disaster Relief Act of 1974 [Pub. L. 93-288; 88 Stat. 143], the~~ The governor is  
19          authorized to enter into such agreements and execute such assurances on behalf of the state  
20          of North Dakota as may be necessary to establish, in the event of a presidentially declared  
21          "major disaster", a program of community disaster loans in those cases when communities are  
22          unable to meet or provide for their essential governmental functions ~~through assistance under~~  
23          ~~provisions other than section 414 of the Disaster Relief Act or through other means.~~ Upon the  
24          governor's determination that a local government of the state will suffer a substantial loss of tax  
25          and other revenues from a disaster and has demonstrated a need for financial assistance to  
26          perform its governmental functions, the governor may apply to the federal government, on  
27          behalf of the local government, for a loan and receive and disburse the proceeds of any  
28          approved loan to any applicant local government.

29          The governor may:

- 30          1. Determine the amount needed by any applicant local government to restore or  
31          resume its governmental functions and certify the same to the federal government.

- 1           No application amount may exceed twenty-five percent of the annual operating  
2           budget of the applicant for the fiscal year in which the disaster occurs.
- 3           2.   Recommend to the federal government, based upon the governor's review, the  
4           cancellation of all or any part of repayment when, within three fiscal years following  
5           the disaster, the revenues of the local government are insufficient to meet its  
6           operating expenses, including additional disaster-related expenses of a county or  
7           city.

8           **SECTION 13. AMENDMENT.** Section 37-17.1-21 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
9   amended and reenacted as follows:

10           **37-17.1-21. Debris and wreckage removal in disasters or emergencies.** ~~in~~  
11 ~~accordance with the provisions of the United States Disaster Relief Act of 1974 [Pub. L. 93-288;~~  
12 ~~88 Stat. 143], the~~ The governor is authorized to enter into such agreements and execute such  
13 assurances on behalf of the state of North Dakota as may be necessary to establish, in the  
14 event of a disaster or emergency, a program of debris and wreckage removal caused by a  
15 disaster ~~in those cases when such debris and wreckage removal cannot be provided under~~  
16 ~~provisions other than section 403 of the Disaster Relief Act or through other means.~~ The  
17 governor is authorized:

- 18           1.   Notwithstanding any other provision of law, through the use of state departments or  
19           agencies, or the use of any of the state's instrumentalities, to clear or remove from  
20           publicly or privately owned land or water, debris and wreckage which may threaten  
21           public health or safety, or threaten public or private property, in any disaster or  
22           emergency declared by the governor.
- 23           2.   To accept funds from the federal government and utilize such funds to make grants  
24           to any local government for the purpose of removing debris or wreckage from  
25           publicly or privately owned land or water.

26           Authority under sections 37-17.1-19, 37-17.1-20, and 37-17.1-21 may not be exercised,  
27   except upon state-owned lands, unless the affected local government, corporation, limited  
28   liability company, organization, or individual first presents an unconditional authorization for  
29   removal of such debris or wreckage from public and private property and, in the case of  
30   removal of debris or wreckage from private property, first agrees to indemnify the state  
31   government against any claim arising from such removal.

1 Whenever the governor provides for clearance of debris or wreckage pursuant to  
2 subsection 1 or 2, employees of the designated state agencies or individuals appointed by the  
3 state are authorized to enter upon private land or waters and perform any tasks necessary to  
4 the removal or clearance operation.

5 Except in cases of willful misconduct, gross negligence, or bad faith, any state  
6 employee or agent complying with orders of the governor and performing duties pursuant  
7 thereto under sections 37-17.1-19, 37-17.1-20, and 37-17.1-21 is not liable for death of or injury  
8 to persons or damage to property.

9 The governor shall establish guidelines to carry out the purposes of sections  
10 37-17.1-19, 37-17.1-20, and 37-17.1-21.

11 **SECTION 14. AMENDMENT.** Section 37-17.1-24 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
12 amended and reenacted as follows:

13 **37-17.1-24. Definitions.** In this section and section 37-17.1-25, unless the context  
14 otherwise requires:

- 15 1. "Assisting unit" means an emergency response unit that renders mutual aid  
16 assistance to a requesting unit.
- 17 2. "Emergency response unit" includes a fire department, law enforcement agency,  
18 emergency medical services operation, and any other public, tribal, and private  
19 group that responds to a request for assistance at the scene of an incident.
- 20 3. "Incident" means any situation that requires actions to immediately protect lives  
21 and property, to provide for public health and safety, or to avert or lessen the threat  
22 of a disaster.
- 23 4. "Incident command system" means a ~~recognized system adopted by the United~~  
24 ~~States department of homeland security and the division of emergency~~  
25 ~~management for the command, control, and coordination of resources and~~  
26 ~~personnel at the scene of an incident~~ standardized, on-scene incident  
27 management concept designed specifically to allow responders to adopt an  
28 integrated organizational structure equal to the complexity and demands of any  
29 single incident or multiple incidents without being hindered by jurisdictional  
30 boundaries.

- 1           5. "National incident management system" means a system that provides a  
2           consistent nationwide approach for federal, state, and local governments to work  
3           effectively and efficiently together to prepare for, respond to, and recover from  
4           domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size, or complexity.
- 5           6. "National response plan" means a comprehensive all-hazards approach to  
6           enhance the ability of the United States to manage domestic incidents,  
7           incorporating best practices and procedures from incident management disciplines  
8           and integrating them into a unified structure to guide national support of state and  
9           local governments and the private sector.
- 10          7. "Requesting unit" means the emergency response unit with responsibility for  
11          responding to an incident which seeks mutual aid assistance from another  
12          emergency response unit.

13           **SECTION 15. AMENDMENT.** Subsections 1 and 3 of section 37-17.1-25 of the North  
14   Dakota Century Code are amended and reenacted as follows:

- 15          1. An incident ~~command system~~ commander must be designated by the requesting  
16          unit, and the incident command system must be used. The incident commander  
17          may request mutual aid and is responsible for all resources assigned to or  
18          responding to an incident.
- 19          3. All resources assigned to an incident are under the ~~command~~ operational control  
20          of the incident commander. The individual in charge of an assisting unit may retain  
21          the ability to withdraw personnel or resources upon notification to the incident  
22          commander. An assisting unit withdrawing from an emergency response operation  
23          is not liable for damage to the requesting unit.