

HB-1242 Introduction

Chairman Vigesaa and members of the House appropriations committee, for the record my name is Glenn Bosch and I represent Bismarck's District 30. Additionally, I serve on the Statewide Interoperable Executive Committee (SIEC).

Before I go through the bill, I'd like to provide a brief update on the status of the Statewide Interoperable Radio network (SIRN) project.

Currently, the project is over 50% completed with an expected completion date of June 2025. When completed the system will provide 95% mobile statewide coverage for our first responders. Early adopters are reporting that the system is working as or better than expected.

Two sessions ago we approved a funding framework for the purchase of the system. The total cost of the project is \$210M, with \$120M of that provided by the state. That \$120M was comprised of \$20M from SIF, \$20M from Bank of ND profits and \$80M from a Bank of ND loan paid back by a \$.50 monthly fee charged on cell phones. The funding framework did not provide a mechanism for the payment of ongoing operational costs of the system. These costs are currently requested as part of the ITD budget. Once completed the ongoing operational costs are estimated to be \$10M annually.

HB1242 asks that you consider two things, first re-appropriate the \$20M from the Bank of ND profits that were approved in 2019. Due to a clerical error at the end of the 2019 biennium the funds were not carried over to the next biennium and never spent on the project. Secondly, I'm asking you to consider using \$80M from unspent ARPA funds to retire the line of credit. This would allow one-time funds to provide the complete funding of the project. This would also allow the \$.50 currently being collected to make the loan payment to now cover a large portion of the ongoing operational costs.

Lastly, I'm asking your consideration of an amendment I've provided. On the original drafting of this bill, I thought it would be a good time to move the administration of the ongoing operational costs from ITD to Department of Emergency Services, but after consideration and discussion from a number of public safety providers it was determined that it would be better to wait for the project to be completed before any administrative changes be made. In the amendment I'm requesting a study be approved to look into the best structure for the future management of the system after completion.

With that Mr. Chairman, I'll stand for questions.