

HB-1242 Introduction

Chair Roers and members of the Senate State and Local Government 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 before you, 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 fully implemented the system will provide 95% mobile statewide radio 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 three things, first Section 2 re-appropriates 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, Section 4 asks 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, Section 5 asks your consideration of an Legislative Management study that looks into the ongoing operational governance of state and local public safety. The study also would review who should be responsible for the administration of the maintenance costs of the SIRN system as the project moves from the implementation phase and into the operational phase.

With that Madam Chair, I'll stand for questions.