



EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, December 17, 2025
Roughrider Room, State Capitol
Bismarck, North Dakota

10:00 a.m. Call to order
Roll call
Consideration of the minutes of the October 23, 2025, meeting

VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY RESPONDER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION STUDY

10:05 a.m. Presentation by the Legislative Council staff of:

- A [memorandum](#) relating to the use of the term volunteer in the North Dakota Century Code and the North Dakota Administrative Code
- [Information](#) received from the National Conference of State Legislatures and the Council of State Governments regarding retirement plans for volunteer emergency responders in other states
- [Information](#) regarding the Montana Volunteer Firefighters' Compensation Act

10:15 a.m. [Presentation](#) by Ms. Rebecca Fricke, Executive Director, North Dakota Public Employee Retirement System, regarding [volunteer emergency responder benefits](#) related to retirement and insurance and information received from a federal tax consultant

10:45 a.m. [Presentation](#) by Mr. Phil Davis, Director, Workforce Services, North Dakota Job Service, regarding emergency responder job and wage statistics

11:00 a.m. Presentation by Mr. Tim Wiedrich, Section Chief, Emergency Preparedness and Response Unit, Department of Health and Human Services, regarding emergency medical services information

11:15 a.m. [Presentation](#) by Mr. Mark Johnston, Executive Director, Business Development - Government Affairs, Dr. Tyler Price, Medical Director of Emergency Services, and Ms. Rebecca VandeKieft, Vice President and General Manager of Emergency Services, Avel eCare, regarding emergency medical services and telehealth medicine

11:45 a.m. Comments by interested persons

12:00 noon Recess

FIRE SERVICE REGIONAL RESPONSE MODEL STUDY

1:00 p.m. Presentation by Ms. Mikayla Baker, Government Affairs Manger, Pano AI, regarding wildfire detection and management

1:30 p.m. [Presentation](#) by Mr. John Hejl, Chief, Casselton Fire Department, regarding challenges concerning nonprofit fire departments in the state

1:50 p.m. Presentation by Mr. Ken Wangen, President, North Dakota Fire Chiefs Association, regarding the fire response needs of the state

- 2:05 p.m. Presentation by Mr. Ron Guggisberg, President, Professional Firefighters of North Dakota, regarding the fire response needs of the state
- 2:20 p.m. Presentation by a representative of the Governor's subcabinet on public safety regarding efforts to improve public safety in the state

GRANT FUNDING FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

- 2:30 p.m. [Presentation](#) by the Legislative Council staff of a background memorandum on grant funding for emergency services and public safety
- 2:40 p.m. Presentation by a representative of the Insurance Department regarding grant funding for emergency services and the Insurance Tax Distribution Fund
- 2:55 p.m. [Presentation](#) by Ms. Shelli Myers, State Supervisor of Assessments and Property Tax Division Director, Tax Department, regarding property tax funding for emergency services
- 3:10 p.m. Break

**DELINQUENT BILLING REIMBURSEMENT GRANT
SYSTEM FOR AMBULANCE SERVICE PROVIDERS STUDY**

- 3:20 p.m. Presentation by the Legislative Council staff of an update on the consultant contract with PWW Advisory Group, LLC
- 3:25 p.m. Presentation by a representative of the North Dakota Emergency Medical Services Association regarding emergency ambulance billing
- 3:40 p.m. Comments by interested persons
- 3:55 p.m. Committee discussion and directives
- 4:00 p.m. Adjourn

A livestream of the meeting will be available to the public at: <https://video.ndlegis.gov>.

Committee Members

Representatives: Jim Grueneich (Chairman), Jayme Davis, Clayton Fegley, Pat D. Heinert, Dawson Holle, Karen Karls, Donald W. Longmuir, Dennis Nehring, Todd Porter

Senators: Josh Boschee, Greg Kessel, Diane Larson, Dale Patten, Donald Schaible

Staff Contacts: Casey Orvedal, Counsel
Keith Mantz, Fiscal Analyst