



EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 25, 2026
Roughrider Room, State Capitol
Bismarck, North Dakota

10:00 a.m. Call to order
Roll call
Consideration of the [minutes of the December 17, 2025, meeting](#)

VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY RESPONDER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION STUDY

10:05 a.m. [Presentation](#) by Mr. William Holahan, Executive Director, Montana Public Employee Retirement Administration, regarding the Montana Volunteer Firefighters' Compensation Act

10:35 a.m. [Presentation](#) by Mr. Tim Wahlin, Chief of Injury Services, Workforce Safety and Insurance, regarding insurance benefits for volunteer emergency responders

11:00 a.m. Presentation by Mr. Jason Olson, Firefighter, Oakes Fire Department, regarding the requirements and challenges faced by small fire departments

11:15 a.m. [Presentation](#) by Mr. Matt Clark, State Fire Marshal, Insurance Department, regarding the duties of the State Fire Marshal's office

11:30 a.m. [Presentation](#) by Mr. Rick Schreiber, Fire Chief, Arnegard Fire Department, regarding volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention

11:45 a.m. Comments from interested persons

12:00 noon Recess

GRANT FUNDING FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY STUDY

1:00 p.m. [Presentation](#) by Mr. Christopher Price, Director, Emergency Medical Systems Unit, Department of Health and Human Services, regarding emergency medical services funding and grants

DELINQUENT BILLING REIMBURSEMENT GRANT SYSTEM FOR AMBULANCE SERVICE PROVIDERS STUDY

1:30 p.m. [Presentation](#) by Mr. Matt Zavadsky, Emergency Management Services and Mobile Healthcare Consultant, PWW Advisory Group, regarding a survey of ambulance service providers

2:30 p.m. Break

FIRE SERVICE REGIONAL RESPONSE MODEL STUDY

2:40 p.m. Presentation by Mr. Darin Hanson, Homeland Security and Emergency Management Director, Department of Emergency Management Services, regarding efforts to improve public safety in the state

2:50 p.m. [Presentation](#) by Mr. Robert Finn, Vice President, Matrix Consulting Group, regarding the proposal submitted in response to the request for proposals for a fire service regional response model

- 3:10 p.m. Comments from interested persons
- 3:20 p.m. Review of bill drafts proposed by committee members:
- Bill draft [27.0043.01000](#) - Relating to a volunteer first responder retirement plan
 - Bill draft [27.0053.01000](#) - Relating to special vehicle license plates for volunteer emergency responders
 - Bill draft [27.0062.01000](#) - Relating to designating service areas for emergency medical services
 - Bill draft [27.0063.01000](#) - Relating to the definition of volunteer
- 3:50 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