

Introduced by

Senators Kessel, Bekkedahl, Hogue, Patten

Representative Porter

1 A BILL for an Act to provide for a legislative management study to evaluate the evolving fire
2 service operational and response needs of the state.

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

4 **SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - FIRE SERVICE REGIONAL**
5 **RESPONSE MODEL.**

6 1. During the 2025-26 interim, the legislative management shall study the evolving fire
7 service operational and response needs of the state. The study must include an
8 examination of the:

9 a. Coordination of efforts of existing state resources for improved fire emergency
10 service organization, distribution, mobilization, training, and oversight.

11 b. Creation of fire service regional response teams.

12 c. Establishment of authority for response, standardized training, wildland-urban
13 interface fire prevention codes, emergency response operational initiatives and
14 responsibilities.

15 d. Evaluation of existing staffing abilities to cross-train, provide further services,
16 provide backfill during extended or complex emergencies, minimum training
17 requirements, staff firefighting authorities, firefighting benefits, necessary
18 equipment, and structural needs.

19 e. Identification and implementation of a restructure of fiscal support for state and
20 local fire service in North Dakota, reducing the dependency on local property tax.

21 f. A review of changes necessary to state laws and administrative rules to
22 implement a unified model.

23 2. The study must include consultation with state fire marshal, the North Dakota
24 firefighter's association, the North Dakota forest service, the department of emergency

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1 services, the North Dakota fire chief's association, the department of career and
2 technical education, and other stakeholders. The legislative management may
3 contract with a consultant to carry out this study. The legislative management shall
4 report the findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to
5 implement the recommendations, to the seventieth legislative assembly.