



North Dakota House of Representatives

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COMMITTEES:
Appropriations

HB 1281
1.22.2025
House Finance and Tax

Good morning, Chairman Headland and members of the Finance and Tax Committee. I am here today to introduce House Bill 1281 for your consideration.

Currently, fire departments are required to use clear diesel in all responding fire department vehicles. In contrast, our Century Code allows ambulances to use red dye diesel. This bill proposes that fire department fuel usage be treated similarly to ambulances concerning the type of fuel they are allowed to use.

In many emergencies, especially in our rural areas, both fire and ambulance services are dispatched to an incident as they work collaboratively for rescue. Therefore, it is both practical and efficient for fire departments to have the same fuel usage provisions as ambulances. By allowing this change, it reduces the expenses for our fire departments, thus saving property tax dollars for our communities.

It may not seem like a lot, but they will add up to savings each of our departments can see in their own budgets and save to make those bigger purchases needed for their primary functions.

This would have a positive direct impact on all 356 Fire Departments in our state.

As turn out gear, equipment, air tanks, firetrucks and other essential live saving equipment needs to be updated, this will help make those updates.

I do have an amendment too. Legislative Council made a mistake in the title during drafting and caught it on Monday. This would change the word "excise" on line 2 to "fuel" as that is what we are working on.

I ask that the committee give this piece of legislation a favorable consideration.

Thank You,

Brandy L. Pyle