

House Judiciary

Date 1/31/2025.

Testimony on House Bill 1528

Submitted by: Ken Wangen, Fire Chief Carrington Volunteer Fire and Rescue,

Chairman Klemin and the House Judiciary Committee, Good Morning. For the record my name is Ken Wangen, I am the Fire Chief for Carrington Volunteer Fire and Rescue and the President of the North Dakota Fire Chief Association. I want to thank you for considering House Bill 1528.

## **Arson**

### **noun**

ar·son 'är-sən

### **Synonyms of arson**

**: the willful or malicious burning of property (such as a building) especially with criminal or fraudulent intent.**

It is clear. If a person intoxicated or otherwise willfully burns property with criminal or fraudulent intent, they are committing a crime.

Firefighters do not have a choice of not putting out a fire when called, therefore their lives are in danger on every call specially calls of this nature and intent. If a firefighter or civilian was to die in a fire of this nature it certainly would change the complexity of the issue.

This bill addresses aspects that currently would give an arsonist a possible escape clause and closes it. It also ups the possible punishment if a death was to occur during fires of this nature.

Please pass this bill to correctly punish individuals regardless of (chosen) impairment who willfully/maliciously engage in the burning of property.

Ken Wangen

Fire Chief Carrington Fire and Rescue

President North Dakota Fire Chiefs Association