



North Dakota Senate

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COMMITTEES:

Finance and Taxation
State and Local Government

3/14/2025

House Political Subdivision Committee

Chairman Longmuir and committee members

I am Chuck Walen Senator for District 4 and sponsor of SB 2296

SB 2296 is to define who a first responder is in Century Code "First responder" means an individual trained to provide assistance during an emergency, including a firefighter as defined under section 18 - 11 - 03, law enforcement officer as defined under section 12.1 - 01 - 04, emergency medical services personnel as defined under section 23 - 27 - 02, and public safety telecommunicators. Public Safety Telecommunicators or "911 operators" will now be listed as first responders under 57-40.6-01

First responders provide urgent aid during emergencies, and the 1st of the 1st responders are those who answer the calls. The 911/Public Safety Telecommunicators are highly trained to remain calm while providing whatever help is necessary, coordinating emergency responses, and give guidance and direction to those who have called and those sent to help. They jump from call to call and on some calls might be several minutes, while other calls could be an hour or more. Location matters how far away physical help

is from the emergency. They could be giving life saving information one minute and the next on a road side problem and then another to any other type of emergency.

They experience emotional and mental strain very similar to those in the field, but many times they do not have the time to decompress from one emergency to the next. They should enjoy the same recognition as a vital cog in the process.

Please vote do pass on SB 2296

I stand for any questions