

February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Testimony in support of SB 2332

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today in support of Senate Bill 2332. My name is Sarah Miller, Public Safety Telecommunications Director and 911 Coordinator for Barnes County Dispatch and President of the North Dakota 911 Association. I have been serving this industry for 15 years in various roles such as Public Safety Telecommunicator, Public Safety Telecommunications Supervisor, Reserve Deputy, and Emergency Medical Technician.

I am here today in support of SB 2332 however I am requesting an amendment to the listed member organizations of the proposed advisory board to include the North Dakota 911 Association.

Public Safety Telecommunicators are the first link in the vital chain of emergency services provided to the public. We are the "FIRST" first responders and first point of contact for someone in an emergency. Our expertise, quick thinking, and ability to make split-second decisions under pressure literally mean the difference between someone living and someone dying.

A large part of a public safety telecommunicators' duties is handling multiple emergencies simultaneously, providing coordination of responding agencies and keeping responders updated with real-time information. A dispatch center truly is the hub in which all responders originate their response from. Changes made to how our partner agencies respond – whether that be an EMS agency becoming unavailable for response or a fire department responding for a partner department can drastically affect the way public safety telecommunicators coordinate responders during an emergency response.

As written, all of our partner public safety services are represented on the advisory board. With the intended goals of this bill and 911 being the first pillar of public safety connections in an emergency, I feel that our organization, the North Dakota 911 Association, and the profession of Public Safety Telecommunications is a vital addition to the listed members of the emergency services and public safety advisory board.

Our organization is committed to promoting the professions in public safety services, continuing our partnership with our fellow first responders, and providing the highest level of service to the communities that depend on all of us, and we look forward to providing a representative to the advisory board.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sarah Miller  
smiller@barnescounty.us

**SENATE BILL NO. 2332**

Introduced by

Senator Boschee

Representatives Brandenburg, Mitskog, Nelson

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-27 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to a legacy earnings emergency services and public safety fund and  
3 advisory board; to amend and reenact section 21-10-13 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
4 relating to the allocation of legacy fund earnings; and to provide a continuing appropriation.

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

6 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 21-10-13 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
7 amended and reenacted as follows:

**8 21-10-13. Legacy earnings fund - State treasurer - Transfers.**

- 9 1. There is created in the state treasury the legacy earnings fund. The fund consists of all  
10 moneys transferred to the fund under subsection 2 and all interest and earnings upon  
11 moneys in the fund.
- 12 2. Any legacy fund earnings transferred to the general fund at the end of each biennium  
13 in accordance with section 26 of article X of the Constitution of North Dakota must be  
14 immediately transferred by the state treasurer to the legacy earnings fund.
- 15 3. For each biennium subsequent to the biennium in which the legacy fund earnings are  
16 transferred under subsection 2, the amount available for appropriation from the legacy  
17 earnings fund is seven percent of the five-year average value of the legacy fund  
18 assets as reported by the state investment board. The average value of the legacy  
19 fund assets must be calculated using the value of the assets at the end of each fiscal  
20 year for the five-year period ending with the most recently completed even-numbered  
21 fiscal year.
- 22 4. On July first of each odd-numbered year, from the amount available for appropriation  
23 or transfer from the legacy earnings fund for the biennium, the state treasurer shall  
24 transfer funding in the following order:

- 1           a. The first one hundred two million six hundred twenty-four thousand dollars or an  
2           amount equal to the amount appropriated from the legacy sinking and interest  
3           fund for debt service payments for a biennium, whichever is less, to the legacy  
4           sinking and interest fund under section 6-09.4-10.1.
- 5           b. The next two hundred twenty-five million dollars to the general fund to provide  
6           support for tax relief initiatives approved by the legislative assembly.
- 7           c. The next one hundred million dollars to the legacy earnings highway distribution  
8           fund for allocations under section 54-27-19.3.
- 9           d. The next twenty-five million dollars to the legacy earnings emergency services  
10          and public safety fund under section 2 of this Act.
- 11          e. Any remaining amounts under this subsection as follows:
- 12           (1) Fifty percent to the general fund.
- 13           (2) The remaining fifty percent to the strategic investment and improvements  
14           fund to be used in accordance with the provisions of section 15-08.1-08.
- 15          5. If the amounts transferred under subsection 2 exceed the amount available for  
16          appropriation under subsection 3, the state treasurer shall transfer the excess and any  
17          remaining amounts after the transfers and appropriations under subsection 4, as  
18          follows:
- 19           a. Fifty percent to the general fund.
- 20           b. The remaining fifty percent to the strategic investment and improvements fund to  
21           be used in accordance with the provisions of section 15-08.1-08.

22          **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 54-27 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
23          and enacted as follows:

24          **Legacy earnings emergency services and public safety fund - Advisory board -**  
25          **Continuing appropriation.**

- 26          1. There is created a North Dakota legacy earnings emergency services and public  
27          safety fund. The fund consists of all moneys deposited in the fund under section 1 of  
28          this Act and all interest and earnings of the fund. Moneys in the fund are appropriated  
29          on a continuing basis to the department of emergency services for distributing grants  
30          awarded by the advisory board and related administrative costs.
- 31          2. The legacy earnings emergency services and public safety advisory board consists of.

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly

- 1           a. The following members appointed by the governor:
- 2           (1) A representative of the North Dakota fire chiefs association.
- 3           (2) A representative of the North Dakota firefighter's association.
- 4           (3) A representative of the North Dakota emergency medical services
- 5           association.
- 6           (4) A representative of the North Dakota emergency management association.
- 7           (5) A representative of the North Dakota chiefs of police association.
- 8           (6) A representative of the North Dakota sheriffs association.
- 9           (7) A representative of the North Dakota peace officers association.
- 910       (8) A representative of the North Dakota 911 association.
- 1011      (98) A representative of the North Dakota association of counties.
- 1112      (109) A representative of the North Dakota league of cities.
- 1213      (1149) A representative of the North Dakota township officers association.
- 1314      (1244) A representative of the North Dakota Indian affairs commission.
- 1415      b. The following members appointed by the chairman of legislative management.
- 1516      (1) A member of house of representatives representing the party with the
- 1617      largest number of members in the house and a member of the house of
- 1718      representatives representing the party with the second largest number of
- 1819      members in the house.
- 1920      (2) A member of senate representing the party with the largest number of
- 2021      members in the senate and a member of the senate representing the party
- 2122      with the second largest number of members in the senate.
- 2223      c. The following ex-officio, nonvoting technical members, appointed by the
- 2324      governor.
- 2425      (1) A representative of the bureau of criminal investigation as recommended by
- 2526      the attorney general.
- 2627      (2) A representative of the department of emergency services.
- 2728      (3) A representative of the department of transportation.
- 2829      (4) A representative of the highway patrol.
- 2930      (5) A representative of the parks and recreation department.
- 3031      (6) A representative of the game and fish department.

1           (7) A representative of the state fire marshal's office as recommended by the  
2           insurance commissioner.

3           (8) A representative of the department of health and human services.

4        3. The advisory board shall receive and review applications to provide grants to political  
5        subdivisions and tribal governments, including rural fire districts and emergency  
6        medical services providers. In reviewing the applications, the board shall rank and  
7        award grant applications that address the following priorities:

8        a. Recruiting and retaining qualified public safety personnel.

9        b. Assisting communities with shared services agreements to ensure public safety  
10       coverage.

11       c. Expanding resources to ensure timely emergency response in all areas of the  
12       state, including pilot programs for a tiered response framework.

13       d. Providing funding to modernize the delivery of emergency services and public  
14       safety through innovations at the community and regional level.

15       e. Establishing response teams to respond to mental health emergencies to reduce  
16       reliance on law enforcement resources.

17       f. Ensuring access and implementation of appropriate technology and  
18       communications infrastructure.

19       g. Identifying or designating an entity to provide technical assistance to covered  
20       entities to aid in securing funding from other sources.

21       4. The department of emergency services shall administer the grant program and provide  
22       staff services to the advisory board.