

2009 HOUSE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

HB 1051

# 2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill No. HB 1051

House Political Subdivisions Committee

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Hearing Date: January 15, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 7075, 7100

Committee Clerk Signature

Minutes:

**Chairman Wrangham** opened the hearing on HB 1051.

**Rep. Porter: District 34 in Mandan;** we had a subcommittee that was formed by Legislative Counsel

That looked at the needs of Law enforcement, fire and EMS across the state. Discussed a show like CSI where they detected that person outside of the vehicle and the person was telling him he was someone other than who he really was. They reached into the car and pulled out this little ink pad looking thing and they put the persons finger prints on that device and scanned their fingerprints and sent it in automatically to the FBI and the returned it with his picture and real identity. When a fire department responds to an emergency where hazardous material may or may not be stored; with this epic center hooked up to those responding fire units. The location based on where the response of the system, it will tell you where the fire is and also the records of the blueprints of the building and where the closest fire hydrants may be. Records of where the chemicals are stored in the building, which is currently a requirement of the report. That responding fire unit can see all that information. So it is a multi functional system that currently right now we have with our responders, but it is a very limited system on what we use. Currently there are some state radio systems, some analog systems, which would put you back to taking your TI access that you have down stairs on your computer back to the dial up. There is functional systems where law enforcement to type in a license plate number and get their

Licensing information back in a couple of minutes. Saves the dispatch center from having to do that. If the dispatch center wanted a picture of a missing child on an amber alert type scenario to all of the officers across the state. This would move us to that next level of technology. The more law Enforcement is at a fixed base location doing paperwork the more they are not out patrolling. This would allow them to connect with the computer age dispatch system. This would allow them to do reports in the field and send them into a central computer. Right now those packages are so big and the system was not designed for that; those capabilities are not there. We felt that this was a valid project to move us to that next level in the aspect of public safety. In our \$750,000 figure as we looked at them \$125,000 approx. is what it would cost state radio to upgrade the switch inside state radio that would connect between the computer system and the information as it moves back and forth. The other \$625,000 was local grants tied back to the existing 835 users of the current local data terminal system. What that money would do is pay for 50% of their upgrade for their computer to the air card and to the software that would be necessary to run that system. The public safety committee has asked for this bill; there was \$125,000 that was necessary to do the switch that was included in the governor's budget for state radio. So that amount can be reduced off this appropriation because it is already in the budget. That would mean \$625,000 is meant to be a onetime to the 825 current users to help them convert from The old analog system and the whole point of this conversion is once the old system is converted we can Turn off that old system and quite maintaining that equipment and dispose of it. That is what this bill is about in a nutshell.

**Chairman Wrangham:** Discussed the analog system and that it are going out so I won't get my TV soon.

I heard it is to free up space for communications for national safety. Did I miss something or is this right?

**Rep. Porter:** I can't image anybody in public safety would use the same frequency as television. I do know that everything is using these bands and basically you can put more people inside decimal points without interference. That was why the big push in digital especially in public safety. They can do more with the same number of frequencies.

**Rep. Kilichowski:** Why wasn't this a priority knowing that we are going to have internet?

**Rep. Porter:** It was considered a priority to the public safety interim committee because we pushed a bill out that said it is necessary to do and we felt it was important enough for public safety that it should be something to be looked at.

**Rep. Zaiser:** It is my understand that the new administration is going to push back the date of the analog for a significant period of time. Would you rant which are the most important of these bills?

**Rep. Porter:** Sure, you need to understand that when the general is up here talking about coming out of the public safety committee; while a lot of it comes from what his agency performed on a day to day functional part of public safety across the state of ND is that we asked him as the legislative interim we asked the chairman of the legislative counsel to have the general use his expertise to put together a committee that would report directly back to the public safety committee. These bills that are coming out of the public safety committee are coming back to use through that subcommittee that we asked to be formed. They felt it very important to get the public input from the field to insure public safety of the citizen's of ND.

**Rep. Zaiser:** We are trying to be able to decide which ones are most important since there are so many requests on this bill for dollars.

**Rep. Porter:** that is why we asked the general to do the work on the interim committee and that is why our focus was on things that were a onetime expenditure that did not have the ability to be sustain in the future and we were trying to get rid of duplication of services so we

did not have 23 different public services across the state using 911 dollars and other dollars and use one or two services and save the local tax payers.

**Rep. Corey Mock:** Do they have air cards?

**Rep. Porter:** There are some agencies that have put air cards into their vehicles. They do not connect into the system that we are talking about. They can go through World Wide Web and go through which goes through the IPD which is a spoke and hub system of getting some records from various law enforcement agencies across the country. As far as getting into the current State Radio system they do not connect very well. That is why this technology enhancement bill.

**Rep. Kretschmar:** worried about the big brother watching us all the time whether we want it or not.

**Rep. Porter:** I can assure you that this particular system is incapability of doing that, but at the moment with homeland security and cell phones they are already monitoring that air waves and emails etc.

**Greg Wilz: Deputy Director, Dept. of Emergency Services:** (testimony #1). This bill does two things; helps upgrade state radio package that is in our budget. Second piece is it assists the 835 current users in procuring the air card technology and covers 50% of their expenses for one year. Air card costs \$100/ approx. \$50/month service plus; \$600 inception package that is required to access the criminal files within the capability of the switch and there is a maintenance fee. It is about \$1420 for a police officer to go out and put this in his car. This bill provides about 50% of that to be at the program level of the bill.

**Rep. Nancy Johnson:** When Rep. Porter said there would be 50% to match do the disciplines know about this bill?

**Greg Wilz:** they have knowledge of this bill because they all had a seat at the task force on this bill and this was explained this week by the new director of state radio to the sheriff's and chief's association so they are aware this exists and I do believe that the feedback that state radio got was they were in favor of this program.

**Rep. Klemin:** The local responders know where fire hydrants are and they know the floor plans and chemical that are stored there so why do they need this whole system when they plan in advance for a possibility of a fire there and have this knowledge.

**Greg Wilz:** This system can use this for a wide variety of incidents. Discussed some additional needs for rural areas to need additional information and assistance to help do their job.

**Rep. Klemin:** Updating a switch, is this an exercise in futility?

**Greg Wilz:** Our customers are wanting access to that switch over air ways and the 19.2 switch is shared by all users so when we get all our users on the system at one time it gets really slow. We need to update that switch because it would give up more updates and better information more quickly.

Opposition: none

Hearing closed.

Chairman Wrangham: reopened hearing.

**Rep. Conrad:** As I understand it \$125,000 is already in this bill so we could lower the required amount that much.

Chairman Wrangham: I heard no request to remove this amount.

**Rep. Conrad:** It is in the budget so there is \$626,000 that would be needed.

**Rep. Pietsch:** this bill is only going to fund fifty percent so there would be costs to the local EMT or whatever groups that would be using it. We have no figure what that would cost the county.

**Rep. Corey Mock:** \$125,000 is for user interface.

**Rep. Koppelman:** I think this is a first step; do we need to amend it down?

**Rep. Klemin:** concerned about the vague language and I don't know who this would work since allot of the information is not specified in the bill.

Motion Made for a Do Not Pass by **Rep. Kretschmar:** **Seconded by Rep. Koppelman:**

**Vote: 13 Yes    0 No    0 Absent**

**Carrier: Rep. Conrad**

Roll Call Vote #: 1

Date: 1-15-09

**2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES**  
**BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB1051**

House Political Subdivisions Committee

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Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended

Motion Made By Rep. Kretschmar Seconded By Rep. Koppelman

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Rep. Dwight Wrangham, Chairman	✓		Senator Kari Conrad	✓	
Rep. Craig Headland, Vice Chairman	✓		Senator Jerry Kelsh	✓	
Rep. Patrick Hatlestad	✓		Senator Robert Kilichowski	✓	
Rep. Nancy Johnson	✓		Senator Corey Mock	✓	
Rep. Lawrence Klemin	✓		Senator Steve Zaiser	✓	
Rep. Kim Koppelman	✓				
Rep. William Kretschmar	✓				
Rep. Vonnie Pietsch	✓				

Total (Yes) 13 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep. Conrad

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:



**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)**  
January 15, 2009 4:25 p.m.

**Module No: HR-08-0407**  
**Carrier: Conrad**  
**Insert LC: . Title: .**

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1051: Political Subdivisions Committee (Rep. Wrangham, Chairman)** recommends  
**DO NOT PASS** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1051 was  
placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2009 TESTIMONY

HB 1051

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TESTIMONY - HB 1051  
HOUSE COMMITTEE – POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS  
JANUARY 15, 2009  
BY GREG WILZ  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Greg Wilz. I am the Deputy Director of the Department of Emergency Services (NDDDES) and Director of Homeland Security for the state of North Dakota. Today I am here as a representative of the task force established at the request of the interim Public Safety Committee. The Public Safety Committee asked that the task force be established to request improvements to emergency services by adding organizational changes, system upgrades, process or protocol changes and statutory changes to ensure the future viability and capability of emergency services in North Dakota. My intent is to provide background information as was discussed within the task force and not to take an agency position on HB 1051.

The state's current mobile data system, in place since 2003, provides a transfer rate of 19.2 baud on 450 MHZ bandwidth. The system affords only rudimentary data (text) transfers and is incapable of meeting the increasing information needs required in the field. Officers want increased capability that includes information transfer from driver license photos, criminal databases, maps, and criminal history files in order to enhance efficiency, effectiveness, and safety as they confront individuals during service stops. There are currently 835 mobile data terminal users and the number is expected to proliferate as the demand for instantaneous data escalates into the future.

HB 1051 appropriates \$750,000 and would update the main message switch that interfaces with the mobile data terminals and provides for approximately 50 percent of the equipment cost, service, encryption software, and maintenance fees during the first year of service for the 835 mobile data terminal users. This would support procurement of high speed air cards capable of use over existing commercial networks.

The task force felt that this program would close the gap that exists until such time the technology is available to upgrade the state's system or fully migrate to commercially available wireless broadband networks of the future.

The Executive Budget (HB 1016) includes \$125,000 which will allow for upgrades of the message switch.

Thank you, I will try to answer any questions you may have.