

2015 SENATE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

SCR 4019

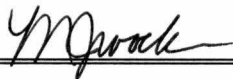
2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Political Subdivisions Committee Red River Room, State Capitol

SCR 4019
2/12/2015
Job Number 23758

- ☐ Subcommittee
☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to study the feasibility and desirability of utilizing state funds to provide health insurance, workers' compensation insurance or other benefits to volunteer firefighters, volunteer emergency medical service personnel, and volunteer ambulance workers across the state.

Minutes:

Written Testimony # 1 Sen. Heckaman

Chairman Burckhard opened the hearing on SCR 4019.

Senator Heckaman sponsor of the bill and introduced it to the committee; written testimony # 1 (:25-4:23).

Senator Anderson I like the 5 points that you just mentioned for the study. Is there any reason why those shouldn't be included here under the wording in the study?

Senator Heckaman I didn't include them because I didn't know if there may be more specific questions that you as a committee would have that could add and that's why I added the last statement. I would appreciate your amending this if you feel that would be beneficial.

Senator Judy Lee Senator Anderson and I heard in another bill somewhat similar but not exactly covering these kinds of things. My understanding was that the insurance was very reasonable if it was provided for volunteer service workers in this case. The suggestion was made at that time there is always a modest cost for any volunteer entity where there is a fire department or ambulance service or whatever. It can be purchased by the volunteer fire department or the ambulance service rather than being state funded in this case. So, there is an option that is available. You're saying that shouldn't be something that we should be expecting them to do?

Senator Heckaman No, I am not saying that at all. I think we should study this to see if that is something that is feasible across the state of North Dakota. I am not sure that all fire and ambulance squads have the funding to do that. I know that our local fire department does a benefit pancake, to raise money by eating pancakes because they don't have the funds that

they need. So, I didn't have the time to go out and investigate this further, so I'd like an interim committee do some investigating on this. I do know there is GAP insurance. It's called GAP insurance that some squads do purchase, but I don't know what it covers. I couldn't get that answer right away either.

Chairman Burckhard closed the hearing on SCR 4019.

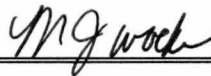
2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Political Subdivisions Committee Red River Room, State Capitol

SCR 4019
2/12/2015
Job Number 23772

- ☐ Subcommittee
☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A concurrent resolution directing Legislative Management to study the feasibility and desirability of utilizing state funds to provide health insurance, worker's compensation insurance or other benefits to volunteer firefighters, volunteer emergency medical service personnel, and volunteer ambulance workers across the state.

Minutes:

"Click to enter attachment information."

Chairman Burckhard called the committee to discuss SCR 4019. All senators were present.

Senator Grabinger Senator Anderson suggested we include the language lines 1-5 in Senator Heckaman's testimony. It was my understanding in her testimony and if we could do that, I would in some way go along with that. I personally think this is a good bill. I wish there was more we could do. As a former firefighter for 16 years in my community, had I known that if I had a heart attack at one of those accident scenes or fighting in one of those fires, I don't know that I would've been serving. I think it is a thing where if Worker's Comp will cover these firefighters if they get their hand cut off, if they get burned, but if they have a heart attack they are not? I just don't see it. I wish there was more we could do and I think I would love to see us study this and get something done for these people. Our volunteers need this and we owe it to them. Our communities are paying Workman's Comp. If it takes a little more for our communities to pay that and get them the coverage we need to do that.

Senator Anderson That in that case, this is not necessarily a pitch for that. You need to look at the Workforce Safety and Insurance rules and regulations. If they are different for volunteers than they are for others, we would need to change that. Now, I don't know if this even covers that, do you think it does? Not so we could add that if you're interested in it, at least look at why it's different for these people than it would be for an ordinary employed individual. Whether they have a different set of criteria, I have no idea. No, it seems to like that if you're a volunteer on something and you have your own health insurance and that ought to cover you.

Senator Grabinger No

Senator Judy Lee The fact that the full time firefighters, and there are not many of them, are covered but that there's a modest premium for the volunteer emergency service providers to participate. In fact it was said this morning \$30 a year. It is a small premium that is paid that really even the volunteer organizations really need to figure out a way to do that because I think what Senator Heckaman was gearing up for is, the state ought to provide it without a premium. WSI is covered by premiums paid by employers, so it becomes a little more complex as you really just alluded to here.

Senator Anderson I wasn't pretending that it wouldn't cost additional money that way. By the way I am not in favor of the state paying for it either. But, I am fine with studying it, and looking at what the costs might be. It is impossible to do a fiscal note because there is no way to tell, how many people are going to opt in or out or whatever. You're not going to know that until you get into it.

Senator Judy Lee The director was here today and I wish he would've stepped up.

Chairman Burckhard Do we want to do anything with this bill?

Senator Grabinger moved the amendments

Senator Howard Anderson 2nd

Chairman Burckhard asked Femi to add the 5 items from Senator Heckaman letter. After line 18, " now therefore be it resolved" ...to add those items.

Senator Bekkedahl Would it be appropriate to also say "and any other categories important for study" . Do we sometimes put language that says you can do anything you want or is that already accepted in there?

Senator Judy Lee It is already in there.

Senator Bekkedahl I want to make sure they don't preclude something and only do five things, if they think of another thing.

Senator Judy Lee "including but not limited to" do you like that?

Senator Bekkedahl I like that. Add Senator Judy Lee questions and then those five things, something like that?

Senator Grabinger Hopefully if they do take on the study, and that's if, that they will include Senator Heckaman in there. Then they will hear about that.

Chairman Burckhard We have a motion and a 2nd to amend.

Roll call vote on the amendment

6 Yea, 0 No, 0 Absent

2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Political Subdivisions Committee Red River Room, State Capitol

SCR 4019
2/13/2015
Job Number 23813

- ☐ Subcommittee
☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A concurrent resolution directing Legislative Management to study the feasibility and desirability of utilizing state funds to provide health insurance, worker's compensation insurance or other benefits to volunteer firefighters, volunteer emergency medical service personnel, and volunteer ambulance workers across the state.

Minutes:

"Click to enter attachment information."

Chairman Burckhard opened the committee for committee discussion on SCR4019. All senators were present.

Chairman Burckhard The amendment should be in your possession. It looks like the four or five points have been incorporated into the last two lines of the first page; and the first two lines of the second page. So they've must've shortened this up a little bit too, right Femi?

Femi one, the five points are in here. We thought number 3 and 5 physically were the same thing. So, we expounded it in the overall cost. So, physically we found the question unto state 9 to reflect one more thing.

Senator John Grabinger moved the amendment for SCR 4019
Senator Anderson 2nd

Chairman Burckhard asked for a Roll call vote
6 Yea, 0 No, 0 Absent
Amendment passes

Senator Grabinger asked if we need a motion to approve the amended resolution.

Chairman Burckhard replied yes.

Senator John Grabinger so move the amended resolution- Do Pass
2nd **Senator Dotzenrod**

Roll call vote
6 Yea, 0 No, 0 Absent

Carrier Senator John Grabinger

February 12, 2015

2/13/15
JRE

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4019

Page 1, line 4, after "state" insert ", including determining whether the community volunteers would be covered in the case of an accident or injury, the scope and conditions of coverage, and the overall cost to insure community volunteers"

Page 1, line 18, after "state" insert ", including determining whether the community volunteers would be covered in the case of an accident or injury, the scope and conditions of coverage, and the overall cost to insure community volunteers"

Renumber accordingly

Date: 2.12.15
Roll Call Vote: 1
Job Number 23772

2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES SCR 4019
BILL/RESOLUTION NO.

Senate Political Subdivisions

Committee

☐ Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: Senator Heckman Amendment

Recommendation: ☒ Adopt Amendment
☐ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Without Committee Recommendation
☐ As Amended ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations
☐ Place on Consent Calendar

Other Actions: ☐ Reconsider ☐

Motion Made By Sen. Grabinger Seconded By Sen. Anderson

| Senators | Yes | No | Senators | Yes | No |
|--------------------|-----|----|-------------------|-----|----|
| Chairman Burckhard | X | | | | |
| Senator Anderson | X | | Senator Dotzenrod | X | |
| Senator Bekkedahl | X | | Senator Grabinger | X | |
| Senator Judy Lee | X | | | | |
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Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment

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

- 1.) Which of these community volunteers are covered in case of an accident or injury?
- 2.) What are the conditions of coverage?
- 3.) What would it cost to insure community volunteers?
- 4.) What would this coverage include?
- 5.) What would the cost be to cover these volunteer emergency workers?

Job Number 23813

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. *LCR 4019*

Committee

Amendment LC# or Description: 15. 3089.01001

☐

Motion Made By Senator Grabinger Seconded By Senator Anderson

[illegible]

Floor Assignment

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

Date: 2.13.15
Roll Call Vote: 2
Job Number 23813

2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SCR 4019

Senate Political Subdivisions Committee

☐ Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: 15.3089.01001

Recommendation: ☐ Adopt Amendment
☒ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Without Committee Recommendation
☒ As Amended ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations
☐ Place on Consent Calendar
Other Actions: ☐ Reconsider ☐ _____

Motion Made By Senator Grabinger Seconded By Senator Dotzenrod

| Senators | Yes | No | Senators | Yes | No |
|--------------------|-----|----|-------------------|-----|----|
| Chairman Burckhard | X | | | | |
| Senator Anderson | X | | Senator Dotzenrod | X | |
| Senator Bekkedahl | X | | Senator Grabinger | X | |
| Senator Judy Lee | X | | | | |
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Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Senator Grabinger

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SCR 4019: Political Subdivisions Committee (Sen. Burckhard, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SCR 4019 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 4, after "state" insert ", including determining whether the community volunteers would be covered in the case of an accident or injury, the scope and conditions of coverage, and the overall cost to insure community volunteers"

Page 1, line 18, after "state" insert ", including determining whether the community volunteers would be covered in the case of an accident or injury, the scope and conditions of coverage, and the overall cost to insure community volunteers"

Renumber accordingly

2015 HOUSE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

SCR 4019

2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Political Subdivisions Committee

Prairie Room, State Capitol

SCR 4019

3/26/2015

25462

☐ Subcommittee

☐ Conference Committee

Amanda Muschio

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Directing the Legislative Management to study the feasibility and desirability of utilizing state funds to provide health insurance, workers' compensation insurance, or other benefits to volunteer firefighters, volunteer emergency medical service personnel, and volunteer ambulance workers across the state, including determining whether the community volunteers would be covered in the case of an injury, the scope and conditions of coverage, and the overall cost to insure community volunteers.

Minutes:

Testimony 1

Chairman Klemin: Opened hearing on SCR 4019

Senator Heckaman: Testimony 1

Representative Koppelman: In the resolution it says that the study would be to look at using state dollars for this purpose. Was it your intent that the state would pay for this? Some political subdivisions access PERS but it is the political subdivisions tax dollars that maybe pays the premium. If there is a local volunteer fire department maybe the city would pay that if they could access PERS.

Senator Heckaman: My intent is to look at this. I don't think the state will pay for this but I needed to get this going. Some people fundraise to get dollars but looking at a specific area that WSI doesn't cover is my main concern. This young man lost his summer job because he can't do the lifting. He couldn't get compensation for a heart attack because WSI doesn't cover it. He's back at work and caring for his children. The biggest bill is the air ambulance bill which was from Devils Lake to Grand Forks was over 33,000 and Blue Cross paid about 8,000. He was not able to work through the summer on top of not getting disability. They tell me he will not be responsible for the remainder but others have told me that they still have those bills over their head. Last session they thought they had this covered. We don't have compensation for certain people and heart attacks aren't covered.

Representative Kelsh: Does the Local fire department pay a premium to WSI for their volunteers and their duties?

Senator Heckaman: I can't answer that for sure but the city of New Rockford does and the fire department serves the city and the rural areas in town. There is a section in code that says they will be compensated in the same manner as other city employees are for a disability, however, that does not take place. I don't know if there is a single policy.

Representative Kelsh: Did you look into the possibility of us passing the law that says they will cover those people who pay a premium to WSI?

Senator Heckaman: When I met with WSI it is like a catch 22. They cover but they don't. For rural emergency workers it is a conundrum where if one thing happens he can be compensated but if another happens he can't. They said they couldn't compensate him even though the doctor said the stress was due to what he was doing on the job.

Representative Kelsh: You now have two doctors (the WSI and regular doctor) say it was at least 50% cause by what he was doing and someone is paying a premium- we should be able to tell them that they have to pay. It doesn't make sense.

Senator Heckaman: I agree but that is not happening right now. He is on his second appeal and has been told that there is no way he will get compensation.

Representative Anderson: Is there anything as a state that we can do to increase what WSI covers?

Senator Heckaman: I am not sure. I have met with WSI and they say they will not compensate for a heart attack in a volunteer. They only compensate for a paid firefighter and claim it is in the law somewhere.

Representative Anderson: That can't sit with my conscious in my opinion.

Senator Heckaman: There may be someone here from WSI to testify here but that is why we need to study this. Why can't they compensate for volunteers? You can get gap insurance but if it doesn't cover a heart attack that may not help anyways.

Jim Moe: I am the fire chief for the City of Devils Lake. I have six career firefighters and 33 volunteers. She did a great job explaining the problems but there are many more. We had a meeting and a few had complaints about working with WSI. We had WSI members there to explain laws and regulations but I was surprised by what they can't cover and it scared me. At the end of the meeting I think we realized things needed to be done. I owe it to my volunteers to make sure they are covered. There are many programs out there but many come with restrictions. There is one program that gives you complete coverage. Changing the law is an option. We have 12,000 volunteers and we are talking about an annual \$15.49 per member premium that would cover them and give them a monetary wage. It isn't an end all do all but it would help.

Representative Koppelman: How does it work in your department? You pay a worker comp premium for those who are employees.

Jim Moe: We are covered and have used Work Force Safety on several occasions with no problem. We haven't had the unfortunate case of someone having a heart attack though. Work force safety does a great job. They do grant funding and pay for our state fire school.

I support them and they back our courage to be safe program for the fire service. I am an advocate for that program and we talk about safety among fire departments. Number one cause of death for a firefighter is a heart attack so we encourage them to eat better and get exercise. We are volunteers and many have busy lives. Work Force Safety does care and they do what they can to help out but there are laws that prevent them from covering us. The fact that they can't cover a heart attack or stroke alarms me and we need to fill that gap.

Representative Koppelman: So the premium seems pretty minimal but work force safety is an insurance program not a benefit program. Would you think the premium for work force safety would be higher than a private insurance policy like this?

Jim Moe: We believe that to go through Work Force Safety the premium would get to our communities than they could afford to support so we think the best option would be a gap insurance.

Representative Koppelman: Insurance companies talk about the idea that you can buy plans that cover everything but when you get the work force safety kind of things they ask if it is job related or an ongoing issue. Someone with a heart condition volunteers and they have a heart attack or someone who no history has a heart attack- how do you balance that out?

Jim Moe: That's why we are here. As a career firefighter I am covered under work force safety because of the presumptive clause. They presume I have the heart attack because it is my career. When you are in the volunteer you have to prove that the heart attack happened while you are performing your duties. There is a line that someone has to figure out who is responsible. If we buy a gap insurance for the volunteers there are some policies out that if you have preexisting conditions you probably not covered. There are some policies that don't look at that though.

Representative Koppelman: If it only costs \$15 a year for a great plan why aren't we doing this?

Jim Moe: A lot of fire departments are. Some have a lot of great fundraisers. Plans range from 2000-4000 dollars on an annual basis for the departments. Some take it upon themselves to get it but we are looking at those that can't afford it.

Shane Lehrkamp: I am part of the provident program that Chief Moe is talking about. We are talking about the heart attacks as well as the income side when that person has a heart attack and/or is hurt on a fire seen. There is no weekly benefit for wages lost. Our program has that availability and another aspect too would be medical expenses. If it is denied (heart attack, stroke...) we have medical expenses within our policy. No one knows the magic number in terms of the death benefit, weekly disability, and/or the medical expenses. That is where you may get together and not necessarily make everything whole but to protect our volunteers.

Representative Koppelman: How does South Dakota handle this?

Shane: South Dakota has our own work comp carriers down there through various markets. It is private and inputted wage. If you have 30 members, your premium to whatever work comp carrier that fire department and/or city chooses then it is an inputted wage of \$300 a year with the maximum benefit every week of \$703.

Representative Koppelman: I realize SD doesn't have a state program like us but who pays the premium?

Shane: The locals.

Representative Koppelman: Is it required somewhere?

Shane: State law requires work comp to be paid.

Representative Koppelman: So state law requires that local entities have work comp for their volunteers.

Shane: There are many markets out there for work comp.

Representative Maragos: How do your annual premiums compare with the \$14 that Moe was talking about in SD?

Shane: For work comp? I can't answer that. There are many markets. You could go from one to the other and they will have different premiums across the board.

Representative Maragos: You handle property, and casualties correct?

Shane: Yes and life and accident in SD as well.

Representative Hatlestad: Do you handle gap insurance?

Shane: We consider this as a gap insurance. It is not the end all cure all but it is an avenue for departments to purchase.

Representative Hatlestad: Your premium is 300 a year for coverage or less? In ND would it be less?

Shane: In terms of that 300 I state, that is just the inputted wage in SD and that is what the SD work comp individuals within the state have said. How it works up here I don't know. On our provident policy the premium would be 15 and some change. As the volunteer numbers grow our premium decreases a bit.

Neutral--

Tim Wahlmeen: I am from WSI (Work Force Safety Insurance) and here to answer any questions.

Representative Kelsh: What is the difference between the coverage for the professional firefighter and the volunteer when they both pay a premium? Both doctors say it was the job that caused the heart attack. What is the cause for that happening? Is it the way we have the laws written?

Tim: It is the way the law has been put together. Our system is based on covering work related injuries as opposed to general health care conditions of the general public at large. As a result coverage in ND for heart attack and stroke, there is coverage, however, it is only situations of unusual stress- meaning stress higher than the highest stress experienced in that profession. That means that the coverage for heart attacks is extremely narrow. I say there is coverage but the reality is that there is very little. When we get into heart attack coverage we have to look at if it was caused by the inclimant or there were other factors (including anything from heredity, obesity, to smoing). It is the legislature's focus on making sure the coverage is only for those work related injuries as opposed to the general health care. It is different for full time paid firefighters and full time paid law enforcement because there is a provision called the presumption clause. For that small group there is an exception saying we are presuming heart attacks are caused by the employment. The difference between those coverages is that there is no proof burden on the injured worker in that case. The only way the cover can be denied is if WSI can show that it was not related which is an impossible task. The other difference is cost. One is much more expensive because you have now taken in the population and all of those preexisting issues should they exist.

Chairman Klemin: Have we had these bills come up before?

Tim: Yes a couple times.

Representative Oversen: What information does WSI base their information off of if both doctors including the WSI doctor say that it was more likely than not that the injury was caused by work? What other information are you gathering to disqualify that decision?

Tim: The definition sections of the code state that it has to be more than 50% caused and caused by unusual stress, which by definition is stress greater than the highest stress expected or seen in that position. When you get to the measurement of stress the highest stress experienced by firefighters is significant. As a result of that measuring point most of those claims will be denied. I can't speak to the claim because it is confidential and personal. I will answer them generally because I don't want there to be confusion.

Representative Oversen: Are the points you are referring to in century code or in your administrative rules?

Tim: They are in the century code under the definition section 65-01-02 sub 10 (defines compensable injury). There are two pieces to it and says which are compensable and which are not. It is in there specifically.

Representative Anderson: So we can change that code of we wanted the legislation.

Tim: Yes

Representative Anderson: PTSD is not covered either.

Tim: Correct. It is not a covered condition.

Representative Kelsh: Last week we had a forum where firefighters showed up and they were very upset with these issues and others pertaining to how they are funded. Some

have to go door to door to get more than the 5 mills and they don't get paid for anything they do. They are finding it harder to get volunteers and if we don't do something soon we will lose them all.

Representative Koppelman: I have an amendment

Representative Kelsh: I will withdraw

Representative Koppelman: It pertains to a question asked about if Senator Heckaman's intent was to have the state provide for these funds. She said it wasn't and I would move on line 2 we substitute for the words utilizing state funds to provide, we substitute the word procuring, and then on line 3 change the word to the word for. Then it would read a concurrent resolution directing legislative management to study the feasibility and desirability of procuring health insurance, workers compensation insurance, or other benefits for volunteer firefighters. Then the study is free to go where it leads. I move the amendments.

Representative Hatlestad: Second

Representative Oversen: Should it also include that in the therefore clause as well?

Representative Koppelman: It probably should and I would agree. So it would say instead of utilizing state funds to provide on line 17, 18 it would just be procuring.

Chairman Klemin: On line 18 the word to at the end would become for.

Representative Koppelman: Correct

A Voice Vote Was Taken: Motion carries

Representative Kelsh: I move a do pass as amended

Representative Hatlestad: Second

Representative Anderson: I like the whole SD idea. When I got to forums, people come in and if we initiated a measure to get rid of WSI I think it would pass.

Chairman Klemin: ND was one of the first states in the US to adopt a state program for workers compensation which goes back to 1915 or 1913. There are about 5 or 6 state programs in the country and the private programs as I understand are all a lot more expensive than what ND premiums are.

A Roll Call Vote Was Taken: Yes 13, No 0, Absent 1 (Beadle)

Motion carries

Representative Kelsh will carry the bill

March 26, 2015

Handwritten:
3-26-15

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.
4019

Page 1, line 2, replace "utilizing state funds to provide" with "procuring"

Page 1, line 3, replace "to" with "for"

Page 1, line 8, replace "administering" with "administration"

Page 1, line 17, remove "utilizing state"

Page 1, line 18, replace "funds to provide" with "procuring"

Page 1, line 18, replace the second "to" with "for"

Renumber accordingly

Date: 3-26-15
Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO.**

House Political Subdivisions Committee

☐ Subcommittee ☐ Conference Committee

Amendment LC# or Description: Koppelman Amendments

Recommendation: ☒ Adopt Amendment
☐ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Without Committee Recommendation
☐ As Amended ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations
Other Actions: ☐ Reconsider ☐ _____

Motion Made By Koppelman Seconded By Hatlestad

| Representative | Yes | No | Representative | Yes | No |
|---------------------------------|-----|----|----------------------|-----|----|
| Chairman Lawrence R. Klemin | | | Rep. Pamela Anderson | | |
| Vice Chair Patrick R. Hatlestad | | | Rep. Jerry Kelsh | | |
| Rep. Thomas Beadle | | | Rep. Kylie Oversen | | |
| Rep. Rich S. Becker | | | Rep. Marie Strinden | | |
| Rep. Matthew M. Klein | | | | | |
| Rep. Kim Koppelman | | | | | |
| Rep. William E. Kretschmar | | | | | |
| Rep. Andrew G. Maragos | | | | | |
| Rep. Nathan Toman | | | | | |
| Rep. Denton Zubke | | | | | |
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*Voice Vote
Motion Carried*

Total (Yes) _____ No _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

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

15

Date: 3-26-15
Roll Call Vote #: 2

2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE

ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SCR 4019

House Political Subdivisions Committee

☐ Subcommittee ☐ Conference Committee

Amendment LC# or Description: 15.3089.02001

Recommendation: ☐ Adopt Amendment
☒ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Without Committee Recommendation
☒ As Amended ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations
Other Actions: ☐ Reconsider ~~Unanimous Consent~~

Motion Made By Kelsh Seconded By Hatlestad

| Representative | Yes | No | Representative | Yes | No |
|---------------------------------|-----|----|----------------------|-----|----|
| Chairman Lawrence R. Klemin | X | | Rep. Pamela Anderson | X | |
| Vice Chair Patrick R. Hatlestad | X | | Rep. Jerry Kelsh | X | |
| Rep. Thomas Beadle | | | Rep. Kylie Oversen | X | |
| Rep. Rich S. Becker | X | | Rep. Marie Strinden | X | |
| Rep. Matthew M. Klein | X | | | | |
| Rep. Kim Koppelman | X | | | | |
| Rep. William E. Kretschmar | X | | | | |
| Rep. Andrew G. Maragos | X | | | | |
| Rep. Nathan Toman | X | | | | |
| Rep. Denton Zubke | X | | | | |
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Total (Yes) 13 No 0

Absent 1 (Beadle)

Floor Assignment Kelsh

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

motion carries

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SCR 4019, as engrossed: Political Subdivisions Committee (Rep. Klemin, Chairman)
recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends
DO PASS (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
Engrossed SCR 4019 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 2, replace "utilizing state funds to provide" with "procuring"

Page 1, line 3, replace "to" with "for"

Page 1, line 8, replace "administering" with "administration"

Page 1, line 17, remove "utilizing state"

Page 1, line 18, replace "funds to provide" with "procuring"

Page 1, line 18, replace the second "to" with "for"

Renumber accordingly

2015 TESTIMONY

SCR 4019

SCR 4019

Chairman and members of the committee:

I am Senator Joan Heckaman from New Rockford and I represent District 23. I am here today to introduce you to SCR 4019.

This resolution comes after I was unsuccessful in drafting a bill addressing the needs of our volunteer firefighters, emergency medical service personnel, and volunteer ambulance workers. Those needs are in the area of medical insurance and disability compensation.

Last spring we had a volunteer firefighter in New Rockford suffer a heart attack while participating in extrication at an accident scene. This young man was fortunately air lifted to a regional hospital and received immediate attention. He was confirmed as having suffered a heart attack. Because of the heart attack he was unable to work for some time. His main line of work is seasonal so not being able to work was a significant event because he is the single father of 3 school age children. The good news is that he has recovered. The bad news is that his disability claim at WSI was dismissed because this extrication was considered part of his ordinary volunteer expectations even though his doctor wrote a letter to WSI confirming the stress and physical exertion of the extrication was at least 50% or more responsible for this attack.

My concern is that he and the many volunteers who provide such valuable services to our communities and citizens will not be willing to serve if they cannot be covered in case of an accident.

In a meeting with WSI, I found that if he had injured his hand, he would have been covered. If a full time paid fire fighter had had the heart attack, he/she would have been covered. But he as a volunteer was not covered for a heart attack.

I am presenting this resolution to gather information on the feasibility of using state/or local funds to provide health insurance and benefits these important volunteers. Information could be gathered on several questions, including:

1. Which of these community volunteers are covered in case of an accident or injury?
2. What are the conditions of coverage?
3. What would it cost to insure community volunteers?
4. What would this coverage include?
5. What would the cost be to cover these volunteer emergency workers?

Right after the deadline for filing bills passed, I received some information from the captain of a volunteer/paid fire service in Devils Lake with quotes from an insurance company that would provide coverage for these volunteers. But I was not able to get a bill in seeking the funding and policy needed for these volunteers. So I went with this study.

Chairman and members of the committee, I would appreciate your favorable consideration of this resolution and would encourage you to amend it as needed to get the full effect of the concerns our communities have with this issue.

Senator Joan Heckaman

SCR 4019

3.26.19

1.1

SCR 4019

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