

2019 SENATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

SB 2270

2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Sheyenne River Room, State Capitol

SB2270
1/25/2019
31466

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature : Pam Dever

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to fire alarms in schools, & reference data used in the fire prevention code for school buildings; relating to compensation of fire officials for reporting fires.

Minutes:

Att #1-Douglas Nelson

Chairman Davison: Attendance was taken and all were present. We will open the hearing on SB2270.

Vice Chair Meyer: I am here to introduce this on behalf of the Attorney General's Office. It deals with the Fire Marshal.

Douglas Nelson, North Dakota State Fire Marshal: I am here in support of this bill. (see att #1) He explained all the changes that were stated in his testimony. We need to match code with our present language that we enforce. (2.35-10.10)

Sen. Erin Oban: Your 4th paragraph, first page, I was curious about the national incident reporting system. Do all departments have access to this? Why are only 50-60% departments using this? Is it difficult to get 100% using it? (10.40)

Doug: Yes, it will be a challenge. Maybe they don't have enough to report. It is a hardship to come back from a fire and report. Sometime we don't have a way to collect their data in some cases. We want to push them. We have teamed up with the Department of Forestry to provide free software to fire departments that is easier to report to. It is called Emergency Reporting. We have a contract to provide that for free. We have had a large uptick in reporting with that.

Sen. Erin Oban: (12.22) Is it cost prohibitive. Do some just not want to do it? Some don't like technology.

Doug: That is part of the problem. Both types of reporting are free.

Chairman Davison: I was wondering about the \$25. When was that put in, do you think? To report within 30 days. \$25 seems very low to me.

Doug: I did not look at that amount so it was not in review of this bill.

Chairman Davison: I agree with you. We need data to make decisions and if we can't get it from the field, then who? (15.36) Should it be more than \$25, maybe been there since 1941. I like the correction you brought forward.

Doug: I agree. I would be in agreement and could look at that part.

Chairman Davison: We will look at this next Thursday so you could get back to me and I will share the information.

Sen. Shawn Vedaa: (16.5) When I think of rural fire department, I think he gets called and goes to a fire. He gets back and starts working where he left off. The last thing he probably want to do is sit down at a computer and report this stuff. Why do they have to report every fire?

Doug: It is for our offices purpose and for the information that they did respond. Data is important. It also goes into a national data base. We still do provide paper copies to fill out. We will input what we get in paper copy form.

Sen. Shawn Vedaa: That is what I was looking for. We have a tough time getting volunteers to begin with.

Chairman Davison: How long does it take to fill out a report for a one-hour fire incident?

Doug: (19.58) Generally, 30 to 60 minutes to fill out. If you have a death, that takes longer because it would have more categories.

Chairman Davison: Thanks. More in support? Agencies? Any against? Hearing closed.

2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
Sheyenne River Room, State Capitol

SB2270
2/7/2019
32397

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature : Pam Dever

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to the reporting of fires & fire losses to the state fire marshal, misconduct at fires, fire inspections of state buildings, rules & handling of liquid petroleum gasses, fire alarms in schools, compensation of fire officials.

Minutes:

Chairman Davison: Let's look at SB2270. I believe Douglas Nelson was the person who testified. He sent me an e mail. He said it does not matter as far as \$25.

Sen. Shawn Vedaa: I talked to my fire marshal and he said they are reporting all the stuff already and it is working fine.

Chairman Davison: I asked him if the \$25 was enough. It is more important to report any fire, and the \$25 in not important. We do not need to change the \$25. They collect that on any fire. (1.57)

Sen. Shawn Vedaa: Was the \$25 for damage? If it is a prairie fire, there is no damage at all then.

Chairman Davison: His challenge was that some do not record fires. They are volunteers.

Sen. Kristin Roers: If that is the intent, I wonder if we just propose an amendment on line 4, and say 'any fire in which property in a city or rural district, has been destroyed or damaged'. And strike out the \$25. That \$25 seems weird. (3.40)

Chairman Davison: We need to go through L.C. and get an amendment.

Done (4.19)

2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
Sheyenne River Room, State Capitol

SB2270
2/8/2019
32470

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature : Pam Dever

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to the reporting of fires and fire losses to the state fire marshal, misconduct at fires, inspections, rules for storage and handling of liquid petroleum gasses, fire alarms in schools, compensation of fire officials.

Minutes:

Att #1 – Sen K. Roers

Chairman Davison: Take out SB2270. Any amendments?

Sen. Kristin Roers: I do have an amendment. I move to adopt amendment 19.8167.01001. It strikes out the \$25.

Sen. Erin Oban: I second.

Chairman Davison: Looks good. Not sure why the \$25 was in there.

Sen. Shawn Vedaa: I could see a couple of marshals discussing and laughing at \$25.

Chairman Davison: Roll call on amendment: **YES -- 7 NO -- 0 -0-absent**
Amendment passes.

Sen. Kristin Roers: I move a DO PASS as AMENDED **Sen. Erin Oban:** I second.

Chairman Davison: Any discussion? Take the roll. **YES -- 7 NO -- 0 -0-absent**
DO PASS as AMENDED – PASSED. Sen. Kristin Roers will carry the bill.

Adjourned (1.48)

19.8163.01001
Title.02000

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
Senator K. Roers
February 7, 2019

SK
1001

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2270

Page 2, line 4, overstrike "in an amount which exceeds twenty-five"

Page 2, line 5, overstrike "dollars"

Renumber accordingly

2/8/19

Date:
Roll Call Vote #: /

2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES SB 2270
BILL/RESOLUTION NO.

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: 19,8163.01001

- 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 Sen. Roers Seconded By Sen Oban

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chairman Davison	/		Senator Marcellais	/	
Vice Chairman Meyer	/		Senator Oban	/	
Senator Elkin	/				
Senator Roers	/				
Senator Vedaa	/				

Total (Yes) 7 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment _____

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

amend. passed

2/8/19
Date:
Roll Call Vote #: 2

2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES *SB2270*
BILL/RESOLUTION NO.

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: 19.8163,01001

- 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 Sen. Roers Seconded By Sen. Oban

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chairman Davison	/		Senator Marcellais	/	
Vice Chairman Meyer	/		Senator Oban	/	
Senator Elkin	/				
Senator Roers	/				
Senator Vedaa	/				

Total (Yes) 7 No 0

Absent -0-

Floor Assignment Sen. Roers

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2270: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Davison, Chairman)
recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends
DO PASS (7 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2270 was placed
on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 2, line 4, overstrike "in an amount which exceeds twenty-five"

Page 2, line 5, overstrike "dollars"

Renumber accordingly

2019 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

SB 2270

2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Fort Union Room, State Capitol

SB 2270
3/14/2019
#33733

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Carmen Hart -typed by Jeanette Cook

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to the reporting of fires and fire losses to the state fire marshal, misconduct at fires, fire inspections of state buildings, rules for storage and handling of liquefied petroleum gases, fire alarms in school buildings, and reference data used in the fire prevention code for school buildings

Minutes:

Attachment #1

Chairman Kasper opened the hearing on SB 2270.

Senator Scott Meyer, District 18, appeared in support of SB 2270. The bill updates some of the language in this section of Century Code. Douglas Nelson will be able to better explain what the bill does.

Douglas Nelson, ND State Fire Marshal, appeared in support. Attachment 1. (1:42-8:13)

Rep. B. Koppelman: It seems like there is an inconsistency on the bottom of p. 2 and top of p. 3. Would it be smarter to reference the administrative rules chapter, so that you can do this by rule and not by law? Or should they both reference it the way they used to and have it always by law?

Mr. Nelson: The building code, the mechanical code, electrical code, and a few others are adopted into administrative law or Century Code, I don't remember which, and that is correct. Even though new model codes are published in the meantime by those companies that publish them, we would be stuck with the one that is currently adopted until we adopt the newer ones. We operate the same way in our office. We adopt our fire code through administrative rule, and that is how we apply it as well. We only enforce the ones that have been adopted. I am new to this office. When I first sat down to update the code without having too much impact, I wanted to address it and make sure we got the correct references in there. If there is a simple way to make the same wording correct throughout, that would be fine.

Rep. Hoverson: Referring to the unwanted fire, is there a definition for that somewhere?

Mr. Nelson: The definition is taken directly out of the International Fire Code 2016 edition as adopted by our office. I used “out-of-control” to attempt to describe a situation to you. It isn’t code language. A necessary fire that is in control should not have the fire chief called in. A fire that might go into someone else’s field, buildings, or woodlands, that is a fire that the fire chief should have jurisdiction over.

Rep. Hoverson: So, it is more implied than explicitly written?

Mr. Nelson: That is correct.

Rep. P. Anderson: Can you talk more about school alarms? You took out where they should be located? Will that be the same? In some school the fire alarms have been pulled by someone in the hall. The people in the rooms have fled the rooms and been gunned down. Do we really need the alarms in the schools where just anyone can access them?

Mr. Nelson: It makes sense, and we get that question a lot. Many associations are working on a solution. Current codes allow for other solutions. Not every school has to have a readily accessible pull station. If there is a sprinkler system, it doesn’t require a pull station readily available. The current codes don’t require them, and that is why I want to push us to what the current codes are, to protect our state the best that we can.

Rep. Rohr: Does this result in an increase in your budget because you had to go through an electronic system? 18-01-05

Mr. Nelson: No, it hasn’t, and I don’t see it occurring that way. Right now we only have paper copies.

The hearing for Engrossed SB 2270 was closed.

Rep. Laning moved a DO PASS on SB 2270.

Rep. Rohr seconded the motion.

Rep. B. Koppelman: Do we think that the definition of unwanted fire in Section 3 is clear enough to distinguish rural sites that use burning for obvious purposes so they won’t be poorly affected by that?

Rep. Schneider: It comes directly from the International Fire Code, so we shouldn’t change the language. I think the incidental usage verbiage is broad enough to include farm burnings and things.

Rep. B. Koppelman: Do you realize that he is expanding the codes that the state recognizes here? On the last page, N F P A, that has been the bellwether for fire codes for quite a few years. They have a series of volumes that deal with different areas relating to fire. I think it is updated every three years. The International Code Council is a private entity that makes their money developing codes and selling code books. So, we are adding that into reference as another code that we are following. I wasn’t aware that we were using this in North Dakota.

Rep. Hoverson: We noticed in our church the sudden and dramatic increase in the past three years in fire code people that are constantly there. Is it possible that is why we are getting more and more knocks on the door?

Rep. B. Koppelman: I do not think there is probably a direct link to what change we have in here, and as to how often commercial buildings are inspected by a fire marshal. I think traditionally in North Dakota most jurisdictions have not done as many fire code inspections as other states. In the industry in order to sell a book every three years, you have to have changes. My biggest concern with this is that I don't know what the International Fire Code says, because we have not had to follow it directly. They are taking the power away from the Legislative Branch and moving it into an administrative rule.

Rep. Rohr: I looked up IFC and it says that the International Fire Code is in use or adopted in 43 states, and are looked at based on data every three years.

Rep. B. Koppelman: I am struggling. I agree with most of it, but I am having a problem with the delegation of duty to the administrative code. Also adding in the IFC, when he didn't even explain that they were adding a whole new code book and why.

Rep. Schneider: In determining what which fire codes applied in another bill I found the IFC is the common one used in most of states, and I appreciate the check on that. They had done a survey of the fire chiefs in North Dakota, and of those that responded all but three of them are applying the International Fire Code, including Fargo and some of the bigger cities. The three that hadn't implemented it, are moving toward it. It not really a radical thing and pretty well excepted on the state and national level.

Rep. Hoverson: I do think we need to keep in mind how crazy it is getting with all of these codes. In our church, now one person in the building has to go around and unlock all the doors, downstairs and upstairs. If I leave to have lunch; I have to lock them all again. It is just one example of many nuisances that some of these codes can cause. It is just good for us to have our minds on it.

Rep. B. Koppelman: 10-07-01.04 was the administrative code he referenced at the top of page 3. In looking in those administrative rules it does say that the state fire code does include the provisions of the International Fire Code. Since they are there now, I will withdraw my concern about adding a new code.

**A roll call vote was taken: Yes 14 No 0 Absent 0 The motion carried.
Rep. Schneider will carry the bill.**

Date: 3-14-19
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2270**

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: _____

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 Rep. Laning Seconded By Rep. Rohr

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Jim Kasper	X		Rep. Pamela Anderson	X	
Vice Chair Vicky Steiner	X		Rep. Mary Schneider	X	
Rep. Jeff Hoverson	X				
Rep. Craig Johnson	X				
Rep. Daniel Johnston	X				
Rep. Karen Karls	X				
Rep. Ben Koppelman	X				
Rep. Vernon Laning	X				
Rep. Scott Louser	X				
Rep. Karen Rohr	X				
Rep. Austen Schauer	X				
Rep. Steve Vetter	X				

Total (Yes) 14 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep. Schneider

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2270, as engrossed: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Kasper, Chairman) recommends DO PASS (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SB 2270 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2019 TESTIMONY

SB 2270

SB 2270
1-25-19
att #1
p 81

Senate Bill 2270
Before the Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
Douglas Nelson, ND State Fire Marshal
January 25, 2019

To the Honorable, Senator Kyle Davison, Chairman of the Legislative Government & Veterans Affairs Committee and Committee Members,

I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 2270. SB 2270 addresses multiple sections of NDCC Title 18 "Fires", which is related to and overseen by my office. The sections included in this bill need to be updated in order to better enforce rules, allow better data collection, update references to fire code, and to remove or amend ineffective sections.

18-01-05

NDCC 18-01-05 requires insurance companies to report all fire loss claims to the state fire marshal. Under SB 2270, section 18-01-05 would be amended to allow insurance companies to report fire losses to the state fire marshal electronically. This amendment to the current section will allow our office to be more efficient using current technology, and make data collection simpler. This will satisfy a request by the insurance industry and simplify their compliance with this section.

18-01-06

NDCC 18-01-06 requires fire chiefs and auditors or secretaries of cities and rural fire protection districts to report fires to the state fire marshal's office. SB 2270 is proposed to amend section 18-01-06 by requiring fire departments to report fires to the state fire marshal in a form that is compliant and compatible with the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). NFIRS is the national database used for fire reporting and statistics. Currently, the state fire marshal's office does not have a system for incidents to be reported in other than NFIRS. Requiring reporting through NFIRS would increase the accuracy of fire statistics in North Dakota.

18-08-09

NDCC 18-08-09 pertains to misconduct at fires and the penalty associated with it. SB 2270 will change the scope of misconduct at fires from any building fire to any unwanted fire. The international fire code (2015 edition) defines unwanted fire as "A fire not used for cooking, heating or recreational purposes or one not incidental to the normal operations of the property." The point of this change is to help strengthen an incident commander's authority at all fires, not just building fires.

Firefighting is an inherently dangerous job. There is no room for having anyone challenge or disobey a public officer at any fire. A specific instance has been brought to my attention regarding this exact issue at a field fire. In this incident, firefighters were put at risk of injury and in further danger due to the disregard of the incident commander's orders by a landowner. During a fire, seconds count and a fire chief must have authority to evaluate the scene and extinguish any unwanted fire in the safest and most effective way possible. This is not only critical at any building fire, but necessary for firefighter and public safety at any

unwanted fire. The landowner in this case was not able to be charged with any crime due to it not occurring in a building.

SB 2270
1-25-19
att
ps 2

18-08-12 subsection 2

NDCC 18-08-12 pertains to the fire inspection and code enforcement of state buildings. SB 2270 updates the code reference from the national fire protection association, to the rules set forth in North Dakota Administrative Code chapter 10-07-01. This updates the reference to the currently adopted international fire code (2015 edition).

18-09-02

NDCC 18-09-02 pertains to the rules for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) regulation in the State. SB 2270 amends the code references by adding the international code council as a model code that LPG shall comply with. This addition is necessary to reference the correct codes that may be applicable regarding LPG storage, use and handling.

18-12-16

NDCC 18-12-16 relates to the installation of fire alarm systems in school buildings. SB 2270 would amend the section to read; "Fire alarm systems for school buildings must be installed in accordance with the rules set forth in North Dakota Administrative Code chapter 10-07-01." The international fire code (IFC) as adopted by the state fire marshal's office is a model code that is re-issued on a three year cycle. It contains provisions for where and how fire alarms need to be installed/maintained, and references other codes that regulate fire alarms in more detail (national fire protection association). Between the IFC and the NFPA, I am confident that a fire alarm installed in compliance with both will meet all necessary safety requirements that may have been noted in the language being removed.

There is a risk in attempting to write fire code within our own NDCC. The model codes are designed by experts in various industries to address safety of buildings and the built environment. Through the adoption and reliance on the model codes, fire safety will increase in our state as we remove specific fire safety sections that are limited in scope, applicability and may be outdated.

18-12-25

NDCC 18-12-25 states the references that should be used in conjunction with the rules stated in the chapter. SB 2270 would add a reference to reflect the current code adopted by the state (international fire code 2015 edition).

18-01-08

NDCC 18-01-08 states the fire marshal shall compensate fire chiefs and executive officers of municipalities for reporting fires to the state fire marshal. SB 2270 would delete the section due to its being ineffective, redundant and unused.

Fire chiefs are already required to report fires to the state fire marshal under NDCC 18-01-06. There are already monetary gains connected to the reporting of fires through NDCC Chapter 18-04 "Distribution of Insurance Tax to Fire Departments". Therefore, this section of century code is redundant.

The state fire marshal's office has no record of this section being used. In my short time in the office I have not found any record of, nor heard of any payment being made to any fire chiefs. Therefore, this section should be removed to clean-up Title 18.

SB 2270
1-25-19
AH #1
pg 3

Conclusion

The listed sections to be addressed by SB 2270 are necessary house-keeping for Title 18. Though further evaluation will be necessary in future years, the updates included will positively benefit the ability of the state fire marshal's office to accomplish our mission. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter today.

If you have any further questions regarding this testimony, I would be happy to answer them.

Respectfully,

Douglas Nelson
ND State Fire Marshal

19.8163.01001
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
Senator K. Roers

February 7, 2019

SB 2270
2-8-19
AK #1
js

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2270

Page 2, line 4, overstrike "in an amount which exceeds twenty-five"

Page 2, line 5, overstrike "dollars"

Renumber accordingly

#1
SB 2270
3-14-19

Senate Bill 2270
Before the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
Douglas Nelson, ND State Fire Marshal
March 14, 2019

To the Honorable, Representative Jim Kasper, Chairman of the Legislative Government & Veterans Affairs Committee and Committee Members,

I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 2270. SB 2270 addresses multiple sections of NDCC Title 18 "Fires", which is related to and overseen by my office. The sections included in this bill need to be updated in order to better enforce rules, allow better data collection, update references to fire code, and to remove or amend ineffective sections.

18-01-05

NDCC 18-01-05 requires insurance companies to report all fire loss claims to the state fire marshal. Under SB 2270, section 18-01-05 would be amended to allow insurance companies to report fire losses to the state fire marshal electronically. This amendment to the current section will allow our office to be more efficient using current technology, and make data collection simpler. This will satisfy a request by the insurance industry and simplify their compliance with this section.

18-01-06

NDCC 18-01-06 requires fire chiefs and auditors or secretaries of cities and rural fire protection districts to report fires to the state fire marshal's office. SB 2270 is proposed to amend section 18-01-06 by requiring fire departments to report fires to the state fire marshal in a form that is compliant and compatible with the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). NFIRS is the national database used for fire reporting and statistics. Currently, the state fire marshal's office does not have a system for incidents to be reported in other than NFIRS. Requiring reporting through NFIRS would increase the accuracy of fire statistics in North Dakota.

18-08-09

NDCC 18-08-09 pertains to misconduct at fires and the penalty associated with it. SB 2270 will change the scope of misconduct at fires from any building fire to any unwanted fire. The international fire code (2015 edition) defines unwanted fire as "A fire not used for cooking, heating or recreational purposes or one not incidental to the normal operations of the property." The point of this change is to help strengthen an incident commander's authority at all fires, not just building fires.

Firefighting is an inherently dangerous job. There is no room for having anyone challenge or disobey a public officer at any fire. A specific instance has been brought to my attention regarding this exact issue at a field fire. In this incident, firefighters were put at risk of injury and in further danger due to the disregard of the incident commander's orders by a landowner. During a fire, seconds count and a fire chief must have authority to evaluate the scene and extinguish any unwanted fire in the safest and most effective way possible. This is not only critical at any building fire, but necessary for firefighter and public safety at any

unwanted fire. The landowner in this case was not able to be charged with any crime due to it not occurring in a building.

18-08-12 subsection 2

NDCC 18-08-12 pertains to the fire inspection and code enforcement of state buildings. SB 2270 updates the code reference from the national fire protection association, to the rules set forth in North Dakota Administrative Code chapter 10-07-01. This updates the reference to the currently adopted international fire code (2015 edition).

18-09-02

NDCC 18-09-02 pertains to the rules for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) regulation in the State. SB 2270 amends the code references by adding the international code council as a model code that LPG shall comply with. This addition is necessary to reference the correct codes that may be applicable regarding LPG storage, use and handling.

18-12-16

NDCC 18-12-16 relates to the installation of fire alarm systems in school buildings. SB 2270 would amend the section to read; "Fire alarm systems for school buildings must be installed in accordance with the rules set forth in North Dakota Administrative Code chapter 10-07-01." The international fire code (IFC) as adopted by the state fire marshal's office is a model code that is re-issued on a three year cycle. It contains provisions for where and how fire alarms need to be installed/maintained, and references other codes that regulate fire alarms in more detail (national fire protection association). Between the IFC and the NFPA, I am confident that a fire alarm installed in compliance with both will meet all necessary safety requirements that may have been noted in the language being removed.

There is a risk in attempting to write fire code within our own NDCC. The model codes are designed by experts in various industries to address safety of buildings and the built environment. Through the adoption and reliance on the model codes, fire safety will increase in our state as we remove specific fire safety sections that are limited in scope, applicability and may be outdated.

18-12-25

NDCC 18-12-25 states the references that should be used in conjunction with the rules stated in the chapter. SB 2270 would add a reference to reflect the current code adopted by the state (international fire code 2015 edition).

18-01-08

NDCC 18-01-08 states the fire marshal shall compensate fire chiefs and executive officers of municipalities for reporting fires to the state fire marshal. SB 2270 would delete the section due to its being ineffective, redundant and unused.

Fire chiefs are already required to report fires to the state fire marshal under NDCC 18-01-06. There are already monetary gains connected to the reporting of fires through NDCC Chapter 18-04 "Distribution of Insurance Tax to Fire Departments". Therefore, this section of century code is redundant.

The state fire marshal's office has no record of this section being used. In my short time in the office I have not found any record of, nor heard of any payment

being made to any fire chiefs. Therefore, this section should be removed to clean-up Title 18.

Conclusion

The listed sections to be addressed by SB 2270 are necessary house-keeping for Title 18. Though further evaluation will be necessary in future years, the updates included will positively benefit the ability of the state fire marshal's office to accomplish our mission. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter today.

If you have any further questions regarding this testimony, I would be happy to answer them.

Respectfully,



Douglas Nelson
ND State Fire Marshal