

2021 HOUSE TRANSPORTATION

HB 1481

2021 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Transportation Committee Room JW327E, State Capitol

HB 1481
1/29/2021

A bill relating to the fee for entering a road closed because of hazardous conditions; and to provide a penalty.

10:08 **Chairman Ruby** opened the hearing.

Attendance

Representatives	
Representative Dan Ruby	P
Representative Tom Kading	P
Representative Rick Becker	P
Representative Cole Christensen	P
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	P
Representative Jared C. Hagert	P
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	P
Representative Terry B. Jones	P
Representative Emily O'Brien	P
Representative Mark S. Owens	P
Representative Bob Paulson	P
Representative Gary Paur	P
Representative Robin Weisz	P
Representative Greg Westlind	P

Discussion Topics:

- Increasing the fee for entering closed roads during hazardous conditions.

Representative Starom introduction. Testimony # 4239 and #4233.

Chad Kaiser, Stutsman County Sheriff's Office, supportive testimony #4185.

10:20 **Chairman Ruby** closed the hearing. Short recess.

10:35 Discussion.

10:45 **Representative Becker** moved a Do Not Pass.
Representative Kading seconded.

Roll call vote.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Dan Ruby	Y
Representative Tom Kading	Y
Representative Rick Becker	Y
Representative Cole Christensen	N

Representative LaurieBeth Hager	Y
Representative Jared C. Hagert	N
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	N
Representative Terry B. Jones	Y
Representative Emily O'Brien	N
Representative Mark S. Owens	Y
Representative Bob Paulson	Y
Representative Gary Paur	Y
Representative Robin Weisz	Y
Representative Greg Westlind	N

Motion passed. 9-5-0

Representative Owens carrier.

10:46 AM **Chairman Ruby** closed the hearing.

Jeanette Cook, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1481: Transportation Committee (Rep. D. Ruby, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** (9 YEAS, 5 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1481 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

HB1481

Good morning Chairman and members of the committee.

For the record my name is Bernie Satrom and I am honored to serve the great people of District 12 in Jamestown.

This morning I bring before you HB1481 which is a simple bill which changes the fines for people who go onto closed roads when there is a blizzard.

If you have lived in North Dakota for a while you probably have heard of lived a blizzard story. Blizzards are dangerous. I remember hearing stories of farmers who went to the barn and got lost and froze to death as well as college students that got stranded and died.

When conditions are bad our authorities close the roads. Some people go out on these roads and have to be rescued by our emergency personnel.

The intention of this bill is to raise awareness and encourage people to think twice before endangering themselves and others.

4233



Testimony prepared for the
Transportation Committee
01/29/2021
Chad Kaiser
Stutsman County Sheriff

RE: In Support Testimony for HB1481 Increased fines on closed roads during a weather event.

Chair and committee members, I'm Chad Kaiser Stutsman County Sheriff and I am in support of HB 1481.

During a weather event when roads are closed is a hectic time for all Emergency Responders. In the last couple years, we have had a few storms that closed roads due to accumulation of snow and visibility. Once a road is closed during a weather event, we usually see travelers going around barricades or finding a secondary road that are also closed and travelers will try and make it around primary road closures to get to their destination.

This typically causes a big problem for Emergency Responders. When we get called out to accidents and to people who are stuck and or blocking the road. Once roads are closed Responders get called out to these vehicles that are stranded or become stuck and need assistance. Having vehicles out on roads that are closed causes problems for Emergency workers that are out on those roads to either clear them from stranded vehicles, or to plow them open from snow, or dealing with injury accidents. Travelers driving on closed roads are dangerous to Emergency Responders working on the road.

I believe increasing the fine to \$500 is more than reasonable (Should be \$1000), and may make some travelers to think twice before traveling on closed roads during a weather event.