

Introduced by

Senators Kessel, Bekkedahl, Hogue, Patten

Representative Porter

1 A BILL for an Act to provide for a legislative management study to evaluate the evolving fire
2 service operational and response needs of the state.

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

4 **SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - FIRE SERVICE REGIONAL**
5 **RESPONSE MODEL.**

- 6 1. During the 2025-26 interim, the legislative management shall study the evolving fire
7 service operational and response needs of the state. The study must include an
8 examination of the:
- 9 a. Coordination of efforts of existing state resources for improved fire emergency
10 service organization, distribution, mobilization, training, and oversight.
 - 11 b. Creation of fire service regional response teams.
 - 12 c. Establishment of authority for response, standardized training, wildland-urban
13 interface fire prevention codes, emergency response operational initiatives and
14 responsibilities.
 - 15 d. Evaluation of existing staffing abilities to cross-train, provide further services,
16 provide backfill during extended or complex emergencies, minimum training
17 requirements, staff firefighting authorities, firefighting benefits, necessary
18 equipment, and structural needs.
 - 19 e. Identification and implementation of a restructure of fiscal support for state and
20 local fire service in North Dakota, reducing the dependency on local property tax.
 - 21 f. A review of changes necessary to state laws and administrative rules to
22 implement a unified model.
- 23 2. The study must include consultation with state fire marshal, the North Dakota
24 firefighter's association, the North Dakota forest service, the department of emergency

1 services, the North Dakota fire chief's association, the department of career and
2 technical education, and other stakeholders. The legislative management may
3 contract with a consultant to carry out this study. The legislative management shall
4 report the findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to
5 implement the recommendations, to the seventieth legislative assembly.