

2025 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1079

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

GOVERNMENT VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

PIONEER ROOM, STATE CAPITOL

HB 1079

1/10/2025

Relating to renaming of divisions within the department of emergency services

10:30 a..m Chairman Schauer called the meeting to order.

Members present: Chairman Schauer, Vice Chairman Satrom, Representatives Bahl, Brown, Christy, Grindberg, Karls, McLeod, Rohr, Schneider, Steiner, VanWinkle, Vetter, Wolff

Discussion Topics:

- Renaming of Homeland Security and State Radio.

10:30 a.m. Darin Hanson, Director of Homeland Security, testified in favor and submitted testimony #28323.

10:37 a.m. Darin Anderson, Director of State Radio, testified in favor.

10:39 a.m. Representative Vetter moved a Do Pass.

10:39 a.m. Representative Grindberg seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Austen Schauer	Y
Representative Bernie Satrom	Y
Representative Landon Bahl	Y
Representative Collette Brown	Y
Representative Josh Christy	Y
Representative Karen Grindberg	Y
Representative Karen Karls	Y
Representative Carrie McLeod	Y
Representative Karen Rohr	Y
Representative Mary Schneider	Y
Representative Vicky Steiner	Y
Representative Lori VanWinkle	Y

Government Veterans Affairs Committee

HB 1079

1/10/2025

Page 2

Representative Steve Vetter	Y
Representative Christina Wolff	Y

10:42 a.m. Motion passed 14-0-0.

Representative Bahl will carry the bill.

10:43 a.m. Chairman Schauer closed the hearing.

Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1079 ([25.8105.01000](#))

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Schauer, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1079 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

**TESTIMONY OF
DARIN T. HANSON
NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
BEFORE THE
HOUSE AND GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
1/10/2025
IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1079**

Chairman Schauer, Vice Chairman Satrom, and members of the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee, thank you for the opportunity to be here today to talk about our support of House Bill 1079. For the record, I am Darin Hanson, Director of Homeland Security within the Department of Emergency Services. Today, I am asking for your support of HB Bill 1079 which will rename both the division of Homeland Security and the division of State Radio within the Department of Emergency Services.

The current names of the divisions are not indicative of the nature of our work and don't accurately set expectations for stakeholders, as proven time and again by the variety of questions we field. This bill proposes that Homeland Security be renamed to Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and for State Radio to be renamed to Emergency Communications Center.

Homeland Security and Emergency Management, or HSEM, is among the common naming conventions across states, including 10 states or territories. The inclusion of Emergency Management in our title gives much greater indication of the work that we do. Of the 41 authorized FTEs and 16 temporary employees, 54 work primarily within emergency management functions. One of the problems that this bill attempts to address is the confusion that many stakeholders have regarding the division. The agency receives many calls regarding border missions, immigration problems, and foreign activity in the state; however, NDCC provides minimal authority or direction for providing what is viewed by many as "homeland security." In addition, there is a risk of confusion for those seeking assistance before and after a natural disaster as they are not likely to correlate "homeland security" with disaster assistance.

There are reasons to keep a reference to homeland security as part of the division's name. The agency is the state administrative agency for federal homeland security grants, the designated state agency for coordinating federal homeland security clearances, a primary partner for the federal Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and Office of Intelligence Analysis, and several other DHS designated roles.

Emergency Communications Center is a common naming convention that jurisdictions at all levels are using to replace the previous term 'Dispatch Centers.' This naming convention is in conjunction with the efforts, both Federal and State, to reclassify dispatchers as first responders. The name 'State Radio' was reflective of the only function served at the time. Now along with emergency radio traffic, Emergency Communication Centers utilize a portfolio of technologies.

Bill 1079 simply renames all references of the two divisions within Century Code to the new, more indicative naming conventions. It will help stakeholders better find the right resources when they need them, reduce misunderstandings, and position dispatchers for future classification changes.

Thank you again for the opportunity to be here and for your consideration of moving this bill forward. I am happy to stand for questions.

2025 SENATE AGRICULTURE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1079

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee Fort Union Room, State Capitol

HB 1079
2/14/2025

A bill relating to the renaming of divisions within the department of emergency services.

9:02 a.m. Chairman Luick called the meeting to order.

Members present: Chairman Luick, Senator Marcellais, Senator Weber, Senator Lemm

Members absent: Senator Weston and Vice-Chair Myrdal

Discussion Topics:

- State radio and advanced technology
- Naming convention changes
- Federal level dispatchers

9:03 a.m. Darin Hanson, Director of Homeland Security within the Department of Emergency Services, testified in favor.

9:06 a.m. Chairman Luick closed the hearing.

9:07 a.m. Senator Weber moved a Do Pass.

9:07 a.m. Senator Marcellais seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Larry Luick	Y
Senator Janne Myrdal	A
Senator Randy D. Lemm	Y
Senator Richard Marcellais	Y
Senator Mark F. Weber	Y
Senator Kent Weston	A

Motion passed 4-0-2.

Senator Marcellais will carry the bill.

Additional written testimony:

Alison Vetter, Strategic Communications Chief of the ND Department of Emergency Services, submitted testimony #37667.

9:07 a.m. Chairman Luick closed the hearing.

Audrey Oswald, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1079 ([25.8105.01000](#))

Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Luick, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (4 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1079 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

**TESTIMONY OF
DARIN T. HANSON
NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
BEFORE THE
SENATE AGRICULTURE AND VETERANS COMMITTEE
2/05/2025
IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1079**

Chairman Luick, Vice Chairman Myrdal, and members of the Committee,

For the record, I am Darin Hanson, Director of Homeland Security within the Department of Emergency Services. Today, I am asking for your support of HB Bill 1079 which will rename both the division of Homeland Security and the division of State Radio within the Department of Emergency Services.

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