

Introduced by

Senators Miller, Dotzenrod, Oehlke, Unruh

Representative Gruchalla

1 A BILL for an Act to create two new sections to chapter 37-17.3 of the North Dakota Century
2 Code, relating to statewide integrated radio communication; to provide for a legislative
3 management study; and to provide an appropriation.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 37-17.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
6 and enacted as follows:

7 **Legislative declaration - Statewide integrated radio communication system service.**

8 The legislative assembly finds that effective radio communication is vital to public safety
9 and effective emergency response and law enforcement and declares that a statewide
10 integrated radio communication system will more effectively serve the goals of law enforcement
11 and emergency response personnel and thereby better serve the people of North Dakota.
12 Segregated radio systems operated by local jurisdictions serve those jurisdictions adequately
13 but result in a fractured, nonintegrated radio communication system that does not provide
14 redundant capability that can serve neighboring jurisdictions and impedes the evolution of a
15 more effective, statewide integrated radio communication system that would better serve the
16 public.

17 **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 37-17.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is
18 created and enacted as follows:

18 **Statewide interoperability board.**

- 19 1. The statewide interoperability board consists of:
- 20 a. The director of the division of homeland security or a designee;
 - 21 b. The superintendent of the highway patrol or a designee;
 - 22 c. The adjutant general or a designee;
 - 23 d. The director of the department of transportation or a designee;
 - 24 e. A representative of the North Dakota sheriff's and deputies association;

- 1 f. A representative of the North Dakota emergency managers association;
- 2 g. A representative of the North Dakota fire chiefs association;
- 3 h. A representative of the North Dakota emergency medical services association;
- 4 i. A representative of the North Dakota 911 association; and
- 5 j. The chief information officer or a designee.
- 6 2. The board shall elect a chairman and vice chairman for terms of two years upon its
- 7 initial meeting. The adjutant general shall call and convene the initial meeting.
- 8 3. The board shall provide for key components and provide for support of key
- 9 components necessary to support the deployment of a statewide integrated radio
- 10 communication system and shall provide for financial and technical assistance to local
- 11 jurisdictions to transition to the system.
- 12 4. The board shall manage a statewide integrated radio system with due consideration
- 13 for all stakeholders reliant upon a radio communication system.

14 **SECTION 3. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY.** During the 2013-15 biennium, to
15 assist with the development of a statewide interoperability plan, the legislative management
16 shall consider studying issues related to the development of the current radio communication
17 plan, its costs and components, and evolving technologies that will better serve the public. The
18 study must include the input of stakeholders, including those members represented on the
19 board.

20 **SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general
21 fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$5,000,000, or so much of the
22 sum as may be necessary, to the statewide interoperability board for the purpose of purchasing
23 necessary equipment at the state level to begin development of the statewide integrated radio
24 communication program and to purchase equipment to integrate into the state system at Grand
25 Forks, Fargo, Wahpeton, Jamestown, and Bismarck, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2013,
26 and ending June 30, 2015. Funds must be allocated through grant requests solicited, reviewed,
27 and approved by the statewide interoperability board in a manner that will most effectively move
28 the state toward an integrated radio communication system.