

2023 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

HB 1477

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1477
1/31/2023

Relating to rural ambulance service districts.

Chairman Weisz called the meeting to order at 10:57 AM.

Chairman Robin Weisz, Vice Chairman Matthew Ruby, Reps. Karen A. Anderson, Mike Beltz, Clayton Fegley, Kathy Frelich, Dawson Holle, Dwight Kiefert, Carrie McLeod, Brandon Prichard, Karen M. Rohr, and Gretchen Dobervich present. Rep. Jayme Davis and Rep. Todd Porter not present.

Discussion Topics:

- Rural ambulance services
- Due date requirement for submission of budget
- Local banking for ambulance services

Representative Hatlestad introduced HB 1477 with supportive testimony. (#18153)

Adam Parker, North Dakota Emergency Medical Services Association, offered testimony in support of bill. (#18155)

Chairman Weisz adjourned the meeting at 11:12AM.

Phillip Jacobs, Committee Clerk By: Leah Kuball

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1477
2/6/2023

Relating to rural ambulance service districts.

Chairman Weisz called the meeting to order at 3:51 PM.

Chairman Robin Weisz, Vice Chairman Matthew Ruby, Reps. Karen A. Anderson, Mike Beltz, Clayton Fegley, Kathy Frelich, Dawson Holle, Dwight Kiefert, Carrie McLeod, Brandon Prichard, Karen M. Rohr, and Gretchen Dobervich present. Rep. Jayme Davis and Rep. Todd Porter not present.

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action
- Amendment (23.0893.01002)

Chairman Weisz discussed amendment (23.0893.01002)

Representative Beltz moved to amend HB 1477 with (23.0893.01002)

Seconded by Vice Chairman Ruby. Voice vote: Motion carries

Representative Dovervich moved a Do Pass as amended and rereferred to Appropriations.

Representative Fegley seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Representatives	Vote
Representative Robin Weisz	Y
Representative Matthew Ruby	Y
Representative Karen A. Anderson	Y
Representative Mike Beltz	Y
Representative Jayme Davis	Y
Representative Gretchen Dobervich	Y
Representative Clayton Fegley	Y
Representative Kathy Frelich	Y
Representative Dawson Holle	Y
Representative Dwight Kiefert	Y
Representative Carrie McLeod	Y
Representative Todd Porter	Y
Representative Brandon Prichard	Y
Representative Karen M. Rohr	Y

House Human Services Committee

HB 1477

2/6/2023

Page 2

Motion carried 14-0-0.

Representative Fegley carrier.

Chairman Weisz adjourned the meeting at 4:00 PM.

Phillip Jacobs, Committee Clerk

February 6, 2023

JA
2-6-23

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1477

Page 1, line 1, replace "and subsection" with "subsections"

Page 1, line 1, after "1" insert "and 2"

Page 1, line 2, after "11-28.3-15" insert ", and subsection 2 of section 11-28.3-16"

Page 1, line 3, after "districts" insert "; and to provide an appropriation"

Page 2, line 29, overstrike "in a district"

Page 3, after line 23, insert:

"SECTION 4. AMENDMENT. Subsection 2 of section 11-28.3-15 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

2. If the area to be annexed is not serviced by the district under section ~~57-40.6-10~~ within the designated service area as established under subsection 1 of section 23-27-01, the proceedings for the annexation may be initiated by a presentation to the county auditor. If more than one county is in the proposed annexed territory, the auditor serving the larger portion shall coordinate with other county auditors to create a petition stating the desires and purposes of the petitioners signed by fifty qualified electors, or if there are not fifty qualified electors in the proposed territory, fifty percent of qualified electors residing within the boundaries of the territory. The petition must contain a description of the boundaries of the territory proposed to be annexed and must be accompanied by a map or plat and a deposit for publication costs.

SECTION 5. AMENDMENT. Subsection 2 of section 11-28.3-16 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

2. Notwithstanding section ~~57-40.6-10~~ subsection 1 of section 23-27-01 designating an ambulance service area, the district is not obligated to maintain the withdrawn district within the primary response area of the district.

SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - COMMUNITY HEALTH TRUST FUND - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND RURAL AMBULANCE SERVICE DISTRICTS. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the community health trust fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$7,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of health and human services for the purpose of aiding the functions and operations of rural emergency medical services and rural ambulance service districts, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025."

Renumber accordingly

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1477: Human Services Committee (Rep. Weisz, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1477 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 1, replace "and subsection" with "subsections"

Page 1, line 1, after "1" insert "and 2"

Page 1, line 2, after "11-28.3-15" insert ", and subsection 2 of section 11-28.3-16"

Page 1, line 3, after "districts" insert "; and to provide an appropriation"

Page 2, line 29, overstrike "in a district"

Page 3, after line 23, insert:

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2. Notwithstanding ~~section 57-40.6-10~~subsection 1 of section 23-27-01 designating an ambulance service area, the district is not obligated to maintain the withdrawn district within the primary response area of the district.

SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - COMMUNITY HEALTH TRUST FUND - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND RURAL AMBULANCE SERVICE DISTRICTS. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the community health trust fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$7,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of health and human services for the purpose of aiding the functions and operations of rural emergency medical services and rural ambulance service districts, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025."

ReNUMBER accordingly

2023 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1477

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee
Brynhild Haugland Room, State Capitol

HB 1477
2/15/2023

Relating to rural ambulance service districts; and to provide an appropriation.

8:39 AM Chairman Vigesaa- Called the meeting to order and roll call was taken-

Members present; Chairman Vigesaa, Representative Kempenich, Representative B. Anderson, Representative Brandenburg, Representative Hanson, Representative Kreidt, Representative Martinson, Representative Mitskog, Representative Meier, Representative Mock, Representative Monson, Representative Nathe, Representative J. Nelson, Representative O'Brien, Representative Pyle, Representative Richter, Representative Sanford, Representative Schatz, Representative Schobinger, Representative Strinden, Representative G. Stemen and Representative Swiontek.

Members not Present- Representative Bellew

Discussion Topics:

- EMS Levels
- Possibility to Pay EMT

Representative Weisz- Introduces the bill, testifies in favor.

8:58 AM Chairman Vigesaa – Closed the meeting for HB 1477

Risa Berube, Committee Clerk

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Brynhild Haugland Room, State Capitol

HB 1477
2/16/2023

Relating to rural ambulance service districts; and to provide an appropriation.

5:10 PM Chairman Vigesaa Meeting was called to order and roll was taken:

Members present; Chairman Vigesaa, , Representative B. Anderson, Representative Bellew, Representative Hanson, Representative Kreidt, Representative Martinson, Representative Mitskog, Representative Meier, Representative Mock, Representative Monson, Representative Nathe, Representative J. Nelson, Representative O'Brien, Representative Pyle, Representative Richter, Representative Sanford, Representative Schatz, Representative Schobinger, Representative Strinden, Representative G. Stemen and Representative Swiontek.

Members not Present- Representative Kempenich, and Representative Brandenburg

Discussion Topics:

- **Community health trust fund**

Representative Kreidt Moves Do Pass on HB 1477

Representative Pyle seconded.

Roll call vote

Representatives	Vote
Representative Don Vigesaa	Y
Representative Keith Kempenich	AB
Representative Bert Anderson	Y
Representative Larry Bellew	N
Representative Mike Brandenburg	AB
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	Y
Representative Gary Kreidt	Y
Representative Bob Martinson	Y
Representative Lisa Meier	Y
Representative Alisa Mitskog	Y
Representative Corey Mock	Y
Representative David Monson	Y
Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y
Representative Emily O'Brien	Y
Representative Brandy Pyle	Y
Representative David Richter	Y
Representative Mark Sanford	Y

Representative Mike Schatz	Y
Representative Randy A. Schobinger	Y
Representative Greg Stemen	Y
Representative Michelle Strinden	Y
Representative Steve Swiontek	Y

Motion Carries: 20-1-2 Representative Fegley will carry the bill.

5:18 PM Chairman Vigesaa – Closes the meeting for HB 1477

Risa Berube, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1477, as engrossed: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Vigesaa, Chairman)
recommends **DO PASS** (20 YEAS, 1 NAY, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
Engrossed HB 1477 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2023 SENATE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

HB 1477

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

State and Local Government Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

HB 1477
3/23/2023

Relating to rural ambulance service districts; provide an appropriation.
--

11:06 AM Chair Roers opened the hearing. Present: Chair Roers, Vice Chair Barta, Sen Cleary, Sen Estenson, Sen J Lee, and Sen Braunberger.

Discussion Topics:

- Duties
- Political subdivisions
- Local banking
- Annexed territories

Rep Hatlestad, Dist 1, bill sponsor testified, in support #26458.

Adam Parker, ND EMS (Emergency Medical Services), testified in support #26459.

11:18 AM Chair Roers closed the hearing.

Pam Dever, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

State and Local Government Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

HB 1477
3/23/2023

Relating to rural ambulance service districts; provide an appropriation.

2:35 PM Chair Roers opened committee work. Present: Chair Roers, Vice Chair Barta, Sen Cleary, Sen Estenson, Sen J Lee, and Sen Braunberger.

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

Sen Estenson moved a DO PASS and Rerefer to Appropriations.

Sen Barta seconded.

Senators	Vote
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Jeff Barta	Y
Senator Ryan Braunberger	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	Y
Senator Judy Estenson	Y
Senator Judy Lee	Y

VOTE: YES – 6 NO – 0 Absent – 0 Motion PASSED

Sen Estenson will carry the bill.

2:39 PM Chair Roers adjourned the meeting.

Pam Dever, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1477, as engrossed: State and Local Government Committee (Sen. K. Roers, Chairman) recommends BE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION and BE REREFERRED to the Appropriations Committee (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HB 1477 was rereferred to the Appropriations Committee. This bill does not affect workforce development.

2023 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1477

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Government Operations Division Red River Room, State Capitol

HB 1477
3/28/2023

A bill for an act, relating to rural ambulance service districts; and to provide an appropriation.
--

8:31 AM Chairman Wanzek opened the meeting.
Senators Wanzek, Dwyer, J. Roers, Vedaa, and Erbele are present.

Discussion Topics:

- Ambulance service closures
- Funding sources
- Community Health Trust Fund
- Reimbursement rates
- Distribution formula
- Insurance coverage and cost-share

8:32 AM Bill Kalanek, Lobbyist #86, testified on behalf of ND Emergency Medical Services.
(No written testimony)

8:46 AM Donell Presky, Lobbyist #41, testified on behalf of the ND Counties Association.
(No written testimony)

8:48 AM Senator Erbele moved a Do Pass recommendation for HB 1477.
Senator Roers seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Jim P. Roers	Y
Senator Shawn Vedaa	Y

Motion passed 5-0-0

Senator Roers will carry this bill.

8:49 AM Chairman Wanzek closed the meeting.

Carol Thompson, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Government Operations Division Red River Room, State Capitol

HB 1477
4/3/2023

A bill for an act relating to rural ambulance service districts and to provide an appropriation.
--

10:04 AM Chairman Wanzek opened the meeting.
Senators Wanzek, Dwyer, J. Roers, Vedaa, and Erbele are present.

Discussion Topics:

- Ambiguity in appropriation language
- Proposed amendments
- Grants only program
- Intended only for rural ambulances

10:05 Bill Kalanek, Lobbyist #86, testified on behalf of ND Emergency Medical Services.
(No written testimony)

10:06 AM Senator Roers moved to accept Amendment 23.0893.02001.
Senator Dwyer seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Jim P. Roers	Y
Senator Shawn Vedaa	Y

Motion carried 5-0-0

10:08 AM Senator Roers moved a Do Pass as Amended recommendation for HB 1477.
Senator Dwyer seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Jim P. Roers	Y
Senator Shawn Vedaa	Y

Motion carried 5-0-0

Senator Roers will carry the bill.

10:09 PM Chairman Wanzek closed the meeting.

Carol Thompson, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1477
4/4/2023

A BILL for an Act relating to rural ambulance service districts; and to provide an appropriation.

11:04 AM Chairman Bekkedahl opened the hearing on HB 1477.

Members present: Senators Bekkedahl, Krebsbach, Burckhard, Davison, Dever, Dwyer, Erbele, Kreun, Meyer, Roers, Schaible, Sorvaag, Vedaa, Wanzek, Rust, and Mathern.

Discussion Topics:

- Rural ambulance service
- Committee action

11:05 AM Senator Roers introduced amendment LC 23.0893.02001, testimony # 27278.

11:06 AM Senator Roers moved to adopt AMENDMENT 23.0893.02001.
Senator Wanzek seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	Y
Senator Karen K. Krebsbach	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Curt Kreun	Y
Senator Tim Mathern	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Jim P. Roers	Y
Senator David S. Rust	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Shawn Vedaa	Y
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y

Motion passed 16-0-0.

11:07 AM Senator Roers moved DO PASS AS AMENDED.
Senator Davison seconded the motion.

11:09 AM Adam Mathiak, Legislative Council answered questions from the committee, no written testimony.

11:19 AM Senator Wanzek moved to further AMEND to add a Sunset clause.
Senator Rust seconded this motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	Y
Senator Karen K. Krebsbach	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Curt Kreun	Y
Senator Tim Mathern	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Jim P. Roers	Y
Senator David S. Rust	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Shawn Vedaa	Y
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y

Motion passed 16-0-0.

11:20 AM Senator Roers moved DO PASS AS AMENDED.
Senator Davison seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	Y
Senator Karen K. Krebsbach	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Curt Kreun	Y
Senator Tim Mathern	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Jim P. Roers	Y
Senator David S. Rust	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Shawn Vedaa	Y
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y

Motion passed 16-0-0.

Senator Estensen will carry the bill.

9:54 AM Chairman Bekkedahl closed the hearing.
Kathleen Hall, Committee Clerk

BR
191
4-4-23

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1477

Page 1, line 3, remove "and"

Page 1, line 3, after "appropriation" insert "; and to provide an expiration date"

Page 4, line 11, after the boldfaced dash insert "**RURAL**"

Page 4, line 11, remove "**AND RURAL**"

Page 4, line 12, replace "**AMBULANCE SERVICE DISTRICTS**" with "**GRANTS - ONE-TIME FUNDING**"

Page 4, line 15, remove "aiding the functions and operations of rural emergency"

Page 4, line 16, replace "medical services and rural ambulance service districts" with "providing additional state financial assistance for rural emergency medical services grants"

Page 4, line 17, after "2025" insert ". The funding provided in this section is considered a one-time funding item"

Page 4, after line 17, insert:

"SECTION 7. EXPIRATION DATE. Sections 1 through 5 of this Act are effective through June 30, 2025, and after that date are ineffective."

Renumber accordingly

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

This amendment adds an expiration date of June 30, 2025 for the changes to the ambulance service district grant program and clarifies the funding of \$7 million from the community health trust fund is a one-time funding item.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1477, as engrossed: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Bekkedahl, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (16 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HB 1477 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill affects workforce development.

Page 1, line 3, remove "and"

Page 1, line 3, after "appropriation" insert "; and to provide an expiration date"

Page 4, line 11, after the boldfaced dash insert "**RURAL**"

Page 4, line 11, remove "**AND RURAL**"

Page 4, line 12, replace "**AMBULANCE SERVICE DISTRICTS**" with "**GRANTS - ONE-TIME FUNDING**"

Page 4, line 15, remove "aiding the functions and operations of rural emergency"

Page 4, line 16, replace "medical services and rural ambulance service districts" with "providing additional state financial assistance for rural emergency medical services grants"

Page 4, line 17, after "2025" insert ". The funding provided in this section is considered a one-time funding item"

Page 4, after line 17, insert:

"SECTION 7. EXPIRATION DATE. Sections 1 through 5 of this Act are effective through June 30, 2025, and after that date are ineffective."

Re-number accordingly

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

This amendment adds an expiration date of June 30, 2025 for the changes to the ambulance service district grant program and clarifies the funding of \$7 million from the community health trust fund is a one-time funding item.

2023 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

HB 1477

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1477
4/17/2023
Conference Committee

Relating to rural ambulance service districts, to provide an appropriation; and to provide an expiration date.
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Madam Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 2:52 PM.

Madam Chair Karen Anderson, Reps. Robin Weisz, Jayme Davis, Senate Chair Judy Estenson, Senators Jeff Barta, Sean Cleary.

Discussion Topics:

- Expiration date
- Funding

Madam Chair Anderson called for a discussion on HB 1477.

Madam Chair Estenson discussed the necessity of ongoing appropriations to rural ambulance service districts.

Rep. Weisz moved that the Senate recede from its amendments.

Seconded by Sen. Cleary.

Bill Kowonek, North Dakota EMS Association, answered questions from the committee.

Roll Call Vote- Motion fails 4-2-0 (Senate vote is 1-2).

Madam Chair Anderson adjourned the meeting at 3:03 PM.

Phillip Jacobs, Committee Clerk

**2023 HOUSE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES**

BILL NO. 1477 as engrossed

House Human Services Committee

- Action Taken**
- HOUSE accede to Senate Amendments
 - HOUSE accede to Senate Amendments and further amend
 - SENATE recede from Senate amendments
 - SENATE recede from Senate amendments and amend as follows
- Unable to agree**, recommends that the committee be discharged and a new committee be appointed

Motion Made by: Rep. Weisz Seconded by: Sen. Cleary

Representatives					Senators				
	4/17		Yes	No		4/17		Yes	No
Rep. K. Anderson	X		X		Sen. Estenson	X			X
Rep. Weisz	X		X		Sen. Barta	X			X
Rep. Davis	X		X		Sen. Cleary	X		X	
Total Rep. Vote			3	0	Total Senate Vote			1	2

Vote Count Yes: 4 No: 2 Absent: 0

House Carrier _____ Senate Carrier _____

LC Number _____ of amendment

LC Number _____ of engrossment

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1477
4/19/2023
Conference Committee

relating to rural ambulance service districts, to provide an appropriation; and to provide an expiration date.

Madam Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

Madam Chair Karen Anderson, Reps. Robin Weisz, Jayme Davis, Madam Chair Judy Estenson, Senators Jeff Barta, Sean Cleary.

Discussion Topics:

- District budgets
- Property taxes
- One-time funding
- Reimbursement
- Maintenance of ambulance services

Madam Chair Anderson called for a discussion on HB 1477.

Rep. Weisz discussed the budget for rural ambulance services and cases of medical emergencies in rural areas.

Sen. Barta discussed the implications of on-going funding for rural ambulance services instead of providing an expiration date.

Madam Chair Anderson adjourned the meeting at 8:56 AM.

Phillip Jacobs, Committee Clerk

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee
Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1477
4/20/2023
Conference Committee

Relating to rural ambulance service districts, to provide an appropriation; and to provide an expiration date.
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Madam Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 8:32 AM.

Madam Chair Karen Anderson, Reps. Robin Weisz, Jayme Davis, Madam Chair Judy Estenson, Senators Jeff Barta, Sean Cleary.

Discussion Topics:

- Appropriations

Madam Chair Anderson called for a discussion on HB 1477.

Rep. Weisz discussed working with the appropriations committee to further amend HB 1477.

Madam Chair Anderson adjourned the meeting at 8:33 AM.

Phillip Jacobs, Committee Clerk

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1477
4/21/2023
Conference Committee

relating to rural ambulance service districts, to provide an appropriation; and to provide an expiration date.

Madam Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 11:05 AM.

Madam Chair Karen Anderson, Reps. Robin Weisz, Jayme Davis, Madam Chair Judy Estenson, Sens. Jeff Barta, Sean Cleary.

Discussion Topics:

- Community health trust fund
- Staffing

Madam Chair Anderson called for a discussion on HB 1477.

Rep. Weisz discussed funding for rural ambulance service districts.

Madam Chair Estenson discussed the grant rewards for rural ambulance service districts.

Sen. Cleary moved that the House accede to Senate amendments and amend as follows: keeping the language of the Senate amendment except for Section 7 on Page 1, lines 20 and 21.

Seconded by Madam Chair Estenson.

Motion fails 2-4-0.

Sen. Cleary moved that the Senate recede from Senate amendments.

Seconded by Rep. Weisz.

Motion carries 5-1-0.

Sen. Barta to carry in the Senate.

Rep. Weisz to carry in the House.

Madam Chair Anderson adjourned the meeting at 11:29 AM.

Phillip Jacobs, Committee Clerk

**2023 HOUSE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES**

BILL NO. 1477 as engrossed

House Human Services Committee

- Action Taken** HOUSE accede to Senate Amendments
 HOUSE accede to Senate Amendments and further amend
 SENATE recede from Senate amendments
 SENATE recede from Senate amendments and amend as follows
- Unable to agree**, recommends that the committee be discharged and a new committee be appointed

Motion Made by: Sen. Cleary Seconded by: Sen. Estenson

Representatives	4/19	4/20	4/21	Yes	No		Senators	4/19	4/20	4/21	Yes	No
Rep. K. Anderson	X	X	X		X		Sen. Estenson	X	X	X	X	
Rep. Weisz	X	X	X		X		Sen. Barta	X	X	X	X	
Rep. Davis	X	X	X		X		Sen. Cleary	X	X	X		X
Total Rep. Vote				0	3		Total Senate Vote				2	1

Vote Count Yes: 2 No: 4 Absent: 0

House Carrier _____ Senate Carrier _____

LC Number _____ . _____ of amendment

LC Number _____ . _____ of engrossment

Emergency clause added or deleted

Statement of purpose of amendment

Keeping the language of the Senate amendment except for Section 7 on Page 1, lines 20 and 21.

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

HB 1477, as engrossed: Your conference committee (Sens. Estenson, Barta, Cleary and Reps. K. Anderson, Weisz, Davis) recommends that the **SENATE RECEDE** from the Senate amendments as printed on HJ page 1681 and place HB 1477 on the Seventh order.

Engrossed HB 1477 was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

TESTIMONY

HB 1477

HB # 1177

Rep Patrick Hatlestad

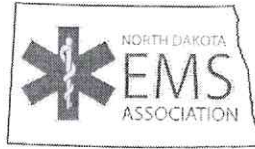
District One

Ambulance District

5 Changes

- 1) Requires 20% of qualified electors, living in the Ambulance District, to elect to form, organize, establish, equip, and maintain a rural ambulance service district. Removes cities as a separate counting area – District, as a whole, 20%
- 2) Change in the date that the president and secretary must submit an estimate of district expenses to the county auditor from on or before June 30 to on or before August 10th.
- 3) Removes the bonding requirement from this section as it already exists in another section.
- 4) Updates the language to allow collected funds to be placed in a bank or credit union, removing old “state or National bank language.
- 5) Removes the inappropriate chapter reference and now references the Health Department Code that designates service areas.

Executive Offices
1622 East Interstate Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58503



701-221-0567
ndemsa.office@ndemsa.org
www.ndemsa.org

Testimony
House Bill 1477
House Human Services
Tuesday, January 31 2023; 10:30 a.m.
North Dakota Emergency Medical Services Association

Good morning, Chairman Weisz and members of the committee. My name is Adam Parker, I speaking on behalf of the North Dakota Emergency Medical Services Association. I am here today in support of HB 1477.

The EMS Association has long believed that rural ambulance service districts are the best avenue to ensure long-term sustainability of EMS in rural areas. Rural ambulance service districts serve two important functions, they have an elected board that is responsible for developing an local EMS plan, and they have the ability to levy taxes to support the plan and ensure reasonable ambulance coverage within the territory.

Last legislative session, the EMS Association supported a bill that eased many burdens to establishing rural ambulance service districts. Since that time, several ambulance services have taken advantage of those provisions to establish districts, annex territory, or increase their maximum allowed mill rate. The bill represents several small changes to further reduce burdens and to clarify several points to ensure ambulances districts are compliant with applicable law.

First, the bill removes the petition requirements for cities located within the proposed ambulance district territory. It has proven difficult for auditors to determine the qualified electors residing within the cities and this has resulted in added complexity and delays in the petitioning process.

Second, the bill would remove the June 30th requirement to submit a budget to the auditors. If the question of district formation is on the June ballot, it is impossible to organize the district and submit a budget to the auditor by the statutorily required date. Changing the date to August 10th aligns with other political subdivisions and ensure ambulance funding is not delayed.

Third, it removed the bonding requirements for the secretary-treasurer. N.D.C.C 26.1-21-01.1 requires all board members to be bonded, and having a separate bond for the secretary-treasurer is an added expense to the district.

Fourth, rural ambulance districts always express an interest in banking locally. Sometimes this involves banking at a credit union. This small change would ensure ambulance districts are able to bank at credit unions.

Lastly, the bill last session made it possible for ambulance districts to annex territory they currently provide ambulance coverage too. The citation to 57-40.6-10 refers to the requirement that the quickest ambulance by predetermined response areas must be dispatched. However, in one case this was misinterpreted and resulted in delayed funding to the ambulance service. Therefore, we feel reference to 23-27-01, would alleviate any confusion in the future and ensure the legislative intent of allowing ambulance districts to annex territory that they have been assigned to serve.

This concludes my testimony, I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Amendment for 1477 EMS

11-28.3-15. Territory to be annexed.

2. If the area to be annexed is not ~~serviced by the district under section 57-40.6-10~~ within the designated service area as established under subsection 1 of section 23-27-01, the proceedings for the annexation may be initiated by a presentation to the county auditor. If more than one county is in the proposed annexed territory, the auditor serving the larger portion shall coordinate with other county auditors to create a petition stating the desires and purposes of the petitioners signed by fifty qualified electors, or if there are not fifty qualified electors in the proposed territory, fifty percent of qualified electors residing within the boundaries of the territory. The petition must contain a description of the boundaries of the territory proposed to be annexed and must be accompanied by a map or plat and a deposit for publication costs.

11-28.3-16. Withdrawal from ambulance service district - Restrictions.

2. Notwithstanding ~~section 57-40.6-10~~ subsection 1 of section 23-27-01 designating an ambulance service area, the district is not obligated to maintain the withdrawn district within the primary response area of the district

23.0893.01001
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
Representative Weisz
February 1, 2023

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1477

Page 1, line 3, after "districts" insert "; and to provide an appropriation"

Page 2, line 29, overstrike "in a district"

Page 3, after line 23, insert:

"SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - COMMUNITY HEALTH TRUST FUND - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND RURAL AMBULANCE SERVICE DISTRICTS. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the community health trust fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$7,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of health and human services for the purpose of aiding the functions and operations of rural emergency medical services and rural ambulance service districts, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025."

Renumber accordingly

HB # 1477
Rep Patrick Hatlestad
District One
Ambulance District
6 Changes

- 1) Requires 50 qualified electors, living in the Ambulance District, or 50% if less than 50 qualified electors to elect to form, organize, establish, equip, and maintain a rural ambulance service district. Removes cities as a separate counting area
- 2) Change in the date that the president and secretary must submit an estimate of district expenses to the county auditor from on or before June 30 to on or before August 10th.
- 3) Removes the bonding requirement from this section as it already exists in another section. Subsection 1 of Section 26.1-12—01 Blanket Bond/Political subdivisions
- 4) Updates the language to allow collected funds to be placed in a bank or credit union, removing old "state or National bank language. Allows to bank locally.
- 5) Removes the inappropriate chapter reference and now references the Health Department Code that designates service areas.
- 6) Provide \$7 million in grants. Department of Health and Human Services for the purpose of aiding the functions and operations of rural emergency medical services and rural ambulance service districts,

APPLICABLE LAW:

Subsection 1 of Section 26.1-12-01 defines a "blanket bond" **as a bond that covers collectively all public employees and public officials** without the necessity of scheduling names or positions as a part of the bond, and a bond whereby new public employees and new public officials entering employment or office during the period of the bond are automatically included without notice to the fund.

Subsection 4 of Section 26.1-12-01 defines "political subdivision" as a county, township, park district, school district, city, and **any other unit of local government which is created either by statute** or by the Constitution of North Dakota for local government or **other public purposes**.

Subsection 5 of Section 26.1-21-01 defines "public employee" **as an individual employed by** a state agency or **any political subdivision**, an officer or employee eligible under section 57-15-56, an employee under section 61-16.1-05, and an officer or employee of an international peace garden. "Public employee" does not include an individual employed by an occupational and professional board or commission under title 43 or by the state bar association.

Subsection 6 of Section 26.1-21-01 defines "public official" as **an elected or appointed officer** or deputy **of** a state agency or **a political subdivision**, except for an officer of an occupational and professional board or commission under title 43 or of the state bar association.

Section 26.1-21-09 requires each political subdivision to pay premiums before bond coverage takes effect. The premiums must be placed in the state bonding fund, which the insurance commissioner manages.

ANALYSIS:

Rural ambulance service districts are political subdivisions because they are created by statute for public purposes. Furthermore, Section 54-10-14 classifies rural ambulance service districts as a political subdivision. Because of that fact, **all employees and officials of rural ambulance service districts are public employees and public officials**. Therefore, **blanket bonds apply to the employees and officials of rural ambulance service districts, including the secretary-treasurer**.

I imagine the bonding provision in Section 11-28.3-09 for the secretary-treasurer is being eliminated as a cost-saving measure because the secretary-treasurer is already covered under Chapter 26.1-21.

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Testimony
House Bill 1477
Senate State and Local Government
Thursday, March 23 2023; 10:15 a.m.
North Dakota Emergency Medical Services Association

Good morning, Madam Chair and members of the committee. My name is Adam Parker, I speaking on behalf of the North Dakota Emergency Medical Services Association. I am here today in support of HB 1477.

The EMS Association has long believed that rural ambulance service districts are the best avenue to ensure long-term sustainability of EMS in rural areas. Rural ambulance service districts serve two important functions, they have an elected board that is responsible for developing an local EMS plan, and they have the ability to levy taxes to support the plan and ensure reasonable ambulance coverage within the territory.

Last legislative session, the EMS Association supported a bill that eased many burdens to establishing rural ambulance service districts. Since that time, several ambulance services have taken advantage of those provisions to establish districts, annex territory, or increase their maximum allowed mill rate. The bill represents several small changes to further reduce burdens and to clarify several points to ensure ambulance districts are compliant with applicable law.

First, the bill removes the petition requirements for cities located within the proposed ambulance district territory. It has proven difficult for auditors to determine the qualified electors residing within the cities and this has resulted in added complexity and delays in the petitioning process.

Second, the bill would remove the June 30th requirement to submit a budget to the auditors. If the question of district formation is on the June ballot, it is impossible to organize the district and submit a budget to the auditor by the statutorily required date. Changing the date to August 10th aligns with other political subdivisions and ensure ambulance funding is not delayed.

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This bill was amended in the House to include an appropriation to fully fund, or nearly fully fund, the Rural EMS Assistance Grant. This grant is critical to assist rural ambulance service hire staff and fund their operations. Last biennium, the grant contained an appropriation of \$6.875 million which funded services at 29% of the formulas calculation. Based on the formula currently contained in HB1294 we believe the current \$6.875 million in the Health Department budget, combined with the \$7 million appropriation in this bill would fully fund the formula.

This concludes my testimony, I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

23.0893.02001
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
Senator J. Roers
March 29, 2023

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1477

Page 4, line 11, after the boldfaced dash insert "**RURAL**".

Page 4, line 11, remove "**AND RURAL**"

Page 4, line 12, replace "**AMBULANCE SERVICE DISTRICTS**" with "**GRANTS**"

Page 4, line 15, remove "aiding the functions and operations of rural emergency"

Page 4, line 16, replace "medical services and rural ambulance service districts" with "providing additional state financial assistance for rural emergency medical services grants"

Renumber accordingly