

MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

1397

2001 HOUSE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

HB 1397

2001 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB1397

House Local Subdivisions Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date 2-7-01

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	XX		1-5714
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Ann Dever</i>			

Minutes: Chair Froseth called the hearing on HB1397 relating to dispatching of ambulances in emergencies to order.

Rep. Audrey Cleary, Dist 49, Bismarck, ND : introduced in support HB1397. Please listen to all the people here to testify in support of this bill. They can answer your questions better than I.

Delores Boutilier, Riverdale, ND : here in support of HB1397. (SEE ATTACHED)

Frank Boutilier, Riverdale, ND : (355) here in support of HB1397 and handed out many letters of support from Riverdale area. (SEE ATTACHED) In contact with the Corps of Engineers of Riverdale, they want the quickest time possible to get emergency care to the people of the Garrison Dam area regardless of ambulance location.

Chair Froseth : If an ambulance is dispatched outside of their boundary, how does the reimbursement work?

Frank : There have been ambulance districts set up. The districts will have the right to levy a mill levy to the ambulances. Riverdale funds the ambulance. We are not under the tax basis.

The city funds the training. The other funds come from the service calls that go out. The ambulance charges so much a loaded mile. The other district will reimburse the ambulance who made the service call to another district.

Rep. Disrud: If I have an accident and you call 911. 911 dispatches the closest ambulance, right?

Frank: Not exactly. Now, say you had an accident 4 blocks from Riverdale. You would have to wait for the ambulance to come from Underwood, which is 15 miles away to pick you up. We have an ambulance in Riverdale that is closer. That is what concerns us in this area. Right now, Riverdale can only service the city itself.

Rep. Ekstrom: Does this open up a liability problem for the 911 dispatchers?

Frank: More than likely the 911 coordinator will draw up certain area that would be covered. They will define area. When the dispatcher receives the call, they will know exactly the location of the call. They will pin point on the map and they will know who need to be sent out.

Disrud: I have an accident on Hwy 200. The first number available to me was the ambulance's own number. And I called, but it wasn't their area. Will they respond or will they say, this is not my area?

Frank: Our responsibility is to get out as fast as possible, regardless of where the call came from.

Vice-Chair Severson: In your particular situation, have you gone to Underwood and Hazen and try to negotiate to eliminate the problem.

Frank: Yes, we have. When this districting was set up as such, it was an understanding that we would have a written agreement drawn up between Underwood and Riverdale or Hazen. That never came to pass. We did discuss it. I think the revenue part slowed the agreement. They may have not wanted to release that revenue.

Timothy Wjedrich, Director of Emergency Health Services-Health Dept. : (1510) neutral on the bill. We are the agency responsible for how efficient ambulance services provide care for the citizens of ND. We are supportive of the concept of this bill. Our concerns go beyond the Riverdale area. This is a systemic issue. From a purely medical standpoint, the closest ambulance near the emergency needs to be dispatched. (SEE ATTACHED TESTIMONY)

Rep. Herbel : Do we have reciprocity with states like MT, MN, and SD?

Tim : We pretend the border is invisible when it comes to providing emergency services. Have not seen a problem dealing with other states. It's with our own internal geopolitical borders.

Rep. Eekre : Do you see any problems with private ambulance services competing?

Tim : I don't think so. Right now we have a huge mix. We have 141 ambulance services across the state. The difficulty is not with private, because they usually did a rotation type system. The problem was when we dispatch life threatening ambulances and the ambulance comes from 26 miles away when there was one closer. The bill needs to have some additional requirements to make sure the 911 dispatch centers send the closest ambulance, because I believe this is the intend of the bill. We have what is called a tiered response. The closest ambulance is sent out, but another service may be more equipped to handle an extreme emergency. The first ambulance asks for the better qualified one to also come.

Rep. N. Johnson : Has your division set up any system?

Tim : We have counseled on the local levels, but we don't have statutory authority to establish the districts.

Rep. Niemeier :(2790) Aren't we asking the 911 dispatcher to determine the extent of the emergency?

Tim : No, this resolves the determination. If the closest is dispatched, then the first one may trigger the tiered response.

Rep. Niemeier : The first ambulance is the one who triggers the second one.

Tim : That's generally what happens now. Some local protocol may require something different.

Vice-Chair Severson : (2931) I helped Rep. Cleary draft this bill. I went to L.C. And asked them specifically to write us an amendment to the licenser of ambulance that allows the dispatch center to dispatch the closest ambulance. We could not use the word dispatch. It ended up unclear. How can we address and make sure that the second unit will go. Do you have a solution?

Tim : Easiest would be to add a provision. Or, you could have the Health Dept., as part of their license requirements for the annual service, require the ambulance service demonstrate that it is the closest. If they can't demonstrate that, they may not get a license. Not a real good solution. It would show legislative intent.

Rep. Disrud : If you are sending two ambulances out, aren't we talking about double billing, double man power, etc?

Tim : Yes, but how can we hold back life saving procedures because of cost. From a medical stand point, I can't swallow that. Fiscal can't rule here.

Rep. Kretschmar : Would this law prohibit ambulances services from cooperating with each other?

Tim : I would argue the opposite. So, no.

Derek Hanson, ND EMS Assoc. : Just here to support the bill. We accept the amendments.

Jerry Berquist, Stutsman County 911 Coordinator : (4069) here in opposition to HB1397. I see lots of problems with the bill. It will be hard to comply with this bill the way it is written now.

It will be hard for the 911 coordinator to decide which one to dispatch. Also, the data bases will have to be redesigned in the whole state for the closest ambulance to be dispatched. That will take a lot of time. We will be mandated to do this and this will put strain on our relationship with ambulance services. All 911 coordinators agree with the intent of this bill. We all want to save lives and do the best for everybody. All counties, except one, have the 911 system. That took a long time to accomplish. Now, we have the problem of wireless phones. We don't know where the call is coming from. We don't have the technology yet. I disagree with the implementation of the bill, not with the intent.

Rep. Maragos : (4820) How much of a task would it be to modify the data base with regard to jurisdictional boundaries?

Jerry : That will vary from county to county. You may get some done by the end of the year.

Rep. Maragos : All we are talking about here is the boundary part of the jurisdiction. These are the ones that come into question. Who establishes the boundaries of the ambulance services?

Jerry : Back originally when everyone got into 911, it was done differently. Some parts of ND use taxing districts. Some don't have taxing districts. The services agreed by consensus to boundary lines.

Rep. Maragos : Do any of these taxing districts cross jurisdictional boundaries?

Jerry : I don't know. From our point of view, there is no reason why they couldn't cross.

Rep. Maragos : It would seem to me if they use the taxing district, because that is easy to set the boundary, then are all the taxing districts in one jurisdiction? Are you aware of any taxing districts that transcend jurisdictional boundaries?

Jerry : I'm not aware of any.

Rep. Ekstrom : Last session, didn't we pass some sort of locator system?

Jerry : There was a bill similar to a bill dealing with the wireless issue, and it was vetoed by the governor.

Rep. Delmore : We are dealing with lives and services. 911 isn't new and we have had court battles. Maybe this bill will make it better for both 911 and ambulance services. Money has gone into the program.

Jerry : We want to make sure we are doing what the public mandates. Because we have money attached to every ambulance call, it makes it harder to resolve this issue.

Chair Froseth : Any more testimony? Hearing none, HB1397 is closed.

2001 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB1397 a

House Political Subdivisions Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date 2-08-01

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1		xx	2100-2160
Committee Clerk Signature <i>R. M. Love</i>			

Minutes: Chair Froseth : What about HB1397?

Vice-Chair Severson : I would appreciate holding this one more day to make sure the amendments are O.K. with all the parties that had input during the hearing.

Chair Froseth : We will hold it.

2001 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB1397 b

House Political Subdivisions Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date 2-09-01

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
2	xx		800--1083
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Pam Dever</i>			

Minutes: Vice-Chair Severson : Let's take up HB1397. I need a do not pass since HB1409 has this bill in it with it's amendments.

Rep. Herbel : I move a DO NOT PASS.

Rep. Ekstrom : I second.

VOTE: 12 YES and 0 NO with 3 absent. PASSED. Vice-Chair Severson will carry.

Date: 2-9-01
Roll Call Vote #:

2001 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1397

House POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS Committee

Subcommittee on _____
or
 Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do NOT PASS

Motion Made By Rep. Herbel Seconded By Rep. Ekstrom

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Glen Froseth	AB		Rep. Wayne W. Tieman	AB	
Vice-Chair Dale C. Severson	/				
Rep. Lois Delmore	/				
Rep. Rachael Disrud	/				
Rep. Bruce Eckre	AB				
Rep. Mary Ekstrom	/				
Rep. April Fairfield	/				
Rep. Michael Grosz	/				
Rep. Jane Gunter	/				
Rep. Gil Herbel	/				
Rep. Nancy Johnson	/				
Rep. William E. Kretschmar	/				
Rep. Carol A. Niemeier	/				
Rep. Andrew G. Maragos	/				

Total (Yes) 12 No 0

Absent 3 AB

Floor Assignment Vice-Chair Severson

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
February 9, 2001 11:30 a.m.

Module No: HR-24-2847
Carrier: Severson
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1397: Political Subdivisions Committee (Rep. Froseth, Chairman) recommends DO NOT PASS (12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 3 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1397 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2001 TESTIMONY

HB 1397

HB 1397

Mr. Chairman and members of the Political Subdivisions Committee.

My name is Audrey Cleary and I represent District 49 in Bismarck.

HB 1397 came about because situations have arisen in which the closest available ambulance is often not dispatched to the scene where emergency medical services are needed.

This bill seeks to make certain that situation is remedied and that the person needing assistance receives the quickest possible response. That of course, is the mission of ambulance services.

~~Since this is a matter of emergency, I would ask that the committee attach the emergency clause.~~

Thank you.

