

FIRES

CHAPTER 205

HOUSE BILL NO. 1067

(Political Subdivisions Committee)

(At the request of the State Board of Higher Education)

STATE FORESTER ASSISTANCE

AN ACT to amend and reenact section 18-02-07 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to cooperation of the state forester and other agencies on fire and forest protection.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 18-02-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

18-02-07. Cooperation of state forester and other agencies - Fire and forest protection. The state forester may cooperate and contract jointly or severally with departments and agencies of this or other states, with federal agencies, with counties, townships, or other political subdivisions, including rural fire protection districts, rural fire departments, municipal, and other corporations and associations, or with individuals, in the best interests of the people and the state in forest surveys, research in forestry, forest protection, including assisting fire departments in protection of forests and other resources and in assisting landowners to secure adoption of better forestry practices. The state forester may:

1. Cooperate and contract with the United States or any appropriate agency thereof to receive and use federal aid and matching funds which the state and its subdivisions may become eligible to receive.
2. Apply for, receive, and expend federal grants-in-aid and matching funds for fire protection services and generally aid rural fire departments and rural fire protection districts with all activities customary in the prevention and suppression of forest, brush, and grassland fires.
3. Purchase or otherwise acquire fire protection equipment to ~~loan~~ lend, transfer, or sell to rural fire departments and rural fire protection districts.

Approved March 23, 2007

Filed March 23, 2007

CHAPTER 206**SENATE BILL NO. 2183**
(Senators Klein, Dever, Erbele, Flakoll)
(Representatives Damschen, Haas)**FIREFIGHTER'S DEATH BENEFITS**

AN ACT to create and enact chapter 18-05.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to establishing a firefighters death benefit fund; to amend and reenact subsection 1 of section 26.1-03-17 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to establishing a firefighters death benefit fund; and to provide a continuing appropriation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. Chapter 18-05.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

18-05.1-01. Firefighters death benefit fund. The firefighters death benefit fund is a special fund in the state treasury. The revenue provided in section 26.1-03-17 must be deposited in the fund and is appropriated on a continuing basis to the insurance commissioner for disbursement as provided in this chapter. The insurance commissioner shall administer the fund.

18-05.1-02. Payments from firefighters death benefit fund. The governing body of a municipality having a paid fire department or the governing body of a city or rural fire protection district having no paid fire department may request that the insurance commissioner pay ten thousand dollars from the firefighters death benefit fund to the estate of a firefighter who dies from an injury sustained while responding to, during, or within forty-eight hours after a fire emergency or training activity. The insurance commissioner shall pay ten thousand dollars to the deceased firefighter's estate upon receipt of the request for payment and upon receipt of evidence that the death occurred from an injury sustained while responding to, during, or within forty-eight hours after a fire emergency.

18-05.1-03. Definition. For purposes of this chapter, firefighter means an individual who is a member of a paid or volunteer fire department that is a part of or is administered by this state, any political subdivision of this state, or a rural fire protection district.

¹²³ **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 26.1-03-17 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

¹²³ Section 26.1-03-17 was also amended by section 3 of House Bill No. 1296, chapter 250.

1. Before issuing the annual certificate required by law, the commissioner shall collect from every stock and mutual insurance company, nonprofit health service corporation, health maintenance organization, and prepaid legal service organization, except fraternal benefit and benevolent societies, doing business in this state, a tax on the gross amount of premiums, assessments, membership fees, subscriber fees, policy fees, service fees collected by any third-party administrator providing administrative services to a group that is self-insured for health care benefits, and finance and service charges received in this state during the preceding calendar year, at the rate of two percent with respect to life insurance, one and three-fourths percent with respect to accident and health insurance, and one and three-fourths percent with respect to all other lines of insurance. This tax does not apply to considerations for annuities. The total tax is payable on or before March first following the year for which the tax is assessable. Collections from this tax, except for collections deposited in the firefighters death benefit fund, must be deposited in the insurance tax distribution fund under section 18-04-04.1 but not in an amount exceeding one-half of the biennial amount appropriated for distribution under section 18-04-05 in any fiscal year. Collections from this tax in an amount of up to fifty thousand dollars per biennium, as may be necessary, are appropriated on a continuing basis for deposit in the firefighters death benefit fund for distribution under chapter 18-05.1. Collections from this tax exceeding the sum of the amount deposited in the insurance tax distribution fund and the amount deposited in the firefighters death benefit fund each fiscal year must be deposited in the general fund in the state treasury. If the due date falls on a Saturday or legal holiday, the tax is payable on the next succeeding business day.

Approved April 5, 2007
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