

MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION
SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

1011

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10/30/03
Date

2003 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1011

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2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1011

House Appropriations Committee
Government Operations Division

Conference Committee

Hearing Date: January 13, 2003

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
2		xx	
3	xx		
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Kelly Schmidt</i>			

Minutes:

Colonel James Hughes, Superintendent of the ND Hwy.. Patrol testified on behalf of HB 1011 Written testimony is enclosed. In attendance, Maj. Mark Nelson, Field Operation Commander, Maj. Neil Johnson, Patrol, Mark Lahren, analysts, and Capt. Dave Kleepe, Administrator.

Col. Hughes also shared information related to the Amber Alert system which is connected with ~~Minnesota~~, South Dakota, Minnesota and the Canadian provinces. The system will be tested on Feb. 6, 2003

Colonel James Hughes in reference to a question from Rep. Koppelman the department has managed with the current budget to address the challenges of its changing roll since 9-11. The

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Page 2
Government Operations Division
Bill/Resolution Number HB1011
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department has called upon retired troopers to work part-time without benefits in an effort to redirect it's resources.

Rep. Timm asked where the funds will be allocated from the dollars retained by reducing 15 FTE's.

Colonel James Hughes responded 90% of the budget is operations; cars, people, gas etc. A 90% budget was submitted with 32 FTE's and the closing of several weigh scales. The Govenors office was able to give us back 21 FTE's and we received 1M in funding from the Federal Government to maintain 3 weigh stations..

Colonel James Hughes in response to Rep. Skarphols question, the department anticipates 6 vacancies in patrol, 1-2 might retire during the next biennium. He also advised the committee although insurance costs have skyrocketed, his department has received a 10% discount in rates from Risk Management because of a reduction in accidents.

Rep. Glassheim commented he has received many letters from fixed scale communities, voicing safety concerns. Fixed scale facilities do more that just check for weight.

Colonel James Hughes agreed, saying Historically, scales have provided 1) truckers with needed permits, this has gone for the most part electronic. 2) scales provided a deterrent to overloading..30% of overloads are picked up from patrol, accounting for 70% of fines. He stated no buildings will be removed from the closed sites so officers can use these facilities for monitoring as needed. Weigh in Motion detectors will be added and 3) the site provide for an inspection site needed by Federal guidelines. Their will be flexibility with the mobile teams.

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Page 3
Government Operations Division
Bill/Resolution Number HB1011
Hearing Date January 13, 2003

Rep. Keith Kempenich, District #39 appeared before the committee to voice his concern over the site closings. Mobile units are based on more inspection vs. Weight with mobile stations not being opened at night. He would like to visit with Col. Hughes for further discussion.

Rep. Skarphol commented to the committee, the legislature put a lot of pressure on the Col. last session, 90% of Hwy.. damage is due to weight....the biggest abusers are our citizens. The cost of replacement is to high to allow abuse. I agree with the Colonel.

Hughes Colonel James stated the department is phasing in the scales and the original budget closed all scales, at the last minute the Feds, Gov. Office and the state pulled together to keep 3 scales open in Fargo, Joliet, and Williston. The sites are not being destroyed. Therefore, when the funds become available we can turn the switch and reopen.

Rep. Timm commented he believed the Hwy.. Patrol should be funded totally from the General Fund. The funding change was from the Hwy. Trust Fund instead of the Hwy. Fund. OMB made that change.

Hughes Colonel James Some of the funding has been returned, we returned 5 Million to the Hwy. Trust Fund, 6.2M from Hwy. Fund. We believe more money will be returned this biennium.

Rep. Glasshelm requested a written response to the scale closing budge, federal funding etc. Related to the advantages and disadvantages of the scheduled closings.

Hearing no further testimony, the hearing was closed.

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2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1011

House Appropriations Committee
Government Operations Division

Conference Committee

Hearing Date January 23, 2003

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	xx	xx	
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Kelly Schmidt</i>			

Minutes: Committee Work

Sherry Neas, Procurement Manager, answered questions regarding the 1600 cell phones used in state government. The current plan includes several state packages. The plan expires 2/28/05, this is a joint contract with Higher Education. Bids will be send out soon. The cost show from 7/01 to 7/02, which includes a 13 month period averaged \$30,000. It was noted a policy should be developed to tract cell phones and not depend on the contractor to do so.

Linda Bellisle, Director, Central Services Div., OMB HB 1180 will define professional services. Agencies can contract for their own services while following guidelines, a manual has been developed.

Rep. Jim Kerzman, testified he would like to see limited authority to the Hwy. Patrol. He has introduced HB 1484 which would limit authority to the main corridors. Weigh stations.....he agrees with the rational but visibility is lost and maybe portables should be put with the sheriff's

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Page 2
Government Operations Division
Bill/Resolution Number HB 1011
Hearing Date January 23, 2003

department. He would like to see things as local as possible, making the Hwy. Patrol limited unless called upon.

Col. Hughes, Highway Patrol The drug problem is expanding especially in Williston and Williams County. His department has limited authority except in cases of emergency.

Rep. Kempenich, District #39, spoke regarding weigh stations and scales. Permanent and portable situations in the Bowman area

Col. Hughes stated the Hwy. Department, the Federal Gov. And the Hwy. patrol will determine the sites for the Electronics Monitor locations. Those sites have not been selected.

Wade Williams, Association of Counties participated in the weight station discussion

Col. Hughes changes in this budget.. 1. Increase in motor pool and fuel costs. 2. Decrease in the line item for salaries and 3. Increase in insurance due to Risk Management increase.

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