

2011 SENATE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

SB 2330

2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Political Subdivisions Committee Red River Room, State Capitol

SB 2330
February 3, 2011
13909

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature 

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to fallen firefighters memorial weekend

Minutes:

You may make reference to "attached testimony."

Senator Andrist opened SB 2330, relating to fallen firefighters memorial weekend.

Senator Donald Schaible, District 31 introduced this bill and support of SB2330. See written testimony.

Senator Andrist: Could have this been accomplished by a resolution? Why did you choose to put it in a bill instead? **Senator Donald Schaible:** The reason I put it this is because it was brought to me the day before the deadline by firefighters across the state and I guess that was the reason. It could have been done by a resolution. I would have to say that then Governor John Hoeven suggested that we submit it as a bill. Yesterday I talked with Governor Jack Dalrymple and he also thought it was a good idea. If it should've been in a resolution I guess it would be my mistake from being a freshman. **Senator Andrist:** No I am not sure it is a mistake; usually these types of things do come in resolutions.

Renee Loh, Executive Director of the North Dakota of the North Dakota Firefighters Association. Supports SB 2330. When our firefighters across the state of North Dakota, are out they are risking their lives each and every day. It is not uncommon in communities for firefighters to have served almost their entire lifetime. This would be a way that we could honor them for the and good and generosity of all the hours that they have expended protecting our North Dakota communities.

Justin Adolf: President of the Professional Firefighters in North Dakota. We would also ask for do pass on this bill. Roughly 300 firefighters cover 40% of the population in the State of North Dakota and those are paid firefighters. Firefighting is a very dangerous profession that you would think would get better and safer with time. But with building construction and petroleum products it's getting more and more dangerous. We roughly lose 100 firefighters nationwide each year. We've had 5 in the state in North Dakota since 1977. But we should support those 5 that we've lost.

Senator Dotzenrod: This bill does not have in it, any dates. Is there a national, specific date or time of the year that we should expect this to be happening? **Justin Adolf:** This year in 2011, it is the 14-16 of October and it roughly falls in that same time frame every year. **Senator Dotzenrod:** The fire in Sherwood, is that where some of the five fatalities occurred?

Brooks Martin: representing the West Region Director of the Everyone Goes Home Program which is an organization under the National Fallen Firefighters Organization. I also here am in support of SB 2330 this morning. The National Fallen Fire- Fighters Foundation is an organization which was established in 1992 by congress. There sole mission is to support the families of the fallen firefighters across the United States. Every year typically the first weekend in October they honor the fallen firefighters at a national memorial service held in Emmetsburg, Maryland. This bill does in coincide with that weekend. This year because of a religious holiday, it was pushed back an additional week to accommodate that holiday. We will actually be the second weekend in October this year. A question on the fatalities in North Dakota, we've had 5 fatalities in the state of North Dakota since 1977 when records were started being kept. We had 2 firefighters that were killed as a result of the Sherwood, North Dakota incident; 1 who was killed Williston, North Dakota during a trailer house fire, 1 killed in Anamoose, North Dakota during a fireworks display, 1 killed in Hebron, North Dakota about five years ago that died on a wild line fire from a heart attack. Those are the five deaths that we've had in our state. We are trying greatly to try and reduce our line of duty deaths across the country and across the state of North Dakota.

Senator Andrist asked for those to testify in opposition to this bill. None present. Is there anybody who wants to testify in a neutral position? None present.

Closed hearing on SB2330.

Motion for Do Pass Senator Laffen
2nd Senator Lee

Committee Discussion followed.

5 Yeas, 0 No, 0 Absent

Carrier: Senator Laffen

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

**SB 2330: Political Subdivisions Committee (Sen. Andrist, Chairman) recommends DO
PASS (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2330 was placed on
the Eleventh order on the calendar.**

2011 HOUSE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

SB 2330

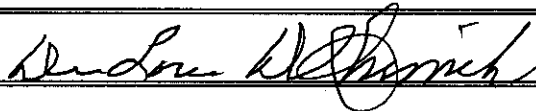
2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Political Subdivisions Committee
Prairie Room, State Capitol

SB 2330
March 4, 2011
Job # 14953

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to fallen firefighters memorial weekend.

Minutes:

Testimony #1

Chairman Johnson: Opened the hearing on SB 2330.

Senator Schaible: (See testimony #1). I have talked to Gov. Jack Dalrymple and he is support of this also.

Rep. Koppelman: Your last comment was interesting to me because the governor's office has been before us maintaining that if any bill said the governor shall is unconstitutional.

Senator Schaible: I did talk to him about it and it was recommended why this wasn't a resolution and I guess that is the way this should come, but at the time it was brought to me that is what we did. He was in favor of the concept.

Rep. Koppelman: The legislature could declare that this week happens every year and then say the governor may issue a proclamation recognizing it so that way the legislature would be the one establishing that the week is set aside.

Senator Schaible: Any way we would get the same result if fine with us.

Justin Adolf, President of the Professional Firefighters of ND: I am here on behalf of over 300 paid firefighters in the state. We cover roughly over 40% of the population of our state. We are asking for a do pass on this bill because of sacrifices that firefighters make all across this nation. Each year we loose on average of 100 firefighters in the line of duty. Last year was a very good year. We only lost 87; which is still 87 too many. So far this year we have lost 23 firefighters in the line of duty. There have been 5 since 1977 in North Dakota. That doesn't sound like a lot but that is 5 more than we need to have. Our career is very dangerous; but a very rewarding career. We don't do it just for the money. We recognize this by putting the flag at half staff in October. This year it will be October 14th though 16. That is a way we can show them we still support their families.

Rep. Koppelman: We are all aware of 911 and the sacrifice there. Have we lost any in ND?

Justin Adolf: We lost 5 since 1977. Our firefighters are very diverse though out the state.

CJ Craven, Fire Chief of the City of Minot and the President of the ND Fire Chief's Association: I am here on behalf of the ND Fire Chief's Assoc. who represents departments of all types from volunteer to career to combination departments. We support this bill and would be happy we could resolve this in whatever manner is the best so we could recognize the fallen firefighters on the same day that we do at nationals.

Opposition: None

Hearing closed.

Do Pass Motion Made by Rep. Kretschmar: Seconded by Rep. Koppelman:

Vote: 14 Yes 0 No 0 Absent Carrier: Rep. Beadle

Date: 3-4-11
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2330

House Political Subdivisions Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Adopt
Amendment

Rerefer to Appropriations Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Rep. Kretschmar Seconded By Rep. Koppelman

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Nancy Johnson	✓		Rep. Kilichowski	✓	
Vice Chairman Hatelstad	✓		Rep. Shirley Meyer	✓	
Rep. Beadle	✓		Rep. Mock	✓	
Rep. Devlin	✓		Rep. Zaiser	✓	
Rep. Heilman	✓				
Rep. Klemin	✓				
Rep. Koppelman	✓				
Rep. Kretschmar	✓				
Rep. Maragos	✓				
Rep. Pietsch	✓				

Total (Yes) 14 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep. Beadle

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2330: Political Subdivisions Committee (Rep. N. Johnson, Chairman) recommends DO PASS (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2330 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2011 TESTIMONY

SB 2330

Testimony for SB 2330

2-2-2011

Senator Donald Schaible, District 31

Chairman Andrist and members of the Political Subdivisions Committee, for the record, my name is Donald Schaible Senator from District 31. I am and have been a volunteer firefighter for the last 26 years. I come to you today to ask for your support in having the Governor declaring Fallen Fighters Memorial weekend and require that the American and the North Dakota flags be at half staff for one day in remembrance of those who have died in the line of duty.

There are about 1.1 million firefighters in the United States and 75% of them are volunteers. In North Dakota there are about 376 fire departments and 7000 volunteer firefighters. Of these departments, only 4 are staffed entirely with career firefighters. There are 11 departments that are combination, meaning they have at least 1 career member of the department. The rest or 361 fire departments are volunteer departments with 96% of North Dakota firefighters being volunteers. Since 1977, there have been 5 firefighters that have died in North Dakota during the call of duty.

Last fall, then Governor Hoeven was asked and did support the Fallen Firefighter Memorial Weekend in conjunction with the national event. At that time it was suggested that this be done every year and that is the reason for this bill.

The four sponsors on this bill are firefighters from across the state representing career and volunteer firefighters and ask for your support to honor those you lost their lives in service to their community and state and for the families who continue to mourn their loss.

I thank you for your consideration on SB 2330 and would be happy to answer your questions.

#1

Testimony for SB 2330

3-4-2011

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