6 December 2022

North Dakota Fire Chief’s and Fire Departments,

The North Dakota Fire Chief’s Association and the North Dakota Firefighters Association are requesting your assistance. We are asking you to contact your local legislators concerning a bill that will be introduced during the upcoming legislative session.

Since 1985, we have had to testify each biennium to get 100% of this tax that is collected and according to Century Code is supposed to be passed on to all Fire Departments across the State. Our current State Insurance Commissioner, Jon Godfread, has fought to get us the 100% and try and make the appropriation continuing so that we do not have to go to the Legislature each biennium and fight for the 100%.

There is a draft bill that would move the Fire Marshall’s office out of the Attorney General’s office to the Insurance Department and make the distribution of 100% of the Insurance Tax Distribution Fund a continuing appropriation. This means that the full amount of tax collected will be allocated back to each fire department according to the formula identified in chapter 18-04-05 of the ND Century Code. Also under this revision, the NDFA’s budget, which currently comes out of the Insurance Tax Distribution Fund at a rate of approximately 5.50% of the total tax collected, would now come out of the Insurance Regulatory Trust Fund. The 5.50% that funded the NDFA budget would then be redistributed back to all the Fire Departments across the State according to the same formula, essentially increasing each fire departments allocation by 5.50%. This will bring approximately $540,000.00 back to departments across the State.

Please review the accompanying information. Look at them in numerical order as it will make more sense. Below is a link to a series of online video conferences we will be hosting to discuss this bill and answer questions you may have. We invite you to attend one of these sessions to fully understand the positive impact that the passing of this bill will have to the fire service of North Dakota.

Video Conference Session Schedule – Monday December 12 at 6:00 pm

Friday December 16 at 6:00 pm

Tuesday December 20 at 6:00 pm

Link - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85356478154?pwd=Vm9Kd1JWTnJ4Zm5XUTNPeHMzcFFIUT09>

Respectfully,



Ken Wangen, Carrington FD Allen Berg, Abercrombie FD

President, ND Fire Chief’s Association President, ND Firefighter’s Association