



Homeland Security and Emergency Management

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March 21, 2023

Chair Moller and Public Safety and Finance Committee Members,

The Department of Public Safety's Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DPS - HSEM) writes today to support our local emergency management partners. The need for our local emergency managers is only growing with an increased number of natural disasters over the last decade as well as projected increases in the frequency and severity of future storms. Last year alone there were 12 state-declared disasters and three presidential disasters, with all three federal disasters occurring within 38 days with overlapping impacted areas.

Currently, all funding for local emergency management is provided through federal grants which are not guaranteed, and local communities. In 2017, FEMA warned state and local governments that they could not be solely reliant on federal funds for their emergency management programs. Dedicated state funding would assist counties, tribal nations, and cities of the first class to fund their statutorily-required emergency manager or create a dedicated position instead of merging it with several other roles. The work of emergency management is not a part-time responsibility.

DPS-HSEM would be responsible for dispensing the grants to awardees. DPS-HSEM is capable of administering the grant funds in HF 1273.

HF1273 would provide local governments with some much-needed and long-overdue funding to bolster the local emergency management programs that have proven invaluable and essential. Each awardee would receive just under \$30,000, which is a good start to fully funding our local partners.

We appreciate the committee's support of emergency management and our local partners.

Thank you,

Kevin Reed
Interim Director

Alcohol
and Gambling
Enforcement

Bureau of
Criminal
Apprehension

Driver
and Vehicle
Services

Emergency
Communication
Networks

Homeland
Security and
Emergency
Management

Minnesota
State Patrol

Office of
Communications

Office of
Justice Programs

Office of
Pipeline Safety

Office of
Traffic Safety

State Fire
Marshal

