
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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2019 Senate Bill 551

Senate Amendment 1

BACKGROUND

Current law requires a “regional structural collapse team” contracted with the Department of Military Affairs’ Division of Emergency Management (DEM), to respond to a structural collapse incident that meets criteria established by DEM. The regional structural collapse team may respond only to incidents of structural collapse. When a regional structural collapse team responds to an incident, the team must make a good faith effort to identify the party who is responsible for the structural collapse and provide that information to DEM to seek reimbursement from that party. Any reimbursement to a regional structural collapse team is limited to the amounts collected by the DEM.

2019 SENATE BILL 551

Under 2019 Senate Bill 551, a “regional structural collapse team” is renamed an “urban search and rescue task force,” as designated by the National Fire Protection Association and Emergency Management Accreditation program standards. In doing so, an urban search and rescue task force may respond to an emergency response involving search, rescue, and recovery in the technical rescue disciplines, which include any of the following: (1) structural collapse; (2) rope rescue; (3) vehicle extrication; (4) machinery extrication; (5) confined space; (6) trench; (7) excavation; and (8) water operations.

The bill removes the limitation on reimbursement and instead requires DEM to reimburse a local agency that provided services as part of an urban search and rescue task force within 60 days if the local agency applies for reimbursement within 45 days of the conclusion of the task force’s deployment. DEM may seek reimbursement for those services from any responsible party. The bill also allows DEM to reimburse a local agency for any increase in contributions for duty disability premiums because an employee incurred an injury while performing duties as a member of an urban search and rescue task force.

The bill also creates an appropriation of \$500,000 for fiscal year (FY) 2019-20 and \$500,000 for FY 2020-21 for **training** and **equipment** for an urban search and rescue task force.

SENATE AMENDMENT 1

Senate Amendment 1 makes the following changes to the bill:

- Clarifies that the assistance provided by an urban search and rescue task force must be at the direction of DEM.
- Provides that a local agency that provided emergency services through the urban search and rescue task force must submit a complete application, on a form prescribed by the DEM for reimbursement.

- Allows the appropriation created for the urban search and rescue task force to be used for **administrative costs**, in addition to training and equipment.
- Allows the DEM to request supplemental funds from the Joint Committee on Finance if needed for purposes of reimbursing local agencies for the costs of deployment and any increase in contributions for duty disability premiums related to injuries while performing urban search and rescue duties.

BILL HISTORY

Senate Amendment 1 was offered by Senator Roth on November 18, 2019. On January 29, 2020, the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety unanimously voted to recommend adoption of Senate Amendment 1 and passage of Senate Bill 551, as amended. On February 12, 2020, the Joint Committee on Finance unanimously voted to recommend adoption of Senate Amendment 1 and passage of Senate Bill 551, as amended.

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