

North Dakota League of Cities

Questions and Answers from December 14, 2016 Webinar on Legislative Issues

Are campus police required to have the same training?

The League is supporting legislation that would allow for joint jurisdictional agreements between city, county, and campus law enforcement. The proposed legislation would only be for campus law enforcement with certified police departments. Currently, only North Dakota State University, in Fargo, University of North Dakota, in Grand Forks, and North Dakota State College of Science, in Wahpeton, have certified police departments.

Are existing TIF'S (Tax Increment Financing) protected to any changes and do we need a bond issue to lock in?

It is believed that current TIFs would be protected due to the contractual rights that exist between the property owners and the city. Similarly, the terms of a bond would not be able to be changed unilaterally due to the contract that exists between the city and the bond holder.

Would it be beneficial to also have something requiring Council members to have training as well in Century Code?

The League agrees that training for City Council/City Commission members is beneficial. The League is working on creating more training opportunities for elected officials. At this time the League does not think it is feasible to implement both a city auditor and elected official certification program. If the legislation requiring city auditor certification passes and works well, this issue can be revisited during a future legislative session.

Is there any report showing the truck weight checks done around the state?

The League is still researching whether this report is available.

Several questions were posed about increasing fines and penalties for other traffic offenses.

The League is following the North Dakota Chiefs of Police Association lead regarding how to proceed on this issue. Increasing traffic fines has been defeated during several legislative sessions, so this is a politically sensitive issue. A traffic report produced by the North Dakota Highway Department is being utilized to ensure that the legislative changes being sought are for the traffic offenses most closely related to traffic fatalities.