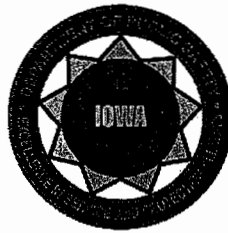


Thomas J. Vilsack  
Governor  
Sally J. Pederson  
Lt. Governor



Kevin W. Techau  
Commissioner

**TO:** Interim Emergency Services Study Committee Members  
**FROM:** Ross Loder, DPS Legislative Liaison  
**DATE:** November 13, 2006  
**RE:** Follow-up on questions from the first study committee meeting

During the first meeting of the Interim Emergency Services Study Committee, two questions were posed to DPS that required follow-up.

1. One question arose during the presentation by the Chairman of the State Fire Service and Emergency Response Council, Ames Fire Chief Clint Petersen. One slide in Chief Petersen's presentation included under the heading "*Requests & Recommendations*" the following item:

*"Change the collection of training revenue."*

Interim Committee members indicated that a more detailed explanation of this request/issue be provided for the next meeting. Much of the language in HF 2782 creating the Regional Emergency Response Training Center system was amended into Iowa Code Chapter 100B. Prior to being amended by HF 2782, the infrastructure appropriations bill, Chapter 100B already had language specifying that fees assessed pursuant to Chapter 100B "shall be retained by the division of state fire marshal..." The fee retention authority is designed to ensure that fees charged by the Fire Service Training Bureau are retained by the Bureau and used to defray the costs of providing training.

When the Regional Emergency Response Training Center provisions of HF 2782 were added to Chapter 100B, the provision that specifies that fees assessed under Chapter 100B are to be retained by the State Fire Marshal was left in place. Unfortunately, the end result is that Chapter 100B, as amended by HF 2782, provides that the fees charged by Regional Emergency Response Training Centers (RERTCs) should be transferred to and retained by the State Fire Marshal. In turn, the State Fire Marshal should then use this fee revenue to reimburse RERTCs for their training costs. This sort of fee system would be highly inefficient and unworkable and DPS does not believe that anyone intended for RERTC fees to be remitted to or retained by the State Fire Marshal.

Section 41, HF 2782, amended 100B.4 as follows:

40 10 Sec. 41. Section 100B.4, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code  
40 11 Supplement 2005, is amended to read as follows:  
40 12 Fees assessed pursuant to this chapter shall be retained by  
40 13 the division of state fire marshal and such repayments  
40 14 received shall be used exclusively to offset the cost of fire  
40 15 service training. Fees charged by regional emergency response  
40 16 training centers for fire service training programs as  
40 17 described in section 100B.6 shall not be greater than the fee  
40 18 schedule established by rule by the state fire marshal.

DPS recommends specifying that fees charged by RERTCs are not to be remitted to or retained by the State Fire Marshal. A change along the following lines is recommended:

Sec. 41. Section 100B.4, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code Supplement 2005, is amended to read as follows:

Fees assessed pursuant to this chapter, except fees assessed and retained by a regional emergency response training center, shall be retained by the division of state fire marshal and such repayments received shall be used exclusively to offset the cost of fire service training. Fees charged by regional emergency response training centers for fire service training programs as described in section 100B.6 shall not be greater than the fee schedule established by rule by the state fire marshal.

2. The second question relates to the issue of inclusion of the full range of emergency response personnel and agencies, to specifically include emergency medical services (EMS) entities, in the Regional Emergency Response Training Center applications.

During the meeting, it was explained that generally speaking, the applications describe and depict the physical training center, including the grounds, building and structures, and related infrastructure. As such, the applications look and read more like facilities plans than operational plans. Therefore, it may be possible that a RERTC intends to provide a broad range of emergency response training, including emergency medical service training, but the application might not reflect that intent. Further, since the applicant "Lead Public Agencies" and "Partner Agencies" are specifically designated in the bill, the signatories to the applications will only be those entities named in HF 2782. While no hospital or ambulance service was specifically named as a lead or partner agency, the participation of these entities may be evidenced by a "letter of support."

It is important to note that HF 2782 requires that each RERTC provide fire training and joint training exercises, but the legislation allows (but does not require) that training be provided for "emergency response service." The specific language is included below, with relevant language emphasized with bold text.

45 9 Sec. 46. NEW SECTION. 100B.18 TRAINING PROVIDED.  
45 10 1. **Training centers shall provide fire service training** in  
45 11 accordance with curriculum approved by the bureau. The  
45 12 bureau, in cooperation with the public agencies operating the  
45 13 training centers, shall provide the necessary training  
45 14 materials, curriculum, training aids, and training schedule.  
45 15 2. **Training centers may provide emergency response service**  
45 16 **training in addition to fire service training. A training**  
45 17 **center shall offer joint training exercises to emergency**  
45 18 **responders.** The bureau shall work in conjunction with those  
45 19 state agencies charged with developing training standards for  
45 20 emergency response service training to develop a curriculum  
45 21 and standards for emergency response service training provided  
45 22 by a training center.  
45 23 3. A training center shall offer training to any emergency  
45 24 responder who applies for training at the training center  
45 25 regardless of the emergency responder's place of residence or  
45 26 employment.

DPS was asked to review the RERTC applications to determine two things. First, DPS was asked to determine which applications specifically mention providing EMS training. Second, DPS was asked to determine which applications include letters of support from a hospital, ambulance/EMS service, or other emergency medical services provider, excluding fire departments (which often include both fire and EMS capabilities). The results of the application review are provided in the following table.

<b>Lead Public Agency and Partner Agency</b>	<b>Application for Allocated or Competitive Funds</b>	<b>Funds Awarded</b>	<b>Emergency Medical Services Mentioned in Application</b>	<b>Letter of Support from hospital or EMS provider (excl. fire dept's that provide EMS)</b>
Northeast Iowa Community College in partnership with the Dubuque County Firemen's Association	Allocated	\$150,000	Yes	No
Northeast Iowa Community College in partnership with the Dubuque County Firemen's Association	Competitive	\$0	Yes	No
North Iowa Area Community College in partnership with the Mason City Fire Department	Allocated	\$400,000	No	Yes
Iowa Lakes Community College	Allocated	\$400,000	Yes	Yes
Iowa Lakes Community College	Competitive	\$0	Yes	Yes
Iowa Central Community College	Allocated	\$400,000	Yes	No
Iowa Central Community College	Competitive	\$0	Yes	No
Hawkeye Community College in partnership with the Waterloo Regional Hazardous Materials Training Center	Allocated	\$150,000	No	No
Eastern Iowa Community College in partnership with the City of Davenport Fire Department	Allocated	\$400,000	No	Yes
Eastern Iowa Community College in partnership with the City of Davenport Fire Department	Competitive	\$0	No	Yes
Kirkwood Community College in partnership with the City of Coralville fire department and the Iowa City Fire Department	Allocated	\$400,000	Yes	Yes
Des Moines Area Community College	Allocated	\$400,000	Yes	No
Western Iowa Technical Community College in partnership with the Sioux City Fire Department	Allocated	\$400,000	Yes	Yes
Iowa Western Community College in partnership with Southwestern Community College and the Council Bluffs fire department	Allocated	\$500,000	Yes	No
Iowa Western Community College in partnership with Southwestern Community College and the Council Bluffs fire department	Competitive	\$150,000	Yes	No
Southeastern Iowa Community College in partnership with Indian Hills Community College and the City of Fort Madison fire department	Allocated	\$400,000	No	No
Southeastern Iowa Community College in partnership with Indian Hills Community College and the City of Fort Madison fire department	Competitive	\$150,000	Yes	No