

January 9th, 2023

House Transportation Committee:

Please **SUPPORT “Move Over or Slow Down for Stationary Vehicles”**

HB 1141

While North Dakota has a strong Slow Down, Move Over statute that attempts to protect these workers, 36% of the motoring public is aware of the law. What’s more, as currently written, North Dakota law only applies to authorized emergency vehicles or vehicles used for maintaining the state highway system when displaying a flashing, revolving, or rotating amber, blue, white, or red light. **It does not apply to commercial motor carriers, public utility workers, buses or any other vehicle disabled on the side of the highway, including officers or highway workers traveling in a personal vehicle. In effect, the current law protects vehicles, not the driver or passenger of the vehicles.**

HB 141 would **protect all North Dakotans** by extending existing Slow Down, Move Over protections to *any* disabled vehicle, with flashers on, at the roadside. That’s important: **Across the country, nearly 350 people are struck and killed every year while outside a disabled vehicle** – in part because only 9 states currently protect drivers in this common situation. North Dakota is not yet one of them. From 2017-2021, an average of 1 vehicle is struck per month while sitting stationary along an interstate or multi-lane highway in North Dakota.

While North Dakota has a robust Slow Down, Move Over law as it applies to emergency vehicles, **all North Dakotans deserve protection** – and this bill, combined with existing laws, would make our state a *national leader* on roadside safety.

Thank you for your service as an North Dakota Legislator.

North Dakota citizen,

Daryl Dukart