



North Dakota House of Representatives

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Minority Leader

COMMITTEES:
Industry, Business and Labor

January 26, 2023

Good morning, Chairman Schauer and members of the House Government and Veterans Committee,

For the record, my name is Josh Boschee and I serve as a Representative from District 44, which comprises downtown and north Fargo.

House Bill 1309 is introduced on behalf of the Bureau of Criminal Investigation, who as most of you know, is our state's law enforcement agency that supports all other law enforcement agencies. Within the last week alone, there have been two public incidents, that we know of, in just eastern part of the state in which BCI agents provided assistance and leadership to our local and county law enforcement agencies. BCI agents play an integral role in investigating fraud, cybercrimes, sexual exploitation of minors and intervening in major illicit drug operations throughout the state.

HB 1309 makes adjustments to the retirement benefits for BCI agents in the following ways:

- Section 1 increases the vesting period to 10 years of service, up from three years of service for current agents
- Section 2 provides a multiplier of three for newly hired agents' first 20 years of service. For any years of service beyond 20 years, the multiplier is reduced to 1.75, which would be in congruence with current agents' multiplier

The goal of these changes are to allow BCI agents to retire closer to the age of 55. You will hear from BCI Director Lonnie Grabowska after me, who can provide more specific information as to why this change is being requested including the reality of balancing the required experience of new agents with the physicality of the job impacting agents who are 55 or older.

The Employee Benefits Program Committee, which I currently chair, provided a unanimous favorable recommendation for this legislation this past October. The strong support is based on the need to make sure that BCI has the ability to recruit and retain the best and brightest law enforcement, while ensuring adequate succession planning for agents who near retirement.

It is my understanding that the amount of funds identified in the fiscal note has already been accounted for in Attorney General Wrigley's budget request.

Chairman Schauer and members of the committee, I respectfully ask for your support of HB 1309. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.