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HB1371

Thank you Chairman Schauer and members of the Government and Veterans Affairs Committee. For the record, Dori Hauck, Representative for District 36 which is portions of Stark, Morton and Dunn counties in western North Dakota.

House bill 1371 aims to create another tool for recruitment and retention for career peace officers in North Dakota. There are individuals today who will testify in greater detail how this retirement benefit will help for recruitment of law enforcement officers.

The language added beginning on page 2 line 24 details the request. Health insurance benefits will be provided to peace officers employed by the State or a political subdivision who have a minimum of 20 years of service to North Dakota. The benefit is provided to retired peace officers who are not eligible for Medicare health insurance benefits.

On page 3 lines 1 and 2: it states that whether the political subdivision participates in the public employees retirement system program or not, the peace officer would be eligible.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics estimates the 2025 estimated full time law enforcement officers to be 3,276. The report continues stating that within the current distribution of peace officers in the program, the eligible retired peace officers is approximately 15.5% which equates to 508 eligible officers. The financial impact estimate is \$16,720,000 in premiums for the 2025-2027 biennium.

Every career has its pros and cons and our peace officers are asked to stand in the gap when needed. Thank you for your consideration of adding another tool to help recruit more qualified individuals to this field.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I will stand for any questions.