2025 HOUSE JUDICIARY

HB 1102

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Judiciary Committee
Room JW327B, State Capitol

HB 1102
1/13/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the attorney general for bureau of criminal investigation cybercrime resources.

10:50 a.m. Representative Vetter opened the hearing.

Members Present: Vice-Chairman Karls, Vice-Chairman Vetter, Representatives Christianson, Henderson, Hoverson, Johnston, McLeod, Satrom, Tveit, VanWinkle, Wolff, Schneider

Members Absent: Chairman Klemin, Representative Olson

Discussion Topics:

- Grand Forks police technology
- Bureau of Criminal Investigations recurring costs

10:52 a.m. Representative Eric J. Murphy, North Dakota Representative for District 43, Grand Forks, introduced the bill and provided testimony #28618.

10:57 a.m. Todd Feland, Grand Forks City Administrator, testified in favor.

10:59 a.m. Dwight Love, Interim Police Chief City of Grand Forks, testified in favor and provided testimony #28387.

11:00 a.m. Steve Harstad, Chief Agent of the Bureau of Criminal Investigations Cyber Crime Unit, testified neutrally and provided testimony # 28731.

11:05 a.m. Representative Vetter closed the hearing.

Wyatt Armstrong, Committee Clerk

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CITY OF GRAND FORKS NORTH DAKOTA

City of Grand Forks
(701) 746-4636

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1102
Judiciary Committee
Jan. 13, 2025

Dwight Love, Interim Police Chief
City of Grand Forks, ND

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Dwight Love and I'm the Interim Police Chief for the Grand Forks Police Department. I am providing this testimony in support of HB 1102.

The Grand Forks Police Department currently has one (1) investigator assigned to cybercrimes. They partner with BCI agents in Fargo, ND to collaboratively investigate offenses to include all crimes involving internet and/or electronic means. This involves having the training, experience and equipment necessary to collect a wide range of digital evidence found on electronic devices used in all crimes from domestic violence to the sexual exploitation of children.

Local BCI agents assigned to Grand Forks would make the investigative process more efficient by adding local access to advanced cybercrimes technologies while reducing travel/distance for the cases that need their assistance. This additional support would help reduce the backlog in cybercrime investigations for our police department and the surrounding regional agencies by reducing the usage of BCI agents located in Fargo, ND.

The Grand Forks Police Department and the City of Grand Forks would welcome the opportunity to integrate BCI agents into our region and within the department. The City would support these BCI agents in various ways such as IT support, office space, etc.

For these reasons, the City of Grand Forks and the Grand Forks Police Department request a DO PASS on HB 1102.

Thank you for your consideration.

HB1102
Bill Testimony
Rep. Eric J. Murphy
District 43, Grand Forks

In mid-October 2023, I was asked by now retired Chief Nelson to request that the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) embed two agents with GFPD. The major law enforcement emphasis for these agents will be focused on cybercrime, with an additional emphasis on sex crimes that exploit children.

While the Grand Forks Police Department is fully staffed, its detectives lack the expertise to specifically work in cybercrime and lack the computer forensics expertise and other law enforcement capabilities unique to BCI.

Further, my understanding is that other major cities in North Dakota have agents with similar expertise embedded in their police departments, making this a common practice.

As such, I began working with Chief Agent Harstad to bring Chief Nelson's request to fruition. Initially our efforts were directed to include the costs for these two agents in the BCI budget and until mid-June, this was the plan as highlighted by Director Grabowska's mention of this in the BCI/AG office legislative briefing in West Fargo.

However, the executive branch decided it was best to request a separate appropriation for these agents resulting in the necessity of HB1102. I spoke with Chief Agent Harstad in this regard and BCI continues to support this mission with the Grand Forks Police Department and this specific bill for the appropriation.

This effort is a major point of emphasis for Mayor Bochenski and the city is renovating two offices to house these agents. Further, the City of Grand Forks has budgeted $148,000 to offset costs associated with training for these agents and required computers and other equipment necessary for their success. They are prepared to provide additional resources as required.

These costs borne by the City of Grand Forks include, but are not limited to:

Total Grand Forks Costs to add two Agents for biennium: $148,000 plus office space

$12,000	Office furniture
$64,000	Computers and forensic equipment
$60,000	Training and travel costs
$12,000	Internet and firewall

The costs borne by the State of North Dakota include, but are not limited to:

Total State Appropriated Costs for two Agents for biennium: $775,000

$480,000	FTE for two agents
$161,000	One-time equipment costs
$44,000	Cost of forensic software
$90,000	Cost for cell phone unlocking devices

The State's costs will be increased due to recent changes in costs at BCI and an amendment will be introduced in Appropriations Committee. It is anticipated that this increase will be

between $40,000-50,000 for the biennium, some of which will be salary, which is a reoccurring expense as well as software costs.

I urge a due pass on this bill as clearly these agents are not only a needed resource for the Grand Forks Police Department, but also for the Grand Forks Sheriff's Department. These agents will serve the northeastern North Dakota law enforcement community in this unique law enforcement capacity while being housed in the Grand Forks Police Department.

HB1102
Chief Agent Steven Harstad
Bureau of Criminal Investigation

Bureau of Criminal Investigation Cyber Crime Unit - What do we do?

1. Specialize in recovering and analyzing digital evidence from computers, cell phones and cloud platforms.

2. We use specialized tools not normally available to other agencies to retrieve deleted or encrypted files and unlock devices.

3. We focus on combatting child exploitation, working closely with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to identify, track and apprehend offenders.

4. We provide expert testimony in court on digital evidence findings.

5. We assist and support local, state and federal agencies with high-profile and complex cases.

6. We handle massive amounts of recovered data, making sure the data is secured and efficiently analyzed.

7. Beyond investigations Cyber agents continually stay current on emerging trends and certifications.

8. Cyber agents educate schools and communities on internet safety.

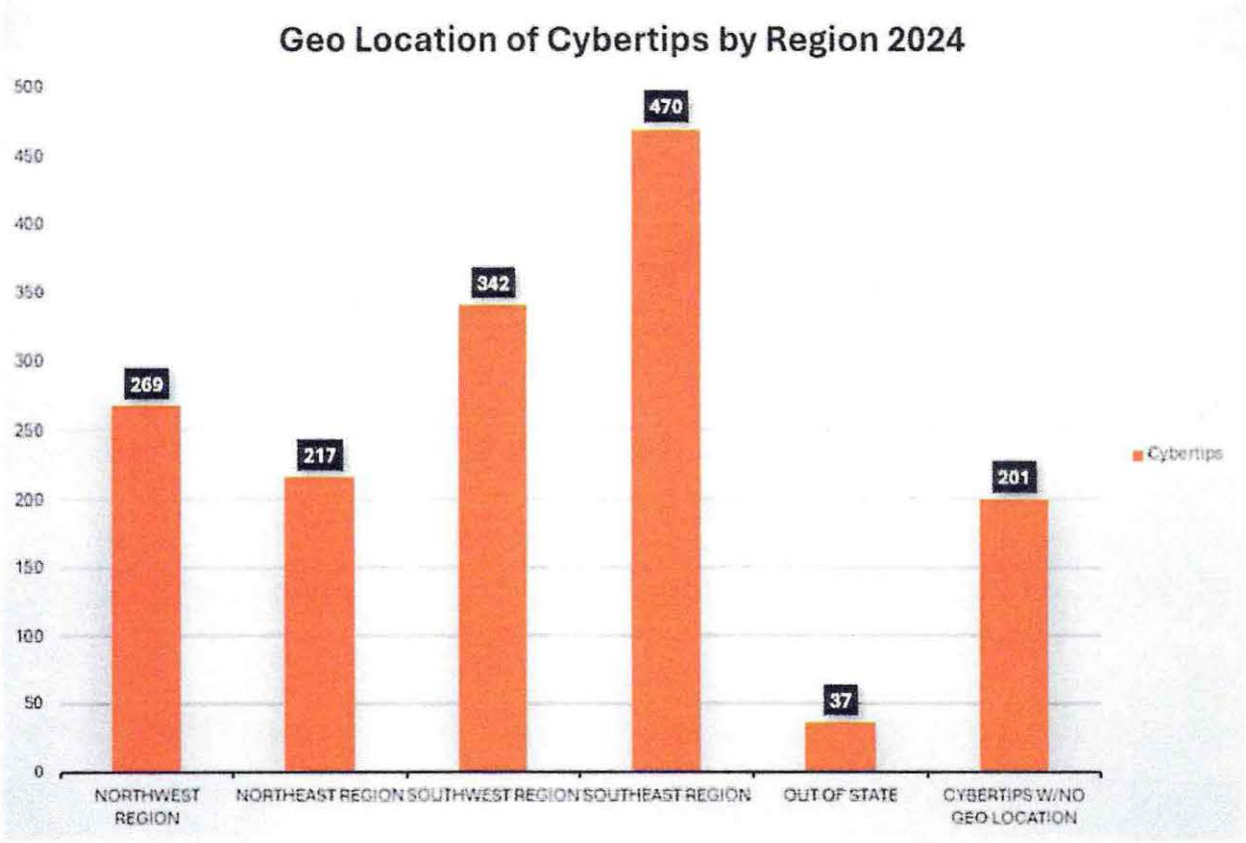
What processes do we use?

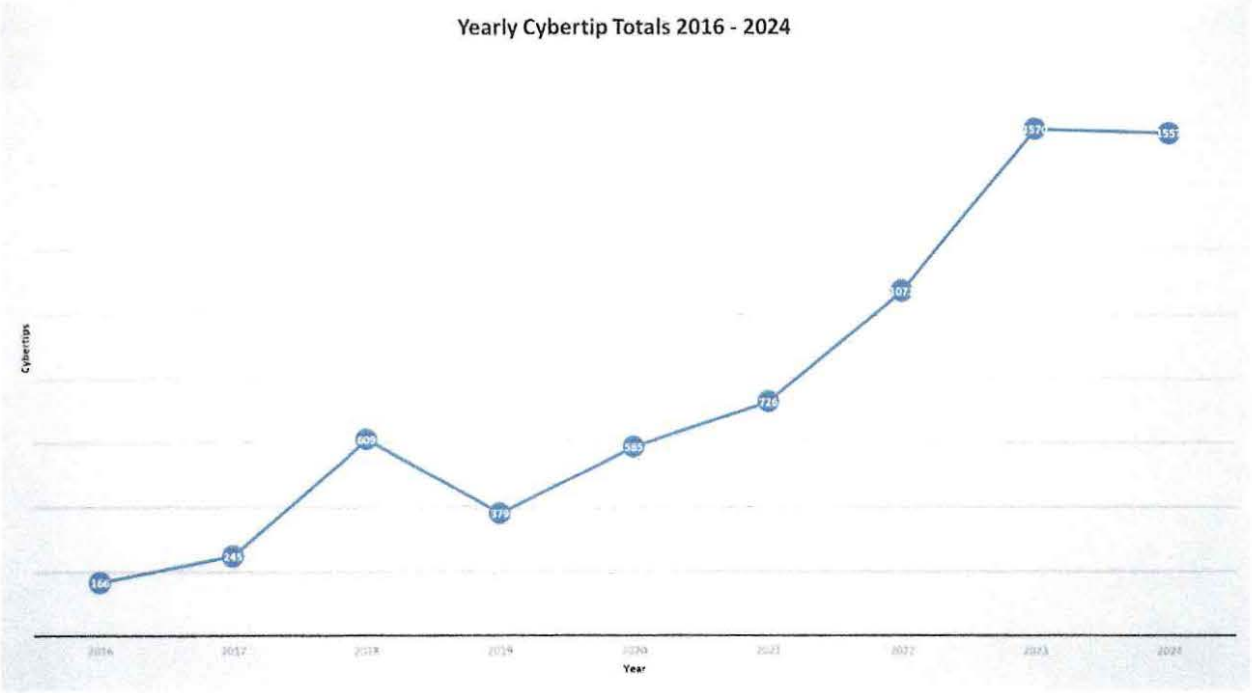
1. When Cyber agents received a case through CyberTips, law enforcement referrals or direct investigations, they prioritize the case based on urgency. Those involving children or an immediate public threat are a priority.

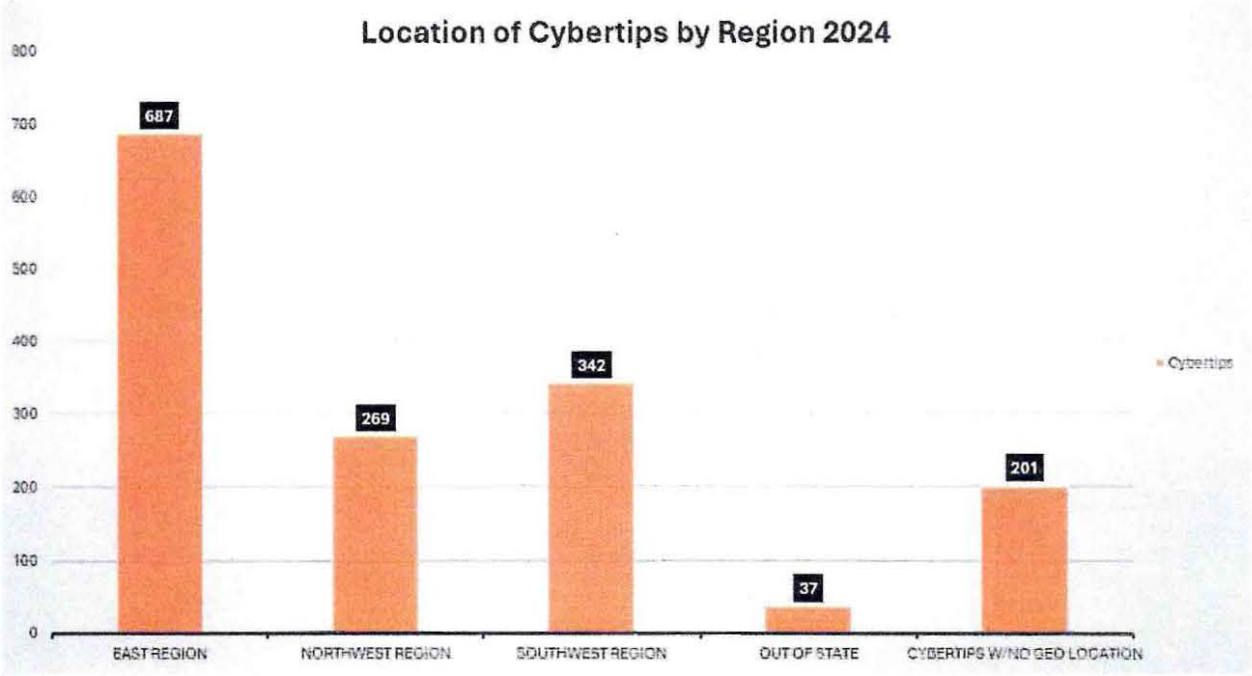
2. Cyber agents collect the digital evidence and use specialized tools to collect the data.

3. Cyber agents analyze and interpret the data, locating photos, videos, chat messages, or financial transactions, connecting this information to suspects, then share that information with law enforcement and courts.

4. Cyber agents write detailed reports of their findings and provide expert testimony.


Geo Location of Cybertips by Region 2024
500
450
400
350
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
269
217
342
470
37
201
NORTHWEST REGION
NORTHEAST REGION
SOUTHWEST REGION
SOUTHEAST REGION
OUT OF STATE
CYBERTIPS W/NO GEO LOCATION
Cybertips


Yearly Cybertip Totals 2016 - 2024
Cybertips
Year
166
245
609
379
585
726
1071
1374
1557


Location of Cybertips by Region 2024
800
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
687
269
342
37
201
EAST REGION
NORTHWEST REGION
SOUTHWEST REGION
OUT OF STATE
CYBERTIPS W/NO GEO LOCATION
Cybertips

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Judiciary Committee
Room JW327B, State Capitol

HB 1102
1/13/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the attorney general for bureau of criminal investigation cybercrime resources.

11:20 a.m. Chairman Klemin opened the hearing.

Discussion Topics:

- Committee Action

11:20 a.m. Representative Vetter moved a Do Pass.

11:20 a.m. Representative Mcleod seconded the motion.

11:21 a.m. Chairman Klemin clarified motion to also be rereferred to House Appropriations.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Lawrence R. Klemin	Y
Representative Karen Karls	Y
Representative Steve Vetter	Y
Representative Nels Christianson	Y
Representative Donna Henderson	Y
Representative Jeff Hoverson	Y
Representative Daniel Johnston	Y
Representative Carrie McLeod	Y
Representative SuAnn Olson	AB
Representative Bernie Satrom	AB
Representative Mary Schneider	Y
Representative Bill Tveit	Y
Representative Lori VanWinkle	Y
Representative Christina Wolff	Y

11:21 a.m. Motion passed 12-0-2.

Representative Vetter will carry the bill.

11:25 a.m. Chairman Klemin closed the hearing.

Wyatt Armstrong, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1102 (25.0611.01000)

Judiciary Committee (Rep. Klemin, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1102 was rereferred to the **Appropriations Committee**.

2025 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1102

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Education and Environment Division
Prairie Room, State Capitol

HB 1102
1/31/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the attorney general for bureau of criminal investigation cybercrime resources.

8:36 a.m. Chairman Nathe opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Nathe, Vice Chairman Swiontek, Representatives Hanson, Louser, Martinson, Richter, Sanford

Discussion Topics:

- BCI agents
- Vacant positions
- Cyber crimes

8:37 a.m. Representative Klemin introduced the bill.

8:41 a.m. Todd Feland, City Administrator, Grand Forks, testified in favor and submitted testimony #32705.

8:52 a.m. Recess

8:57 a.m. Chairman Nathe reconvened the hearing.

8:57 a.m. Drew Wrigley, Attorney General, testified in favor.

9:03 a.m. Chairman Nathe closed the hearing.

Steven Riehl, Committee Clerk by Janae Pinks

255 N. 4th St.
PO Box 5200
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CITY OF GRAND FORKS NORTH DAKOTA

City of Grand Forks
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TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1102
House Appropriations – Education & Environment Division
January 31, 2025

Todd Feland, City Administrator
City of Grand Forks, ND

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Todd Feland and I'm the City Administrator for the City of Grand Forks. I am providing this testimony in support of HB 1102.

The Grand Forks Police Department has seen a large increase of cyber-related crimes where digital evidence needs to be collected. From 2023 to 2024 there was a 100% increase of internet crimes against children and search warrants and subpoenas for the collection of digital evidence has tripled since 2022.

The Grand Forks Police Department currently has one (1) investigator assigned to cybercrimes. They partner with BCI agents in Fargo, ND to collaboratively investigate offenses to include all crimes involving internet and/or electronic means. This involves having the training, experience and equipment necessary to collect a wide range of digital evidence found on electronic devices used in all crimes from domestic violence to the sexual exploitation of children.

Local BCI agents assigned to Grand Forks would make the investigative process more efficient by adding local access to advanced cybercrimes technologies while reducing travel/distance for the cases that need their assistance. This additional support would help reduce the backlog in cybercrime investigations for our police department and the surrounding regional agencies by reducing the usage of BCI agents located in Fargo, ND.

The City of Grand Forks and the Grand Forks Police Department are also well aware that there will be a cost share to house these agents within GFPD. This cost share will help in various ways such as IT support, office space, travel and training. We estimate that cost share to be under $200,000 per year for both agents. These costs will be absorbed into our existing budgets.

For these reasons, the City of Grand Forks and the Grand Forks Police Department request a DO PASS on HB 1102.

Thank you for your consideration.

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Education and Environment Division
Prairie Room, State Capitol

HB 1102
1/31/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the attorney general for bureau of criminal investigation cybercrime resources.

11:38 a.m. Chairman Nathe opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman Nathe, Vice Chairman Swiontek, Representatives Hanson, Louser, Martinson, Richter, Sanford

Discussion Topics:

- Committee Action

11:39 a.m. Representative Martinson moved a Do Not Pass.

11:39 a.m. Representative Swiontek seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Chairman Mike Nathe	Y
Vice Chairman Steve Swiontek	Y
Representative Karl Rose Hanson	Y
Representative Scott Louser	Y
Representative Bob Martinson	Y
Representative David Richter	Y
Representative Mark Sanford	N

11:40 a.m. Motion passed 6-1-0.

Representative Nathe will carry the bill.

11:43 a.m. Chairman Nathe adjourned the meeting.

Steven Riehl, Committee Clerk

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee
Roughrider Room, State Capitol

1102
2/6/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the attorney general for bureau of criminal investigation cybercrime resources.

10:17 a.m. Chairman Vigesaa called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Vigesaa, Vice Chairman Kempenich, Representatives Anderson, Berg, Bosch, Brandenburg, Fisher, Hanson, Louser, Martinson, Meier, Mitskog, Monson, Murphy, Nathe, Nelson, O'Brien, Pyle, Richter, Sanford, Stemen, Swiontek, Wagner

Discussion Topics:

- Criminal Justice
- Criminal Investigation Resources

10:17 a.m. Representative Nathe introduced the bill.

10:18 a.m. Representative Hanson moved a Do Not Pass.

10:18 a.m. Representative Louser seconded.

10:24 a.m. Roll Call Vote.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Don Vigesaa	Y
Representative Keith Kempenich	A
Representative Bert Anderson	Y
Representative Mike Berg	Y
Representative Glen Bosch	Y
Representative Mike Brandenburg	Y
Representative Jay Fisher	Y
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	Y
Representative Scott Louser	Y
Representative Bob Martinson	Y
Representative Lisa Meier	Y
Representative Alisa Mitskog	Y
Representative David Monson	Y
Representative Eric J. Murphy	N
Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y
Representative Emily O'Brien	Y
Representative Brandy L. Pyle	Y
Representative David Richter	Y

Representative Mark Sanford	N
Representative Gregory Stemen	Y
Representative Steve Swiontek	Y
Representative Scott Wagner	Y

10:24 a.m. Motion passed 20-2-1.

Representative Nathe will carry the bill.

10:24 a.m. Chairman Vigesaa closed the meeting.

Sierra Schartz, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1102 (25.0611.01000)

Appropriations Committee (Rep. Vigesaa, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** (20 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1102 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.