

Introduced by

Representatives Roers Jones, Lefor, Mock, O'Brien, Pyle

Senators Meyer, Patten, J. Roers, K. Roers

1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the attorney general for a back the blue grant  
2 program; and to provide for a report.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - ATTORNEY GENERAL - BACK THE BLUE GRANT**  
5 **PROGRAM - ONE-TIME FUNDING - REPORT TO SIXTY-NINTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.**

6 There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise  
7 appropriated, the sum of \$5,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the  
8 attorney general for the purpose of providing back the blue grants to assist local law  
9 enforcement agencies with workforce recruitment and retention, for the biennium beginning  
10 July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. ~~Of the funding appropriated in this section, \$1,250,000~~  
11 ~~is available exclusively to local law enforcement agencies employing ten or fewer employees~~  
12 ~~working in a law enforcement capacity~~The attorney general shall provide grants to each city and  
13 county law enforcement agency in the state based on the proportional number of licensed  
14 peace officers and correctional officers employed by the city or county law enforcement agency  
15 compared to the total number of licensed peace officers and correctional officers employed by  
16 all city and county law enforcement agencies. Funding appropriated in this section may be used  
17 for providing hiring and retention bonuses to new and current law enforcement and correctional  
18 officers and providing tuition and fee payments on behalf of law enforcement trainees. This  
19 funding is considered a one-time funding item.

20 ~~1. To be eligible for a grant under this section, a law enforcement agency must have~~  
21 ~~incurred workforce recruitment and retention-related expenditures. Eligible~~  
22 ~~expenditures include:~~

23 ~~a. Bonuses paid to new and current law enforcement officers;~~

24 ~~b. Tuition and fee payments made on behalf of law enforcement trainees; and~~

- 1 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ c. Costs to upgrade law enforcement equipment.~~
- 2 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Law enforcement agencies seeking reimbursement for workforce recruitment and~~
- 3 ~~retention-related expenditures must submit a report of actual expenditures incurred to~~
- 4 ~~the attorney general with the grant application.~~
- 5 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ 3. The attorney general:~~
- 6 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ a. Shall reimburse each eligible applicant fifty percent of allowable expenditures;~~
- 7 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ b. May not award funding appropriated in this section to state or federal law~~
- 8 ~~enforcement entities; and~~
- 9 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ c. Shall~~ Law enforcement agencies receiving funding under this section shall report
- 10 to the attorney general regarding the use and effectiveness of the funding. The
- 11 attorney general shall report to the sixty-ninth legislative assembly regarding the
- 12 use and effectiveness of grant funds and the number of grants provided pursuant
- 13 to this section.