

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~~\$3,500,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary,
8 to the 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. The attorney general shall provide grants to each city
11 and county law enforcement agency in the state based on the proportional number of licensed
12 peace officers and correctional officers employed by the city or county law enforcement agency
13 compared to the total number of licensed peace officers and correctional officers employed by
14 all city and county law enforcement agencies. Of the funding available under this program, a
15 sum of at least \$750,000 must be granted to local law enforcement agencies employing ten or
16 fewer employees working in a law enforcement capacity. Funding appropriated in this section
17 may be used for providing hiring and retention bonuses to new and current law enforcement
18 and correctional officers and providing tuition and fee payments on behalf of law enforcement
19 trainees. This funding is considered a one-time funding item. Law enforcement agencies
20 receiving funding under this section shall report to the attorney general regarding the use and
21 effectiveness of the funding. The attorney general shall report to the sixty-ninth legislative
22 assembly regarding the use and effectiveness of grant funds and the number of grants provided
23 pursuant to this section.