

Written testimony of Director Lonnie Grabowska  
North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation (NDBCI)  
North Dakota Office of Attorney's General (NDOAG)

Thursday, January 26, 2023, at 9:00 am (CST)  
House Government and Veteran's Affairs Committee  
Chairman Austen Schauer

Testimony in support of House Bill (HB) 1309

Chairman and Members of the House Government and Veterans' Affairs Committee:

I am Director Lonnie Grabowska of the Bureau of Criminal Investigation, and I am here on behalf of the Attorney General's Office to testify in support of House Bill 1309. On October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022, I testified in front of the Employee Benefits Programs Committee (EBPC) regarding a draft bill (23.0077.01000) to increase the multiplier for the BCI Public Safety retirement plan. The committee moved the bill forward with a unanimous favorable recommendation.

EBPC Chairman Boschee introduced the draft bill as House Bill 1309. It is our goal to improve the system to allow BCI Agents to retire with approximately 60% of their salary after 20 years of active service which typically is around age 55. To be eligible for hire as a BCI agent, an individual must have a bachelor's degree and five years of investigative experience, or an acceptable combination of both. Because of our hiring requirements, the average age of hire for an Agent is 34 years of age.

Under the current 1.75 multiplier in the Public Safety retirement plan, an Agent hired at age 34 would have to work until age 68 to achieve 60% retirement. We are working with NDPERS and Finance Division of the Attorney General's Office to determine the actual cost of the proposed bill. According to the attached fiscal note, the financial cost is estimated to be \$1.37 million per biennium. Also attached for your convenience is a fact sheet with relevant information that I will present at this time.