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

Thursday, March 9, 2023, at 2:00 pm (CST)  
Senate State and Local Government Committee  
Chairwomen Kristin Roers

Testimony in support of House Bill (HB) 1309

Chairwomen Roers and Members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee:

My name is Lonnie Grabowska, and I am the Director of the North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation (NDBCI). I am here on behalf of the North Dakota Office of Attorney's General (NDOAG) 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. The North Dakota Office of Attorney's General's Finance Division worked with NDPERS 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.