



North Dakota House of Representatives

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COMMITTEES:

Judiciary (Vice Chair)
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Chairman Wobbema and Senators of the Workforce Development Committee, I really appreciate your time to take a look at this bill as I know you are very busy after crossover.

My name is Steve Vetter, I represent district 18, eastern part of Grand Forks along the Red River. It has a little rural area going as far north as Manvel, ND.

HB 1193 as introduced was a Police Retention bill that focused on community policing. It passed the House Floor after a Do Not Pass recommendation. In House Appropriations, they cut the fiscal note by a third to 3.5 million and took out the policy out of the bill and replaced it with the same program from last session. It is 3.5 million appreciation grant for city and counties police. It gives more to the smaller counties than the city counties. Last time it was given to department to spend how they wished. This time it has some language that it can only be used for retention or hiring. So, this 3.5 million is given out to every officer. Because of the large number of officers that get the payment, the bonus amount is very limited compared my original bill. It is the exact same "back the blue" plan from last session. If we are already going to spend this money, let's spend it more efficiently.

If you haven't guessed by now, I'm not a fan of my bill as it is currently written. I hope you will understand this after you look at my proposed amendment. My proposed amendment keeps the fiscal note the same but puts back the community policing retention policy from the original bill. The retention policy is somewhat simple but very effective. It gives a retention bonus to all officers that have been at their same agency for 4 years. This policy keeps the experienced cops in the same job. Our good and experienced police know their neighborhoods and who the bad guys are. By giving incentive to the experienced police to stay in their same agency, it keeps our communities safe. This policy is about public safety. In addition this policy helps with poaching from one agency to the other. The original bill was for all officers throughout the state. However, because of the reduced fiscal note of 3.5 million, this needs to be put into a pilot program. This is what the proposed amendment does. It creates a pilot program for county police and city police with less than 10 officers. This allows for a

\$4,000 retention annual bonus for 2 years. This group was picked as it is the most in need of retention and to fit within the 3.5 million fiscal note.

Additional Option: If you added all the city police(4 years in agency) to the pilot program, it would increase the fiscal note to 7.15 million. If you reduced the bonus to \$3,000 then the fiscal note would be 5.3 million.

#1 Obligation is safety- the original bill provides safety by keeping the best and most experienced police to stay in their same neighborhoods. These Cops know their neighborhoods, they know who the bad guys are and they know how to protect us.

Jails/prisons

It's not our job: yes it is because we caused the problem.

Clearing of crimes:

Safety by community policing = prevention of crime.

What is the Price tag on safety? Actually we will save money

Retention - there was testimony claiming this will retain his deputies.

Poaching

Reward versus punishment: Reward the good guys versus punishing the bad guys.

They will all know about it.....Advertising

We need to promote community policing to keep our communities safe. We need to pass this Neighborhood retention tool. The original bill does this but the current one does not. If we are going to spend this money on Backing the Blue, let's spend it efficiently and effectively. The bill only does the retention policies I just talked about with the amendment. Please add the amendment