

**Attorney General
Budget No. 125
House Bill Nos. 1003, 1193, and 1199; Senate Bill Nos. 2018 and 2209**

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2025-27 legislative appropriations	270.00	\$63,368,936	\$55,803,294	\$119,172,230
2025-27 base budget	266.00	49,024,265	41,914,820	90,939,085
Legislative increase (decrease) to base budget	4.00	\$14,344,671	\$13,888,474	\$28,233,145

ONGOING AND ONE-TIME GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS

	Ongoing General Fund Appropriation	One-Time General Fund Appropriation¹	Total General Fund Appropriation¹
2025-27 legislative appropriations	\$61,225,936	\$2,143,000	\$63,368,936
2023-25 legislative appropriations ¹	49,024,265	11,436,346	60,460,611
2025-27 legislative increase (decrease) to 2023-25 appropriations	\$12,201,671	(\$9,293,346)	(\$2,908,325)
Percentage increase (decrease) to 2023-25 appropriations	24.9%	(81.3%)	(4.8%)

¹The 2023-25 legislative appropriations includes a \$3,050,000 one-time general fund deficiency appropriation approved by the 2025 Legislative Assembly for the Attorney General, of which \$3,000,000 is for the statewide litigation funding pool and \$50,000 is for prosecution witness fees.

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO THE BASE BUDGET AND MAJOR FUNDING ITEMS
Changes to Base Budget

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
The legislative action:				
Added funding for the cost to continue salaries		\$1,020,488	\$664,389	\$1,684,877
Added funding to provide employee salary increases of 3 percent on July 1, 2025, and 3 percent on July 1, 2026		1,633,098	868,052	2,501,150
Added funding for employee health insurance premiums to reflect a revised premium estimate of \$1,893 per month		984,616	558,741	1,543,357
Added funding to replace the 2023-25 biennium new and vacant FTE funding pool, including \$4,602,851 for new positions and \$4,257,123 for vacant positions		6,701,991	2,157,983	8,859,974
Removed base level funding for vacant FTE attorney positions, of which \$221,997 is from federal funds and \$242,483 is from the Attorney General refund fund. Of the	(3.00)	(322,132)	(464,480)	(786,612)

total, \$726,612 is for salaries and wages and \$60,000 is for operating expenses.

Added funding for new FTE positions, including 1 FTE evidence technician position (\$189,393), 1 FTE executive staff officer position (\$195,432), 2 FTE Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) cybercrime agent positions (\$664,000), and 1 FTE BCI guardianships agent position (\$385,355). Of the total, \$1,090,640 is for salaries and wages, \$202,260 is for operating expenses, and \$141,280 is for capital assets.	5.00	1,434,180		1,434,180
Added funding for 1 FTE Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) attorney position, including funding from federal funds. Of the total, \$293,683 is for salaries and wages and \$49,620 is for operating expenses.	1.00	85,826	257,477	343,303
Added funding from the community health trust fund for 1 FTE tobacco compliance auditor position, of which \$197,866 is for salaries and wages and \$41,850 is for operating expenses	1.00		239,716	239,716
Transferred (\$1,582,189) for 7 new FTE positions from the salaries and wages line item to the new and vacant FTE pool line item and reduced the amount to \$1,423,970 resulting in the savings as shown		(116,406)	(41,813)	(158,219)
Transferred (\$5,309,631) for estimated savings from vacant FTE positions from the salaries and wages line item and other line items to the new and vacant FTE pool line item and reduced the amount to \$3,716,741 resulting in the savings as shown		(1,036,932)	(555,958)	(1,592,890)
Added funding from the Attorney General refund fund to reclassify a FTE paralegal position to a FTE attorney position			30,000	30,000
Added funding for salary equity increases, of which \$16,775 is from federal funds, \$16,128 is from the Attorney General refund fund, and \$4,557 is from the lottery operating fund. Of the total, \$180,000 is for attorney positions and \$111,777 is for other staff positions.		254,317	37,460	291,777
Adjusted funding for operating expenses, including adding \$31,770 from federal funds and reducing \$838,129 from special funds		(1,531,995)	(806,359)	(2,338,354)
Adjusted base level funding, including adding \$192,000 from the general fund for State Crime Laboratory equipment and maintenance; adding \$1,138,886 for software hosting and maintenance and other information technology (IT) costs of which \$1,118,060 is from the general fund, \$10,413 is from federal funds, and \$10,413 is from special funds; and		980,060	20,826	1,000,886

removing \$330,000 from the general fund for bond payments related to the State Crime Laboratory			
Added funding for prosecution witness fees to provide a total of \$360,056 from the general fund. The \$95,056 of base level funding was transferred from the operating expenses line item to a new prosecution witness fees line item.	265,000		265,000
Added funding for human trafficking victims grants for exploitation prevention and awareness education to provide total ongoing funding of \$1,802,514 from the general fund for human trafficking victims grants	685,000		685,000
Adjusted funding for medical examinations (\$660,000) and children's forensic interviews (\$304,560) from the general fund rather than the insurance regulatory trust fund in accordance with provisions of Senate Bill No. 2292 (2025)	964,560	(964,560)	0
Added ongoing funding for the domestic violence forensic medical examination program for community- or hospital-based domestic violence examiner programs and related administrative costs (Senate Bill No. 2209)	200,000		200,000
Added one-time funding for State Crime Laboratory equipment and supplies, including \$233,000 from federal funds and \$321,000 from the strategic investment and improvements fund (SIIF)	400,000	554,000	954,000
Added one-time funding for other capital assets, including \$32,000 from the general fund for IT network switches, \$540,000 from SIIF to replace 18 BCI undercover vehicles, \$105,000 from SIIF for portable handheld dual-band radios, and \$188,000 from federal funds for intoxilyzers	32,000	833,000	865,000
Added one-time funding for BCI cybercrime agent equipment	161,000		161,000
Added one-time funding for human trafficking victims grants to provide a total of \$2,452,514, including ongoing funding of \$1,802,514, from the general fund	650,000		650,000
Added one-time funding from SIIF for the statewide litigation funding pool. Including \$3 million appropriated from the general fund as a 2023-25 biennium deficiency appropriation in House Bill No. 1024 (2025) that is authorized to continue into the 2025-27 biennium pursuant to Section 18 of House Bill No. 1003, total funding available to the Attorney General for the statewide litigation funding pool during the 2025-27 biennium is \$8 million.		5,000,000	5,000,000

Added one-time funding for criminal justice information sharing IT projects, including \$650,000 from the general fund to replace the jail management system and \$1.5 million from SIIF to replace the statewide automated victim identification notification (SAVIN) system	650,000	1,500,000	2,150,000
Added one-time funding from federal or special funds received during the 2025-27 biennium		250,000	250,000
Added one-time funding from SIIF for a peace officer and correctional officer appreciation grant program (House Bill No. 1193)		3,500,000	3,500,000
Added one-time funding from the general fund transferred to a newly created missing indigenous people grant fund for supporting efforts of a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe, or band in the state to identify, report, and find missing indigenous people (House Bill No. 1199)	250,000		250,000
Added one-time funding from SIIF for autonomous technology grants (Senate Bill No. 2018)		250,000	250,000
Total	<u>4.00</u>	<u>\$14,344,671</u>	<u>\$13,888,474</u>

FTE Changes

The Legislative Assembly approved 270 FTE positions for the Attorney General for the 2025-27 biennium, an increase of 4 FTE positions from the 2023-25 biennium authorized level of 266 FTE positions. The Legislative Assembly adjusted the Attorney General's FTE position authorization as follows:

FTE Position Description	FTE Position Authorization
Attorneys	(3.00)
Evidence technician	1.00
Executive staff officer	1.00
BCI cybercrime agents	2.00
BCI guardianships agent	1.00
MFCU attorney	1.00
Tobacco compliance auditor	1.00
Total	4.00

Deficiency Appropriations - 2023-25 Biennium

House Bill No. 1024 (2025) - Statewide litigation funding pool - Prosecution witness fees - Section 1 of this bill includes a \$3,050,000 one-time general fund deficiency appropriation to the Attorney General for the 2023-25 biennium, of which \$3,000,000 is for the statewide litigation funding pool and \$50,000 is for prosecution witness fees.

Total funding appropriated for the statewide litigation funding pool for the 2023-25 biennium, including the \$3,000,000 deficiency appropriation, is \$8,000,000, of which \$4,797,748 is from the general fund and \$3,202,252 is from the gaming and excise tax allocation fund. Of the \$3,202,252 from the gaming and excise tax allocation fund, \$2,760,000 was transferred from the lottery operating fund to the gaming and excise tax allocation fund.

Total funding appropriated for prosecution witness fees for the 2023-25 biennium, including the \$50,000 deficiency appropriation, is \$145,056 from the general fund.

Section 2 of House Bill No. 1024 includes legislative intent that the Attorney General seek reimbursement from the federal government for the costs of responding to unlawful activity associated with the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline and that the reimbursements be used to repay the Bank of North Dakota loans authorized by the Emergency Commission and the Legislative Assembly which were obtained to provide the funding necessary to respond to the unlawful activity associated with the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline.

One-Time Funding

The following is a summary of one-time funding items for the Attorney General for the 2025-27 biennium:

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
State Crime Laboratory equipment and supplies (\$233,000 from federal funds; \$321,000 from SIIF)	\$400,000	\$554,000	\$954,000
IT network switches	32,000	0	32,000
BCI undercover vehicle replacements (SIIF)		540,000	540,000
Portable handheld dual-band radios (SIIF)		105,000	105,000
Indoxilyzers (federal funds)		188,000	188,000
BCI cybercrime agent equipment	161,000		161,000
Human trafficking victims grants	650,000		650,000
Statewide litigation funding pool (SIIF)		5,000,000	5,000,000
Criminal justice information sharing jail management system	650,000		650,000
SAVIN system (SIIF)		1,500,000	1,500,000
Additional income from federal or special funds (Section 4 of House Bill No. 1003)		250,000	250,000
Peace officer and correctional officer appreciation grant program (House Bill No. 1193) (SIIF)		3,500,000	3,500,000
Efforts to identify, report, and find missing indigenous people (House Bill No. 1199)	250,000		250,000
Autonomous technology grants (Senate Bill No. 2018) (SIIF)		250,000	250,000
Total	\$2,143,000	\$11,887,000	\$14,030,000

Salary Equity Increases

2019-21 Biennium

In Senate Bill No. 2003 (2019), the Legislative Assembly appropriated \$425,000 from lawsuit settlement proceeds, of which \$25,000 relates to anticipated interest and earnings of the settlement amount, to the Attorney General for the 2019-21 biennium. Section 14 of the bill included legislative intent that the Attorney General use up to \$425,000 of the appropriation for providing salary equity increases to attorney positions in the Attorney General's office for the 2019-21 biennium. Further intent was provided that the remaining settlement proceeds and investment earnings on the remaining proceeds be retained in the Attorney General refund fund and be used for the cost to continue the salary equity increases provided in the 2019-21 biennium during the 2021-23 and 2023-25 bienniums, subject to legislative appropriations.

2021-23 Biennium

In House Bill No. 1003 (2021), the Legislative Assembly appropriated \$1,374,989 from lawsuit settlement proceeds for providing salary equity increases to Attorney General staff during the 2021-23 biennium, of which \$1,249,083 was from proceeds deposited in the Attorney General refund fund for 55 FTE BCI and 2 FTE MFCU positions and \$125,906 was from funding available in the Reduced Cigarette Ignition Propensity and Firefighter Protection Act enforcement fund for 8 FTE Fire Marshal office positions. Legislative intent was provided the lawsuit settlement funding receiving by the Attorney General and any investment earnings on the funding be retained in the Attorney General refund fund and Reduced Cigarette Ignition Propensity and Firefighter Protection Act enforcement fund for the purpose of providing salary equity increases for the 2021-23 biennium and for the cost to continue the salary equity increases during the 2023-25 biennium, subject to legislative appropriations.

In House Bill No. 1506 (2021), the Legislative Assembly, during the November 2021 special legislative session, appropriated \$537,297 from the Attorney General refund fund to the Attorney General for providing salary equity increases to State Crime Laboratory staff during the 2021-23 biennium.

2023-25 Biennium

In Senate Bill No. 2003 (2023), the Legislative Assembly adjusted the \$537,297 for the prior biennium salary equity increases for State Crime Laboratory staff from the Attorney General refund fund to the general fund.

The Legislative Assembly also authorized \$245,368 for new salary equity increases for Attorney General staff for the 2023-25 biennium, of which \$223,000 is from the general fund and \$22,368 is from special funds.

In addition, the Legislative Assembly appropriated funding to OMB in Senate Bill No. 2015 (2023) for a targeted market equity pool to provide salary equity increases to executive branch employees. During the 2023-25 biennium, OMB transferred \$1,042,561 to the Attorney General for salary equity increases, of which \$735,664 was from the general fund, \$24,305 was from federal funds, and \$282,592 was from special funds.

2025-27 Biennium

In House Bill No. 1003 (2025), the Legislative Assembly appropriated \$291,777 for salary equity increases for the 2025-27 biennium, of which \$254,317 is from the general fund, \$16,775 is from federal funds, \$16,128 is from the Attorney General refund fund, and \$4,557 is from the lottery operating fund. Of the total, \$180,000 is for attorney positions and \$111,777 is for other staff positions.

Summary

The following is a summary of salary equity increases provided to the Attorney General since the 2019-21 biennium:

Biennium	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2019-21	\$0	\$425,000	\$425,000
2021-23	0	1,912,286	1,912,286
2023-25	958,664	329,265	1,287,929
2025-27	254,317	37,460	291,777
Total	\$1,212,981	\$2,704,011	\$3,916,992

Medicaid Fraud Control Unit

In Senate Bill No. 2003 (2019), the Legislative Assembly appropriated \$1,528,620 for the MFCU for the 2019-21 biennium, of which \$152,863, or 10 percent, is from the general fund and \$1,375,757, or 90 percent, is from federal funds. The funding includes salaries and wages funding of \$1,119,015 for 6 FTE positions, including 1 attorney, 2 auditors, 2 criminal investigators, and 1 administrative assistant. The remaining \$409,605 is for operating expenses and capital assets of the MFCU for the 2019-21 biennium.

In House Bill No. 1003 (2021), the Legislative Assembly continued funding for 6 FTE positions and reduced funding for operating expenses and capital assets by \$12,866 from the general fund to provide total MFCU operating expenses and capital assets of \$396,739, of which \$28,095 is from the general fund and \$368,644 is from federal funds.

In Senate Bill No. 2003 (2023), the Legislative Assembly appropriated \$855,644 for an additional 3 FTE MFCU positions, of which \$242,017 is from the general fund and \$613,627 is from federal funds. The Legislative Assembly also adjusted \$341,747 of funding for MFCU salaries and wages and operating expenses by reducing federal funds and increasing funding from the general fund to reflect a change in the federal-state cost sharing of the program. Previously, the federal government provided funding for 90 percent of the costs of the MFCU program. The new federal funding rate is 75 percent. In addition, the Legislative Assembly provided a one-time appropriation of \$69,273 for MFCU operating expenses and capital assets, including \$17,318 from the general fund and \$51,955 from federal funds.

In House Bill No. 1003 (2025), the Legislative Assembly appropriated \$343,303 for an additional FTE MFCU attorney position, of which \$85,826 is from the general fund and \$257,477 is from federal funds.

Statewide Litigation Funding Pool

In House Bill No. 1003 (2025), the Legislative Assembly appropriated \$5 million for a statewide litigation funding pool for the 2025-27 biennium. A recent history of funding for the statewide litigation funding pool is as follows:

Biennium	Agency	General Fund	Other Funds	Total Funds
2019-21 ¹	OMB	\$0	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000
2021-23 ²	Attorney General	1,000,000	4,650,000	5,650,000
2023-25 ³	Attorney General	4,797,748	3,202,252	8,000,000
2025-27 ⁴	Attorney General	0	5,000,000	5,000,000
Total		\$5,797,748	\$16,352,252	\$22,150,000

¹Other funds for the 2019-21 biennium was from SIIF. In House Bill No. 1025 (2021), the Legislative Assembly required OMB to use \$875,632 of the \$3.5 million appropriated to OMB in the statewide litigation funding pool for the 2019-21 biennium for the payment of court ordered judgements.

²Funding for the 2021-23 biennium was from SIIF (\$3 million), the gaming and excise tax allocation fund (\$1.65 million), and a general fund deficiency appropriation provided by the 2023 Legislative Assembly in Senate Bill No. 2025 (\$1 million).

³Funding from the general fund for the 2023-25 biennium includes a deficiency appropriation provided by the 2025 Legislative Assembly in House Bill No. 1024 (\$3 million). Other funds for the 2023-25 biennium are from the gaming and excise tax allocation fund, of which \$2.76 million is to be transferred from the lottery operating fund to the gaming and excise tax allocation fund by June 30, 2023, pursuant to Section 4 of Senate Bill No. 2003 (2023).

In addition, during the 2023-24 interim, the Emergency Commission and Budget Section authorized the Attorney General a \$3 million line item transfer from the operating expenses line item to the state litigation funding pool line item from the charitable gaming operating fund for the 2023-25 biennium; however, because the Legislative Assembly appropriated the \$3 million general fund deficiency appropriation in House Bill No. 1024 (2025), the Attorney General does not anticipate using any of the line item transfer funding during the 2023-25 biennium.

⁴In House Bill No. 1003 (2025), the Legislative Assembly appropriated \$5 million from SIIF to the Attorney General for the statewide litigation funding pool. In addition, in Section 18 of House Bill No. 1003, the Legislative Assembly authorized the Attorney General to continue any remaining funding of the \$3 million appropriated as a general fund deficiency appropriation in House Bill No. 1024 for the 2023-25 biennium into the 2025-27 biennium, resulting in a total of \$8 million available for the statewide litigation funding pool for the 2025-27 biennium.

Transfer - Statewide litigation funding pool to state agencies - Section 6 of House Bill No. 1003 (2025) requires the Attorney General to transfer funds appropriated in the statewide litigation funding pool line item to eligible state agencies for litigation expenses during the 2025-27 biennium and provides the Attorney General may not use funding from the statewide litigation funding pool to pay judgements under North Dakota Century Code Section 32-12-04.

Exemption - Statewide litigation funding pool - Section 18 allows the Attorney General to continue any remaining funding of the \$3 million appropriated from the general fund to the Attorney General as a deficiency appropriation for the statewide litigation funding pool in House Bill No. 1024 (2025) into the 2025-27 biennium.

Charitable Gaming Technology System

The 2019 Legislative Assembly provided a one-time appropriation of \$400,000 from the Attorney General operating fund to the Attorney General to purchase equipment and software for Phases 1 and 2 of a charitable gaming technology system to address charitable gaming needs in the state during the 2019-21 biennium. Section 12 of Senate Bill No. 2003 (2019) provides an exemption from Section 53-06.1-12(3) to allow the Attorney General to retain \$400,000 of gaming tax revenues and deposit the revenue in the Attorney General operating fund during fiscal year 2020. This change reduced 2019-21 estimated general fund revenues from gaming tax collections by \$400,000.

In Section 8 of House Bill No. 1003 (2021), the Legislative Assembly identified a one-time appropriation provided in Section 1 of \$400,000 from the charitable gaming operating fund to the Attorney General for Phases 3 and 4 of the charitable gaming technology system project for additional system enhancements during the 2021-23 biennium.

In Section 6 of Senate Bill No. 2003 (2023), the Legislative Assembly identified \$736,000 of funding from the charitable gaming operating fund for defraying the expenses related to the continued development and implementation of the charitable gaming technology system, of which \$37,000 is ongoing funding and \$699,000 is one-time funding.

In subsection 4 of Section 17 of House Bill No. 1003 (2025), the Legislative Assembly authorized the Attorney General an exemption to continue any unspent funding from the \$736,000 appropriated for the charitable gaming technology system during the 2023-25 biennium into the 2025-27 biennium.

Prosecution Witness Fees

Amendment - Prosecution witness fees - Section 10 of House Bill No. 1003 (2025) amends Section 31-01-16 to increase the amount each county may request for reimbursement of prosecution witness fees from \$25,000 per county to \$30,000 per county. Counties that exceed the \$30,000 limit may enter into an agreement with another county that has not used their entire limit.

In Section 1 of House Bill No. 1003, the Legislative Assembly added \$265,000 for prosecution witness fees to provide a total of \$360,056 from the general fund and transferred \$95,056 of base level funding from the operating expenses line item to a new prosecution witness fees line item.

A recent history of funding for prosecution witness fees in the Attorney General's office is as follows:

Biennium	General Fund				Emergency Commission State Contingency Funds	Total
	Budgeted by the Attorney General	Deficiency Appropriation	Emergency Commission Line Item Transfers	General Fund Subtotal		
2013-15	\$100,000	\$50,000		\$150,000	\$120,000	\$270,000
2015-17	100,000		\$121,714	221,714		221,714
2017-19	95,056	50,000		145,056	50,000	195,056
2019-21	95,056			95,056		95,056
2021-23	95,056	75,000		170,056		170,056
2023-25	95,056	50,000		145,056		145,056
2025-27	360,056			360,056		360,056
Total	\$940,280	\$225,000	\$121,714	\$1,286,994	\$170,000	\$1,456,994

Human Trafficking Victims Grant Program

The 2015 Legislative Assembly in Senate Bill No. 2107 created Chapter 12.1-41 relating to the Uniform Act on Prevention of and Remedies for Human Trafficking, which provided a penalty for human trafficking, and authorized the Attorney General to grant or contract with service providers to develop or expand service programs for victims of human trafficking. A recent history of funding for the human trafficking victims grant program in the Attorney General's office is as follows:

Biennium	Bill No.	General Fund
2015-17 ¹	SB 2199	\$500,000
2017-19 ²	SB 2203	125,000
2019-21	SB 2003	1,400,000
2021-23 ³	HB 1003	1,101,879
2023-25 ⁴	SB 2003	1,110,614
2025-27 ⁵	HB 1003	2,452,514
Total		\$6,690,007

¹In addition to the appropriation provided to the Attorney General for prevention and treatment services related to human trafficking victims in non-oil-producing counties for the 2015-17 biennium, the Legislative Assembly, in Section 2 of Senate Bill No. 2199 (2015), directed the Board of University and School Lands, from funds designated from the oil and gas impact grant fund in House Bill No. 1176 (2015) for grants to law enforcement agencies impacted by oil and gas development, to make available \$750,000 for grants to organizations involved in providing prevention and treatment services related to human trafficking victims in hub cities located in oil-producing counties for the 2015-17 biennium. The Board of University and School Lands was required to award the grants as directed by the Attorney General.

²In addition to the appropriation provided to the Attorney General for the 2017-19 biennium, the Legislative Assembly, in Section 2 of Senate Bill No. 2203 (2017), directed the Board of University and School Lands to award, based on recommendations from the Attorney General, up to \$700,000 in grants to organizations involved in providing prevention

and treatment services related to human trafficking victims, from funds designated from the oil and gas impact grant fund for grants to law enforcement agencies impacted by oil and gas development in subsection 3 of Section 5 of Chapter 463 of the 2015 Session Laws.

³Of the \$1,101,879 appropriated in Section 1 and identified in Section 9 of House Bill No. 1003 (2021) for the 2021-23 biennium, \$921,077 is for grants and \$180,802 is for administration of the program.

⁴Of the \$1,105,404 appropriated in Section 1 and identified in Section 7 of Senate Bill No. 2003 (2023) for the 2023-25 biennium, \$992,431 is for grants and \$112,973 is for administration of the program. An additional \$5,210 of appropriation authority was distributed from OMB to the Attorney General related to the targeted market equity pool and employer retirement contribution pool for administration of the program during the 2023-25 biennium.

⁵Of the \$2,452,514 appropriated in Section 1 and identified in Section 7 of House Bill No. 1003 (2025) for the 2025-27 biennium, \$2,346,022 is for grants and \$106,492 is for administration of the program.

Human trafficking victims grant program - Section 7 of House Bill No. 1003 (2025) identifies \$2,452,514 appropriated from the general fund for the purpose of providing grants to organizations involved in providing prevention and treatment services related to human trafficking victims and administrative expenses, for the 2025-27 biennium. The Attorney General may provide grants for the development and implementation of direct care emergency or long-term crisis services, residential care, training for law enforcement, support of advocacy services, and programs promoting positive outcomes for victims. Any organization that receives a grant under this section is required to report to the Attorney General and the Appropriations Committees of the 70th Legislative Assembly on the use of the funds received and the outcomes of its program.

Forensic Nurse Examiners Grant Program

In Senate Bill No. 2191 (2017), the Legislative Assembly appropriated one-time funding of \$150,000 from SIIF to the Attorney General for the purpose of providing grants for a domestic violence and rape crisis program, also known as the sexual assault forensic nurse examiners grant program for community- or hospital-based sexual assault examiner programs for the 2017-19 biennium. The Legislative Assembly has appropriated ongoing funding from the general fund for the program since the 2017-19 biennium. A recent history of funding for the forensic nurse examiners grant program in the Attorney General's office is as follows:

Biennium	Bill No.	General Fund	SIIF	Total
2017-19	SB 2191	\$0	\$150,000	\$150,000
2019-21	SB 2003	250,000	0	250,000
2021-23 ¹	HB 1003	250,691	0	250,691
2023-25 ²	SB 2003	251,482	0	251,482
2025-27 ³	HB 1003	254,244	0	254,244
Total		\$1,006,417	\$150,000	\$1,156,417

¹Of the \$250,691 appropriated in Section 1 and identified in Section 10 of House Bill No. 1003 (2021) for the 2021-23 biennium, \$183,689 is for grants and \$67,002 is for administration of the program.

²Of the \$251,482 appropriated in Section 1 and identified in Section 8 of Senate Bill No. 2003 (2023) for the 2023-25 biennium, \$225,627 is for grants and \$25,855 is for administration of the program.

³Of the \$254,244 appropriated in Section 1 and identified in Section 8 of House Bill No. 1003 (2025) for the 2025-27 biennium, \$228,688 is for grants and \$25,556 is for administration of the program.

Forensic nurse examiners grant program - Section 8 of House Bill No. 1003 (2025) identifies \$254,244 appropriated from the general fund for providing forensic nurse examiner program grants for community- or hospital-based sexual assault examiner programs, and administrative expenses, for the 2025-27 biennium. Any organization that receives a grant under this section is required to report to the Attorney General and the Appropriations Committees of the 70th Legislative Assembly on the use of the funds received and the outcomes of its programs.

Exemptions

The Legislative Assembly authorized six exemptions in Section 17 of House Bill No. 1003 to allow the Attorney General to continue an estimated \$2,617,936 of unexpended prior biennium appropriations into the 2025-27 biennium, including \$100,000 from the general fund and \$2,517,936 from other funds as follows:

House Bill No. 1003, Section 17, Subsection:	Major Program Area	Appropriations from Previous Bienniums		Estimated Amount to be Spent during the 2023-25 Biennium		Estimated Amount to be Continued into the 2025-27 Biennium	
		General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
1	SAVIN / Legal case management system ¹	\$0	\$815,000	\$0	\$735,000	\$0	\$80,000
2	Criminal history improvement project ²	0	400,000	0	62,064	0	337,936
3	Prosecuting case management system ³	0	1,000,000	0	0	0	1,000,000
4	Charitable gaming technology system ⁴	0	736,000	0	386,000	0	350,000
5	Licensing and deposit software system	177,000	0	77,000	0	100,000	0
6	Anti-methamphetamine program ⁵	0	1,772,038	0	1,022,038	0	750,000
Total		\$177,000	\$4,723,038	\$77,000	\$2,205,102	\$100,000	\$2,517,936

¹Funding for the legal case management system was originally appropriated for the 2017-19 biennium for the SAVIN system, derived from funds received from a state-political subdivisions cost-sharing program (\$315,000) and a grant from the Department of Trust Lands (\$500,000) from law enforcement grants not used during the 2015-17 biennium. The Legislative Assembly has provided exemptions to the Attorney General to continue the funding into subsequent bienniums. Starting in the 2021-23 biennium, the Attorney General was authorized to continue unspent funds from the original appropriation for the legal case management system, which tracks attorney time and billing within the agency, rather than the SAVIN system.

²Funding for the criminal history improvement project is from the Attorney General refund fund.

³Funding for the prosecuting case management system is from the federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund.

⁴Funding for the charitable gaming technology system is from the charitable gaming operating fund.

⁵Funding for the anti-methamphetamine program is from federal funds from the United States Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Services.

Other Sections in House Bill No. 1003

New and vacant FTE pool - Section 3 provides the Attorney General may not spend funds appropriated in the new and vacant FTE pool line item but may request the Office of Management and Budget to transfer funds to line items with salaries and wages funding.

Additional federal funds or special funds - Section 4 appropriates \$250,000 from federal or special funds to the Attorney General, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the Attorney General for the 2025-27 biennium. The Attorney General would be required to report to the Office of Management and Budget and Legislative Council on the availability of this funding.

Transfer - Community health trust fund to Attorney general operating fund - Section 5 identifies \$239,716 appropriated in Section 1 from the community health trust fund, which the Office of Management and Budget is required to transfer to the Attorney General operating fund for defraying the expenses related to the enforcement of the master settlement agreement and consent agreement and any disputes with the agreement.

Strategic investment and improvements fund - Section 6 identifies \$7,466,000 from SIIF for State Crime Laboratory equipment and supplies (\$321,000), replacement of BCI undercover vehicles (\$540,000), portable handheld dual-band radios (\$105,000), statewide litigation funding pool (\$5,000,000), and replacement of the SAVIN system (\$1,500,000).

Bureau of Criminal Investigation cyber crime resources - Section 9 identifies \$825,000 appropriated from the general fund for the purpose of hiring 2 FTE BCI cyber crime agent positions and for related equipment and capital asset costs. The personnel hired and resources purchased must be dedicated to assisting a police department in a city in northeastern North Dakota with at least 50,000 residents with the prevention and detection of cyber crime.

Amendment - Attorney General salary - Section 11 amends Section 54-12-11 to increase the salary of the Attorney General from the current level of \$186,484 to \$192,079 (3 percent) effective July 1, 2025, and \$197,841 (3 percent) effective July 1, 2026.

Amendment - 24-7 sobriety program - Section 12 amends Section 54-12-30 to provide district court judges and judicial referees may not waive program fees for participants of the 24-7 sobriety program. **The Governor vetoed this section.**

Amendment - Tobacco settlement trust fund - Section 13 amends Section 54-27-25 to allow funding from the tobacco settlement trust fund transferred to the community health trust fund to be used for the enforcement of the master settlement agreement and consent agreement and any disputes with the agreement.

Criminal history record checks - Section 14 requires any person or entity requesting a criminal record check from BCI to pay a reasonable fee as determined by the Attorney General. The funding must be deposited in the general fund during the 2025-27 biennium.

Exemption - Contingent fee arrangement - Section 15 provides, notwithstanding Section 54-12-08.1, the Attorney General may contract for legal services that are compensated by a contingent fee arrangement, relating to ongoing multistate technology litigation, during the period beginning with the effective date of this Act and ending June 30, 2027.

Exemption - Attorney General refund fund - Section 16 allows the Attorney General to retain the balance in the Attorney General refund fund at the end of the 2023-25 biennium to be used during the 2025-27 biennium, rather than transferring the balance to the general fund.

Related Legislation

House Bill No. 1193 - Peace officer and correctional officer appreciation grant program - This bill includes a one-time appropriation of \$3.5 million from SIIF to the Attorney General for a peace officer and correctional officer appreciation grant program. The Attorney General is required to provide grants to each city and county law enforcement agency in the state based on the proportional number of licensed peace officers and correctional officers employed by the city or county law enforcement agency compared to the total number of licensed peace officers and correctional officers employed by all city and county law enforcement agencies. Of the funding available for the program, at least \$750,000 must be granted to city and county law enforcement agencies employing 10 or fewer employees working in a law enforcement capacity. The funding must be used for providing retention bonuses to current law enforcement and correctional officers and providing tuition and fee payments on behalf of law enforcement trainees. The Attorney General is required to provide a report to the Legislative Management during the 2025-26 interim regarding the use and effectiveness of grant funds, the number of grants provided, the average amount of bonuses provided by city and county law enforcement agencies and correctional facilities, and other program outcomes.

House Bill No. 1199 - Missing indigenous people grant fund - Continuing appropriation - This bill creates a missing indigenous people task force and a missing indigenous people grant fund, authorizes the Attorney General a continuing appropriation from the fund, and provides an appropriation and transfer of \$250,000 from the general fund to the new fund for supporting efforts of a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe, or band in the state to identify, report, and find missing indigenous people.

Senate Bill No. 2018 - Autonomous technology grants - Section 5 of this bill includes a \$250,000 one-time appropriation from SIIF to the Attorney General for providing autonomous technology grants to individuals or entities that aid BCI in conducting missing person searches, crime scene reconstruction, and law enforcement first response operations. Autonomous technology includes uncrewed aircraft systems, autonomous vehicles, or other autonomous systems, processes, or technologies. The Attorney General may require \$1 of matching funds from nonstate sources for every \$4 provided by the state. An individual or entity may use grant funding for autonomous technology operations, contracting for services related to autonomous technology, or other eligible uses as determined by the Attorney General. The Attorney General is required to provide at least one report to the Legislative Management during the 2025-26 interim regarding the grants, including a list of grant recipients, the amounts awarded, and a description of the use of the grant funding.

Senate Bill No. 2029 - Office of Guardianship and Conservatorship - This bill creates an Office of Guardianship and Conservatorship, allows the Attorney General to act as legal counsel for the new agency, provides the Attorney General and BCI have primary authority to investigate criminal cases related to a guardianship or conservatorship, and allows the Attorney General to submit a request to the Emergency Commission in accordance with Chapter 54-16 during the 2025-26 interim to request authorization and related funding for 1 FTE position for BCI related to guardianship and conservatorship case investigations. Prior to submitting the request, the Office of Guardianship and Conservatorship must be operational, and the Attorney General must identify an increase in workload related to guardianship and conservatorship case investigations that results in the need for an additional FTE position.

Senate Bill No. 2167 - Internet crimes investigation fund - Continuing appropriation - This bill requires individuals convicted of a felony or misdemeanor to pay a fee of up to \$100 for the cost of digital forensic examinations, creates an Internet crimes investigation fund, and provides the Attorney General a continuing appropriation from the fund.

Senate Bill No. 2205 - Gambling prevention and treatment fund transfers - This bill increases the quarterly transfers from the charitable gaming operating fund to the gambling prevention and treatment fund to provide for a biennial increase of \$520,000, from \$80,000 to \$600,000. This results in a \$520,000 decrease in the amount transferred from the charitable gaming operating fund to the general fund at the end of each biennium.

Senate Bill No. 2209 - Domestic violence forensic medical examination program - This bill appropriates \$200,000 of ongoing funding from the general fund to the Attorney General for the domestic violence forensic medical examination program for community- or hospital-based domestic violence examiner programs and related administrative costs. Any organization receiving funding under the program is required to report to the Attorney General and the appropriations committees of the 70th Legislative Assembly on the use of the funds received and outcomes of its programs. The Attorney General is required to report to the appropriations committees of the 70th Legislative Assembly on the number of victims receiving domestic violence forensic medical examinations and documentation of collaborative efforts to assist victims, which includes nurses, the hospital or clinic, law enforcement, and state's attorneys.

Senate Bill No. 2292 - Insurance regulatory trust fund adjustment - This bill amends Section 12.1-34-07 to provide the cost of medical screenings and acute forensic medical examinations be paid from the general fund rather than the insurance regulatory trust fund. The 2025-27 biennium base budget for the Attorney General included \$964,560 from the insurance regulatory trust fund for medical examinations (\$660,000) and children's forensic interviews (\$304,560). In House Bill No. 1003, the Legislative Assembly adjusted funding for these programs to be appropriated from the general fund.