



Minnesota Conservation Officers Association

President – Joseph Stattelman
Vice President – Caleb Silgjord

Secretary – Shane Osborne
Treasurer – Joel Heyn

The Honorable Julie Rosen
Chair, Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement
2113 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Avenue West
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Rosen and Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of the Minnesota Conservation Officers Association and I am asking for your support of HF2690 and SF2614. The MCOA represents Conservation Officers throughout the State of Minnesota, with approximately 15% of our membership as veterans that could potentially benefit from this statutory change.

Many of our Conservation Officers started their adult life by enlisting in the armed services for various lengths of service and many of them were deployed overseas during their enlistments. These individuals, like many veterans, asked for little in return for this life of service and sacrifice. These years of service to our country cut short these members abilities to maximize their earning potential in the MSRS State Patrol Retirement Plan. This change would provide eligible members the opportunity to purchase credit for those years of military service prior to their employment with the State of Minnesota.

Back in 2019 this committee supported and passed this benefit for other public employees covered under PERA, including other Peace Officers working for counties and municipalities throughout the state. Passing these bills into law would go a long way in recognizing the years of sacrifice and service made by Conservation Officers and other state employees.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Caleb Silgjord
Vice President
Minnesota Conservation Officers Association