



MINNESOTA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

100 Empire Drive, Suite 222, St. Paul, MN 55103

Phone: 651.451.7216 Fax: 651.451.8087

Email: info@mnsheriffs.org

March 31, 2025

RE: Support for House File 139 and Senate File 1122

Dear Chairs - Representative O'Driscoll and Senator Frentz,

On behalf of the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association and the 87 elected Sheriffs of Minnesota, I would like to express our support for House File 139 and Senate File 1122. These bills propose modest but meaningful improvements to the Police and Fire Pension Plan, ensuring greater financial stability for those who have dedicated their careers to public safety.

Increasing the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) from 1% to 1.5% and removing the 24-month waiting period for adjustments are reasonable steps toward keeping the pension plan competitive and sustainable. A strong pension system is a key factor in recruiting and retaining peace officers, particularly at a time when agencies across the state are facing challenges in attracting and maintaining a qualified workforce. Additionally, these changes help address the long-standing disparity in COLA adjustments between the Police and Fire Plan and other public employee retirement plans, ensuring that retired officers do not continue to lose purchasing power over time.

While we recognize the complexities of pension funding, we believe these changes strike a fair balance in supporting those who have served our communities while also maintaining fiscal responsibility. We appreciate your consideration of these bills and your ongoing support for Minnesota's law enforcement professionals.

Sincerely,

James Stuart
Executive Director
Minnesota Sheriffs' Association