



DATE: March 21, 2026

TO: Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement

RE: 911 Telecommunicators and Probations Officers Pension Plan

Dear Members:

Law Enforcement Labor Services (LELS), MN State Patrol Troopers Association (MSPTA), MN Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Agents Association (BCAAA), and the MN Department of Corrections Fugitive Apprehension Agents Association (FAAA) represent more than 8,800 law enforcement officers and public safety professionals statewide.

In 2025, a legislative work group studied retirement benefits for **911 telecommunicators** and **Probation Officers**, and **recommended creating new retirement plan structures** within the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) and the Minnesota State Retirement System (MSRS) specifically for these positions. The proposed plans would allow a normal retirement age of about 60, include a benefit multiplier of approximately 1.9%, and provide cost-of-living adjustments similar to current public pension plans, with much of the cost funded through increased employee contributions. The work group also recommends allowing eligible employees to transfer from existing general plans into the new plans. The report outlines implementation steps so the new plans could be operational by January 1, 2027.

Our organizations strongly support these recommendations and urge the Pensions Commission to adopt them. Both 911 Telecommunicators and Probation Officers play essential roles in Minnesota's public safety system. 911 Telecommunicators are often the first point of contact in an emergency—gathering critical information, coordinating police, fire, and EMS response, and providing lifesaving instructions to callers before responders arrive. Probation Officers also perform high-stress public safety work, supervising violent offenders, working closely with courts and law enforcement, and helping ensure community safety and accountability. Recognizing the demanding and critical nature of these professions through an improved retirement structure will help recruit and retain the skilled professionals who keep Minnesota communities safe.

Sincerely,

Jim Mortenson
Executive Director
LELS

Jason Theel
President
MSPTA

Dustin Vanderhagen
President
BCAAA

Ben Uzlik
President
FAAA