



DATE: May 4, 2026

TO: Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement

RE: (S4276-DE1) to S.F. No. 4276 / H.F. No. 4074

Dear Chair Frentz and Members of the Commission,

On behalf of Law Enforcement Labor Services (LELS), the Minnesota State Patrol Troopers Association (MSPTA), the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Agents Association (BCAAA), and the Minnesota Department of Corrections Fugitive Apprehension Agents Association (FAAA), our organizations collectively represent more than 8,800 law enforcement officers, firefighters, and public safety professionals across Minnesota.

We are writing to express concerns regarding the delete-all amendment (S4276-DE1) to S.F. No. 4276 / H.F. No. 4074 and how it differs from the original proposal.

As introduced, the underlying legislation included provisions that addressed both the PERA Police and Fire Plan and the MSRS State Patrol Plan. However, the delete-all amendment removes those provisions and instead focuses exclusively on PERA Police and Fire, providing additional state aid and further reducing the COLA waiting period. As a result, State Patrol Plan members receive no comparable funding or benefit changes under the delete-all amendment.

Taken together, the 2025 pension bill and this proposal increase PERA Police and Fire state support to approximately \$25.7 million annually, while State Patrol Plan members remain at \$2.3 million annually from the 2025 pension bill, with no additional funding or comparable benefit changes provided under this proposal.

Both plans have made necessary adjustments over time to address funding challenges, including increased member contributions, COLA reductions, and other changes affecting both active and retired members. However, those adjustments were not uniform. PERA relied more heavily on benefit-side changes, such as extended COLA delays, while State Patrol Plan members have consistently contributed a higher share of salary toward retirement. This disparity is rooted in earlier reforms, including significantly larger contribution increases for State Patrol Plan members in 2010, and it has persisted over time. For nearly a decade, the contribution gap has remained above three percentage points, reaching 3.6 percentage points in 2016 and again today. Despite this sustained higher contribution burden, the current proposal provides additional funding and benefit improvements only to PERA.

The differences are also evident in how recent funding has been applied. In the 2025 pension bill, PERA Police and Fire received \$17.7 million in annual state aid compared to \$2.3 million for the MSRS State Patrol Plan. That funding resulted in different outcomes for members: State Patrol Plan members received a modest COLA increase from 1.0% to 1.25%, while PERA Police and Fire members received a reduction in the COLA waiting period from 36 to 24 months and a one-time 3% COLA adjustment, with the COLA returning to a fixed 1% annually thereafter.

Given the stated goal of achieving parity between the plans, we respectfully submit that the proposal, as currently structured, falls short of that objective and warrants reconsideration.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jim Mortenson
Executive Director
LELS

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