



May 5, 2026

Honorable Chair Frentz and Members of the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement:

On behalf of the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association and the Minnesota Professional Fire Fighters we write in full support of the A-14 Amendment to SF1122 (Frentz)/HF139 (O'Driscoll).

The A-14 Amendment would reduce the additional one-year waiting period that newly retired members of PERA Police and Fire must wait to be eligible for a COLA. If approved by the legislature, this language will bring the PERA Police and Fire plan in line with all other Minnesota public employee retirement plans.

Competitive wages and benefits, including a fair pension, are critical to attracting and retaining first responders for a full career. Currently, retirees in the PERA Police and Fire Plan (P & F) receive a 1% annual COLA, and the MSRS State Trooper Plan receives 1.25%, both well below other public pension plans. Additionally, P&F retirees must wait longer to receive their first COLA, significantly reducing their purchasing power. Although due to budgetary restrictions we were not successful in addressing COLA insufficiencies for P&F or MSRS State Trooper Plans – *the corrective measures towards the Police and Fire COLA delay will have a positive impact on our future retired members purchasing power.*

Combined with your efforts last session, we view this as a great step forward for our retirees. In 2018, our organizations agreed to the “shared sacrifice” concept to help improve the solvency of our pension fund. Eight years later, we are grateful that we can at least get this previous concession back for our retirees.

We hope the commission will adopt the proposed A-14 Amendment language and that we can move forward with the passage of another very good pension bill this year. We thank you as chief authors, and all members of the LCPR, for considering our request over the last two years. The hard work the Pension Commission does for Minnesota’s first responders is very much appreciated by our collective members.

Respectfully,

David A. Titus  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association

Scott Vadnais  
President  
Minnesota Professional Firefighters