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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

H. F. No. 2525

03/20/2025

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Public Safety Finance and Policy

- 1.1 A bill for an act
- 1.2 relating to public safety; establishing a public safety officer hearing protection
- 1.3 program; appropriating money.
- 1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
- 1.5 Section 1. **PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER HEARING PROTECTION PROGRAM.**
- 1.6 Subdivision 1. Definitions. For the purposes of this section, the following terms have
- 1.7 the meanings given:
- 1.8 (1) "commissioner" means the commissioner of public safety;
- 1.9 (2) "firefighter" means a volunteer, paid on-call, part-time, or career firefighter serving
- 1.10 a general population within the boundaries of the state;
- 1.11 (3) "hearing protection product" means a commercial off-the-shelf, multiuse, completely
- 1.12 in the canal hearing protection product with a minimum noise reduction rating of 25 decibels
- 1.13 and a maximum output of 80 decibels;
- 1.14 (4) "peace officer" means a person who is licensed under Minnesota Statutes, section
- 1.15 626.84, subdivision 1, paragraph (c);
- 1.16 (5) "public safety officer" means a peace officer, firefighter, or qualified emergency
- 1.17 medical service provider; and
- 1.18 (6) "qualified emergency medical service provider" means a person certified under
- 1.19 Minnesota Statutes, section 144E.28, who is actively employed by a Minnesota licensed
- 1.20 ambulance service.

2.1 Subd. 2. **State and local eligibility.** Public safety officers and heads of agencies and
2.2 entities who buy hearing protection products for public safety officer employees may request
2.3 hearing protection products from the commissioner on a form prepared by the commissioner.
2.4 While the supply lasts, the commissioner must make hearing protection products available
2.5 to qualified applicants at no cost in the order the applications are received.

2.6 Subd. 3. **Limitation of liability.** A state agency, political subdivision of the state, state
2.7 or local government employee, or other entity that provides a public safety officer with a
2.8 hearing protection product under this section is not liable to the public safety officer or
2.9 public safety officer's heirs for negligence in the death of or injury to the public safety officer
2.10 because the hearing protection product was defective or deficient.

2.11 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION; PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER HEARING PROTECTION**
2.12 **PROGRAM.**

2.13 \$2,000,000 in fiscal year 2026 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner
2.14 of public safety to purchase hearing protection products directly from a manufacturer for
2.15 the public safety officer hearing protection program established in section 1.