

CITY ISSUE FACT SHEET



Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) Trends

According to PERA, the number of public safety duty disability claims have climbed in recent years.

- 2019: 118 applications
- 2020: 241 applications
- 2021: 307 applications
- 2022: 257 applications

80% of the applications are related to PTSD.

39% of the claims are from outside Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Public Safety PTSD Duty Disability

ABOUT THE ISSUE

Public safety employees frequently face situations in the line of duty that put them at risk for mental injuries. In recent years, Minnesota has seen troubling trends around public safety duty disabilities related to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Concern for mental health of our first responders is a top priority for Minnesota cities. The League believes there is a role for the state government in implementing policies and funding to increase mental injury prevention and treatment initiatives so first responders will stay healthy and return to work.

According to PERA, the funding ratio in the PERA-Police and Fire (P&F) Plan dropped sharply in 2022, and the number of duty disabilities is a contributing factor along with volatile investment returns.



Public Safety PTSD Duty Disability (Continued)

Fortunately, according to experts, the risk of a mental injury can be lowered by implementing preventive measures, such as robust wellness programs, normalizing conversations about mental health, and providing access to tools like peer support. Medical experts, including the Mayo Clinic, agree most people diagnosed with PTSD can be successfully treated if they receive timely and appropriate professional help.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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OUR ASKS:

Support HF 1234 (Rep. Her, DFL - St. Paul) and SF 1959 (Sen. Dibble, DFL - Minneapolis) which would:

- ✓ Provide full state funding to reimburse employers for continuing health insurance benefits for disabled employees, a mandate known as the Public Safety Officer Benefit (PSOB).
- ✓ Implement state incentives and funding for mental injury prevention measures for pre-service and active public safety employees.
- ✓ Require treatment for an employee with a mental injury as a condition of eligibility for permanent duty disability benefits.
- ✓ Provide state financial support that allows injured employees to remain on payroll while completing treatment for a mental injury.