



**Law Enforcement
Labor Services, Inc.**



March 18, 2024

State and Local Government Finance and Policy
MN House of Representatives
581 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Klevorn:

We are collectively writing from the Minnesota State Patrol Troopers Association (MSPTA), Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association (MPPOA), Law Enforcement Labor Services (LELS), Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA), and Minnesota Sheriffs Association (MSA). **Our organizations support House File 4553 (Tabke) State Patrol Retirement Plan new section added to codify the right to return to employment and continue receiving an annuity.**

This vital bill for public safety aims to enable state law enforcement officers to continue their service without facing financial penalties when they reach retirement age. Currently there are a significant number of active members approaching retirement. Over the next five years, approximately 205 members within the State Patrol Retirement Plan and an additional 2,264 members in the PERA Police and Fire Fund will reach full retirement age, totaling 2,469 individuals. Given the mandatory retirement age of 60 for state law enforcement officers, establishing a well-structured reemployment program is essential.

Recruitment challenges are prevalent, with a noticeable decline in applicants locally and nationally. House File 4553 directly addresses this pressing need by incentivizing retired State Patrol plan members to rejoin service without impacting their retirement annuity. This initiative not only encourages seasoned professionals to stay engaged but also enriches the skill and knowledge pool within agencies served by the State Patrol Retirement Plan, leading to improved law enforcement outcomes for our communities.

Furthermore, the financial sustainability of the State Patrol retirement plan is bolstered by the continued contributions of reemployed members, along with essential employer and supplemental contributions. This dual approach ensures stability and security for our retired officers while maintaining the fiscal integrity of the retirement plan.

House File 4553 would significantly contribute to enhancing public safety and helping maintain the services Minnesotans expect from our state law agencies.

Sincerely,

President Mike LeDoux
Minnesota State Patrol Troopers Association

Executive Director Jeff Potts
Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association

Executive Director Brian Peters
Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association

Executive Director James Stuart
Minnesota Sheriffs Association

Executive Director Jim Mortenson
Law Enforcement Labor Services