



MINNESOTA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

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Members of the House Public Safety Committee:

The Minnesota Sheriffs' Association (MSA) is committed to keeping our residents and law enforcement officers safe from the threat of gun violence. At the same time, we also value, uphold and promote the rights of responsible gun owners to lawfully possess firearms, to protect themselves and their families.

The Minnesota Sheriffs' Association supports House File 14. We have worked with the authors and appreciate being heard.

House File 14 provides greater discretion to Chief Law Enforcement Officers (CLEO) when issuing permits to acquire. We support broader discretion for CLEO's to deny a transfer or a permit request to an individual who is deemed dangerous to themselves or others. I believe we can all agree that certain individuals should not have access to firearms.

House File 14 also closes the gap of individuals purchasing handguns or semiautomatic military-style assault weapons without completing a background investigation.

The MSA will continue to work with the author as it relates to the retention of paperwork after a completed sale involving private parties. Again, the MSA appreciates the continued dialogue, and we look forward to working with the author to improve the language.

The MSA remains neutral on House File 15. We acknowledge the efforts of the authors and advocates actively engaging the MSA in the conversation and listening to our concerns with portions of the proposed bill.

The language expanding the venue that the petitioner may file and ERPO potentially creates confusion regarding which law enforcement agency is responsible for securing and executing the court order.

Some of our members are concerned over allowing family and household members to petition directly to the court. We see potential for misrepresentation, putting the court and eventually law enforcement in a difficult and possible dangerous situation. We have expressed our unease with the storage of "turned in" or seized firearms. Not all sheriff's offices have the capacity to store and manage the number of potential firearms.

Again, the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association appreciates the author's willingness to include us in the conversation and listen to our recommendations for change.

William M. Hutton
Executive Director