



Office of the Commissioner

445 Minnesota Street • Suite 1000 • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-5100

Phone: 651.201.7160 • Fax: 651.297.5728 • TTY: 651.282.6555

dps.mn.gov

March 30, 2023

Chair Hornstein and members of the House Transportation Committee,

I am writing today to highlight parts of HF2887 that the Department of Public Safety supports and express our gratitude for your leadership and continued investments in transportation efforts for a safer Minnesota.

I am deeply thankful that this bill provides many of the critical investments found in Governors Walz and Lt. Governors Flanagan's Budget recommendations. This includes the resources needed for the Department of Public Safety to maintain current service levels and expand our administrative team to meet the needs of the agency.

Thank you for fully funding the Minnesota State Patrol Aviation request. As you know the State Patrol assists in search and rescues missions all over the State and this investment is appreciated and needed. In addition, new pilots will allow DPS to better utilize our current fleet of aircraft.

Your steadfast support for the Advisory Council on Traffic Safety is greatly appreciated. The Council is critical to ensuring that all of the traffic safety initiatives contained in this important legislation lead to a much safer environment on all Minnesota roads.

The funding for the Office of State - Safety Oversight will increase the resources dedicated to light rail safety oversight and to help keep people safe. The funding for the Office of Pipeline Safety for three-staff dedicated to education, investigation, and enforcement of the state Call-Before-You-Dig laws in Minnesota Statute Chapter 216D is badly needed.

I appreciate the funding for Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) to maintain staff at exam stations and to open and staff new vehicle inspection sites. I would like to continue to work with you on funding options to avoid the fiscal cliff this method of funding creates and ensure DVS can provide the services the public deserves in a timely fashion. This bill will also allow us to help move DVS into the future by allowing for drivers licenses to be renewed online every other renewal cycle. The new revenue is also needed to provide long-term financial stability of the DVS special revenue funds.

We know there is more work to be done with Driver Vehicle Services and our business partners, Deputy Registrars and Driver's License Agents. We strongly believe Deputy

- Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement
- Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
- Driver and Vehicle Services
- Emergency Communication Networks
- Homeland Security and Emergency Management
- Minnesota State Patrol
- Office of Communications
- Office of Justice Programs
- Office of Pipeline Safety
- Office of Traffic Safety
- State Fire Marshal

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Registrars should be paid for the work they do; but not paid for work which is completed entirely by State employees. We look forward to continuing discussions on how best to ensure the financial viability of Deputy Registrars while providing the best possible service to Minnesotans without risking the financial viability of the DVS special revenue accounts.

This bill does not include some of our initiatives and I would like to draw your attention to these specific areas where I hope we can continue to work together. That includes a proposal that would allow DVS to work with the Department of Revenue (DOR) to collect outstanding debt. As a special revenue-funded agency, the collection of fees is a critical part of ensuring the health of the special revenue funds.

More importantly, I wanted to call your attention to our federal confirmatory language found in HF 2887 which is not included in this bill. I hope to have continued conversations on that language as without the update DPS' Office of Pipeline Safety will lose some of its federal authority.

The Department of Public Safety supports this bill and I want to thank Chair Hornstein, Vice Chair Tabke, lead Petersburg, members of the committee, and all House staff who have worked on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Jacobson".

Bob Jacobson
Commissioner Department of Public Safety