



MINNESOTA POLICE AND PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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Date: January 31, 2022
To: Representative Carlos Mariani, Chair, Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform Finance and Policy Committee and members
Re: Opposition to HF2724 (Frazier)

Dear Chair Mariani and committee members:

The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association (MPPOA) represents Minnesota's more than 10,000 public safety officials who hold active law enforcement licenses in the state of Minnesota. Members include police officers, correctional officers, dispatchers, and firefighters. The MPPOA is the largest association representing public safety professionals in the state of Minnesota.

MPPOA is writing to respectfully oppose several provisions in House File 2724.

MPPOA supports any helpful measure to enhance the profession of law enforcement and improve public safety for the citizens of Minnesota. In doing so, it is imperative to balance any new mandates with maintaining the ability of law enforcement officers to fulfill their oath to serve and protect. While some aspects of this bill may be acceptable, there are many we cannot support. Our focus is, and always will be, to properly support our communities and law enforcement simultaneously.

This bill appropriately acknowledges the need to expand the use of patrols by teams of officers targeting areas experiencing high levels of criminal activity. However, this proposal also seeks to eliminate funding for law enforcement grants after 2026 – which is shortsighted. The instability of state funding to ensure adequate policing in areas with disproportionately high levels of crime is detrimental to public safety. In addition, positive, non-politicized collaborations between law enforcement and community organizations have enormous value, although we recognize that some of these groups may seek to undermine law enforcement or undermine their trust in community public safety efforts.

With regards to body camera grants, we believe the proposed local match makes sense. However, it is our opinion that the current appropriation of \$2.5 million will not fully cover the cost of the existing need. We oppose the language on redaction – we consider it gratuitous and redundant. Similarly, requiring officers to notify occupants of a residence that they may be recorded fails to take into consideration the high stakes situations officers routinely encounter, where diffusing a violent situation or protecting a life in imminent danger must come first. Lastly, we urge implementation of policy be left at the local level to allow for community engagement and input.

We also have concerns about due process through the POST Board's proposed new activities, and it diverts the POST Board away from its primary, valuable purpose of establishing education criteria, training, modeling, and the constant pursue of excellence in police work.

Finally, authorizing local units of government to establish civilian oversight councils and the delegation of disciplinary authority ignores the current procedure that already requires a series of comprehensive investigations. Versions of this proposal have been rejected by the legislature for 40+ years, for good reasons.

Sincerely,

Brian Peters, Executive Director
Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association