



February 2, 2021

The Honorable Carlos Mariani
Chair, House Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform Finance and Policy Committee
State Office Building, Room 479
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

SUBJECT: HF 445 - State Aid For Emergencies (SAFE) account and aid program established to reimburse local governments and state agencies for expenses incurred in responding to emergencies, money transferred to SAFE account, and money appropriated

Dear Chair Mariani,

On behalf of the League of Minnesota Cities and our 835 member cities, thank you for authoring HF 445, which would establish the State Aid For Emergencies (SAFE) Account to reimburse local governments for providing mutual public safety aid during extraordinary public safety events. The League has long recognized the important role of mutual aid in providing essential public safety services across Minnesota. HF 445 strengthens existing mutual aid statutes and reinforces the important public safety partnership between the state and local units of government.

While the bill as introduced is a sound proposal, there has not been time to broadly vet it with our membership. Further, the proposed amendments, if adopted, should receive adequate public input before being enacted. The League looks forward to working with you and public safety stakeholders as this bill advances through the legislative process to ensure that the final product works for agencies of all sizes, preserves local control and prioritizes efficient and effective deployment of public safety assistance.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about how this or related legislation would impact cities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Anne Finn'.

Anne Finn
Assistant Intergovernmental Relations Director