



# MINNESOTA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

---

100 Empire Drive, Suite 222, St. Paul, MN 55103

Phone: 651.451.7216 Fax: 651.451.8087

Email: [info@mnsheriffs.org](mailto:info@mnsheriffs.org)

April 13, 2021

To: Chairman Fue Lee and Members of the House Capital Investment Committee

The Minnesota Sheriffs' Association (MSA), representing the 87 elected Sheriffs of the great State of Minnesota, is writing to you today to outline concerns contained in the House bonding bill (A21-0158); specifically, within Article 4, section 42.

The MSA believes that any conversation about local consolidation should originate at the local level. Having these conversations dictated to them by the state, who do not operate at the local level, does not make for good policy. County Sheriffs do appreciate their relationship with the Department of Corrections and often rely upon them for assistance in jail operation. But DOC does not have the relationships within the community to understand their needs.

A county jail needs are a function of local conditions, local jurisdiction, local governance, and local control. Each county understands what is needed within their jurisdiction.

There are data collection requirements provided for within the bill. These requirements are expansive and will require additional resources not provided for in the legislation. Additionally, this provision was not introduced in the Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform Finance committee or *the Judiciary Finance and Civil Law committee* for our and others input. We believe that this provision should be reviewed and debated in each of the committees.

Sincerely,

William M. Hutton  
Executive Director