



Office of the Commissioner

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April 26, 2026

Chair Frazier, Chair Torkelson and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House File 3230 (HF3230). The Department of Public Safety (DPS) works to serve all communities to build a safer Minnesota. I want to thank Chair Moller and Chair Novotny for their work in crafting this bill and for their continued support of DPS.

I am grateful that this bill includes onetime funding for the State Patrol to address the FY2026 general fund deficiency. Exceptional circumstances this fiscal year have increased overtime staffing and related costs, including supplemental executive, legislative, and judicial security; mutual aid related to the Annunciation school shooting and the deployment of the Mobile Response Team (MRT) in response to requested local assistance to keep Minnesotans safe during the federal immigration enforcement surge. Fully funding this general fund deficiency acknowledges the unprecedented events of the past year and will allow the State Patrol to sustain current service levels.

Weapons screening was among the highest priority recommendations in the Axtell report on capitol security and was also a recommendation from the Advisory Committee on Capitol Area Security (ACCAS). I appreciate that this bill includes funding for screening on an ongoing basis, but I'd like to see the funding levels match the Governor's recommendation. That would allow for year-round screening at five entrances, including two public entrances.

This bill also provides funding for security enhancements across the Capitol complex, but at an amount lower than requested by the Governor. While the funding levels in this bill will allow for some security improvements, it will not be enough for the State Patrol to implement all of the highest priority items. These measures will ensure the safety of legislators, public visitors, and staff that work on the Capitol Complex, and I urge you to fund the security enhancements at the amounts recommended by the Governor.

The amendment posted on April 26 also creates a new Legislative Services Unit within the State Patrol but does not provide nearly enough resources to allow the State Patrol to conduct this new work. While I appreciate that there is adequate funding for the additional threat assessment work at the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, there is not enough funding to allow the State Patrol to respond to those threats. I am also

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


disappointed to see that the amendment contains no funding to reimburse local law enforcement when they assist in responding to threats against legislators. Partnership with local law enforcement is a critical piece of effectively responding to address threats against legislators and they do not have existing funding within their current budget for this work. I urge you not to create these duties within the State Patrol without adequate funding. If these new duties are to be added, the legislature will need to provide additional resources to the State Patrol.

Following the horrific events of June 14, 2025, it became clear that it is the expectation of state leaders that DPS have the ability to contact all state-level elected officials rapidly and reliably. I am hopeful you will include the legislator notification language in the final bill. This will ensure timely and comprehensive communication in the event of emergencies, threats, or urgent public safety matters.

This bill also contains a change to Minnesota Statutes 299D that would alter the chain of command structure for the State Patrol and create a different path for credible threat assessment for requests from legislative leaders. I'd like to see this language amended to reflect the existing command structure for State Patrol. I appreciate that this bill clarifies that the State Patrol is the lead agency for investigating criminal conduct within the buildings on the Capitol Complex.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill. I want to again thank Chair Moller and Chair Novotny and the members of the Public Safety Committee for their support of DPS. I look forward to our continued partnership to support public safety in Minnesota.

Sincerely,



Bob Jacobson, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety



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April 27, 2025

Co-Chair Cedrick Frazier and Co-Chair Paul Torkelson
House Ways and Means Committee

Dear Co-Chair Frazier, Co-Chair Torkelson, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Minnesota Judicial Branch, I want to thank you for your work this session to support the Branch's safety and security priorities contained in H.F. 3230, the Safety and Security package.

We appreciate the Committee's inclusion of funding for several important parts of our security request. At a time when threats to public officials and institutions are on the rise, these investments are essential to protecting judges, court staff, and the people who visit our courthouses each year. The funding will strengthen our ability to assess and respond to threats, improve coordination with law enforcement, and support needed security improvements in courthouses across the state.

While not all requested components were included, we are encouraged by the strong foundation this bill establishes. We remain hopeful that the remaining critical priorities can be addressed as the legislation moves through the conference committee process.

We also want to thank the House Judiciary Finance and Civil Law and Public Safety Finance and Policy committees for their engagement on these issues and for helping move Judicial Branch security priorities forward this session.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and appreciate your partnership in supporting a safe, accessible, and effective court system for all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Shorba".

Jeffrey Shorba
State Court Administrator
Minnesota Judicial Branch



MINNESOTA JUDICIAL BRANCH








Supplemental Budget Request *Safety & Maintaining Core Operations*

Supplemental Budget Item	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29
Judicial Safety & Security		\$2.88M	\$1.365M	\$1.365M
Paid Family Leave	\$644,000	\$1.287M	\$1.287M	\$1.287M
Total	\$644,000	\$4.174M	\$2.652M	\$2.652M

Judicial Branch Safety & Security

Safe courts are essential to public access to justice. Minnesotans must be able to attend hearings, serve as jurors, and work in courthouses without fear. This request responds to escalating threats and acts of intimidation by strengthening security at critical points – judicial officers’ homes, online environments, and courthouse facilities – ensuring the justice system remains accessible, stable, and secure statewide.

-  Personal data protection services to remove or mask judges’ and court administrators’ home addresses and personal information from online data brokers and search sites.
-  Reimbursement for the purchase, installation, and ongoing monitoring of home security systems for judges and court administrators.
-  Expansion of the Judicial Security Unit to increase capacity for threat assessment, coordination with law enforcement, training, and emergency planning.
-  A dedicated protection detail for the Chief Justice while traveling to, from, and attending official public events.
-  Reestablishment of the Safe and Secure Courthouse Initiative, providing matching grants to counties for courthouse security assessments, equipment, access control improvements, construction modifications, and training.

Rising Threats to Judges & Public Officials

An internal review of reported safety and security incidents at the Judicial Branch was conducted in 2024 and 2025. The results showed:

- Total incidents reported went up 47%
- Threats to a person, self, or property reported to the Branch went up 85%
- Reported disturbances occurring in a court facility went up 50%

State Funding for Minnesota Paid Leave

The Minnesota Judicial Branch is seeking legislative funding to cover the employer costs of the new Minnesota Paid Leave Program. This funding will ensure that the Judicial Branch will not need to divert resources from core court operations to fund this new state-mandated expense.