



MINNESOTA POLICE AND PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

525 Park Street, Suite 250 St. Paul, MN 55103-2145
Phone: 651-291-1119 Website: www.mppoa.com

March 19, 2024

TO: Representative Dan Wolgamott, Chair Kelly Moller and Members of the House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee

RE: Support for HF3725 (Wolgamott); Local Correctional Officers Provided in Peace Officers Discipline Procedures Act (PODPA)

The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association (MPPOA) is the largest association representing police and peace officers in the State of Minnesota. We represent Minnesota's 10,000+ public safety officials who hold active law enforcement licenses.

The MPPOA supports HF3725, legislation which would align local corrections officers with the same protections as peace officers in the Police Officers Discipline Procedures Act (PODPA).

- Including correctional officers in Minn. Stat. §626.89, subd. 1 extends the Peace Officer Bill of Rights to non-licensed correctional officers in order to provide those officers with the same protections as licensed peace officers, especially given the fact that many correctional officers may work side by side with licensed peace officers.
- Allowing for a summary of allegations, prior to a formal statement/interview; while ensuring a correctional officer is provided investigative and witness information consistent with the requirements for licensed counterparts would ensure adequate protections and due process for both correctional officers and licensed peace officers; in addition to the additional protections provided for in Minn. Stat. §626.89.
- There is a need to further define "formal statement" for purposes of both statutes to prevent the employer from skirting the obligations under CODPA and PODPA as to what constitutes a formal statement. Some agencies are calling statements interviews or meetings, requiring an officer to appear for the interview/meeting without extending CODPA/PODPA rights and obligations even though the interview/meeting may result in discipline to the individual officer. This is directly contrary to the intention of both CODPA/PODPA. Therefore, at a minimum, the definition of formal statement in either statute should be clarified consistent with the proposed language—especially given the ambiguity and inconsistency of the application of Brady/Giglio.

The MPPOA strongly supports HF3725.

Sincerely,

Brian Peters
Executive Director
Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association



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