



Office of the Commissioner

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April 12, 2023

Chair Olson and members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

I am writing today to highlight parts of HF2887 that the Department of Public Safety (DPS) supports and to express our gratitude for Chair Hornstein's leadership and continued investments in transportation efforts for a safer Minnesota.

I am deeply thankful that this bill provides many of the critical investments found in Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan's budget recommendations. This includes the resources needed for DPS to maintain current service levels and expand our administrative team to meet the needs of the agency and the people we serve across Minnesota.

Funding for the Minnesota State Patrol Flight Section is much needed. As you know, the State Patrol assists in search and rescue missions all over the state. In addition, new pilots will allow DPS to better utilize our current fleet of aircraft.

This bill's support for the Advisory Council on Traffic Safety is greatly appreciated. The council is critical to ensuring that all of the traffic safety initiatives contained in this important legislation lead to safer Minnesota roads.

The funding for the Office of State Safety Oversight will increase the resources dedicated to keeping people safe while they use the light rail system. The funding for the Office of Pipeline Safety for three staff dedicated to education, investigation, and enforcement of the state Call Before You Dig laws in Minnesota Statute Chapter 216D is badly needed and will help prevent future accidents.

I appreciate the funding for Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) to maintain staff at exam stations and to open new vehicle inspection sites. The \$17 million invested in DVS over the biennium will allow us to continue our current services and expanded services. DVS completed more road exams over calendar year 2022 than ever before with this level of funding. I will continue to work with you on funding options to avoid the fiscal cliff this method of funding creates and ensure DVS can provide the services the public deserves in a timely fashion. This bill will also help move DVS into the future by allowing driver's licenses to be renewed online every other renewal cycle.

We know there is more work to be done with DVS and our business partners, deputy registrars, and driver's license agents. We strongly believe deputy registrars should be paid for the work they do and this bill will generate over \$13.5 million each year for that work. We do

- 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

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have concerns with non-state employees getting paid for work completed entirely by state employees. This bill provides \$6 million over the biennium to deputy registrars for work completed entirely by state employees. We look forward to continuing discussions on how best to ensure the financial viability of deputy registrars while providing the best possible service to Minnesotans without risking the financial viability of the DVS special revenue accounts.

DPS supports this bill. Thank you to Chair Hornstein, Vice Chair Tabke, lead Petersburg, members of the House Transportation Committee, and all House staff who have worked on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Jacobson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Bob Jacobson
Commissioner Department of Public Safety