

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 172

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**Version:** Delete everything amendment

**Authors:** Mares and Holsten

**Subject:** City housing assistance for police officers, firefighters, and paramedics

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This bill would give a home rule charter or statutory city authority to provide housing assistance in the city for one or more police officers, firefighters, or paramedics for the purposes of attracting and retaining personnel to provide timely public safety services. Legislation is necessary to allow cities to do this, based upon a February 2001 opinion by the state Attorney General reaffirming a 1952 opinion by that office which held that the city of Newport did not have the specific authority to provide living quarters for its police chief unless the legislature had granted such specific authority, even though providing such housing "would be desirable as well as beneficial."