

MINNESOTA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

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February 25, 2025

Assistant Majority Leader Andrew Myers
Minnesota House of Representatives
State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Myers,

On behalf of the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association (MSA), I want to express our appreciation for your commitment to public safety and for your attention to House File 0796. As legislators make decisions that directly impact communities across Minnesota, it is crucial to have a firsthand understanding of the challenges and responsibilities faced by law enforcement.

Participating in a ride along with a local sheriff's office is more than just an opportunity to engage with the community—it sends a clear message to law enforcement professionals that their service is valued and honored. Sheriffs across Minnesota welcome the chance to provide legislators with insight into the complexities of modern law enforcement, from responding to emergencies to managing public safety operations at the county level.

While a ride-along in patrol operations provides valuable insight, legislators should have the opportunity to engage firsthand in the full range of a sheriff's responsibilities. Minnesota sheriffs manage county jails, where they oversee the care of an at-risk population, including individuals with complex medical and mental health needs. They coordinate emergency communications through public safety answering points (PSAPs), ensuring 911 services function effectively. Additionally, sheriffs lead water patrol and rescue operations, provide courthouse security, serve civil processes, and fulfill numerous statutory duties that directly impact public safety. By actively participating in these critical functions—whether inside a jail, in a dispatch center, or alongside a water patrol unit—legislators can gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and demands faced by sheriff's offices statewide.

We encourage all legislators to participate in ride-alongs to gain a deeper understanding of these critical duties and the challenges law enforcement faces. Thank you for your time and consideration, and for your ongoing support of public safety in Minnesota.

Sincerely,



Minnesota Sheriffs' Association
Government Affairs Specialist



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Phone: 651.291.1119 Website: www.MPPOA.com

DATE: February 25, 2025

TO: State Government Finance and Policy Committee Chair, Representative Jim Nash
DFL Lead Representative Ginny Klevorn
Representative Andrew Myers

RE: Support of House File 796 (Myers): Members of public safety policy and finance committees required to participate in ride alongs with law enforcement or fire departments, and adoption of legislative rules required.

Dear Representatives:

The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association (MPPOA) is the largest association representing public safety professionals in the State of Minnesota.

MPPOA supports House File 796 (Myers): Members of public safety policy and finance committees required to participate in ride alongs with law enforcement or fire departments, and adoption of legislative rules required.

Legislators, particularly those that sit on public safety committees, are tasked with understanding and making key policy decisions that affect law enforcement and public safety. Participating in a ride along (by accompanying an officer, most likely in the passenger seat and observing work) provides first-hand experience and a deeper understanding of law enforcement and patrol work. It is one of the ways to help learn and understand the incredible effort and risks law enforcement officers take, the resources and support they need, and how to help meet public safety needs for departments and communities.

We'd like to acknowledge Representative Myers and co-authors Schwartz, Witte, and Norris, for authoring and supporting this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Peters", with a long, sweeping underline.

Brian Peters
Executive Director
Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association



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