

MINNESOTA DUTY DISABILITY ASSOCIATION



Minnesota Duty Disabled Association requests you **VOTE NO on HF1234/SF1959**
Don't penalize **injured** First Responders that are **no longer able** to work as a First Responders.

- **Injury and Disability are not Choices** -PERA shamefully views this as a choice, which is **incorrect and disrespectful**. Physically and Mentally disabled members were **FORCED** to retire and are medically injured beyond the point of returning to work as a First Responder.
- **Right to Re-employment** - **We oppose the offsets in this bill**. PERA has monetary offsets currently in place that we agreed to, and still agree with if we can find re-employment. This bill punitively changes those offsets to **unlivable wages, 50% of wages will go to PERA**.
- **A Pension is a Promise** - **We oppose the reapplication language in this bill**. WE paid into our pension for this benefit, not the taxpayers. Re-application language in the bill shifts the burden of proof to the applicant. PERA indicates this benefit is not indefinite requiring reapplication by those who already completed the exhaustive process.
- **Scapegoating and Poor Accounting** - PERA blames disabled first responders for newfound worries about the fund, while acknowledging that the proposed offsets won't improve the fund. PERA is currently 93.% funded per PERA. Up from 92% funded in 2021.
- **Discriminatory** - The only retirement recipients being *negatively targeted* by PERA are duty disabled. All others are receiving an *increase* in benefits. This is **DISCRIMINATION**.
- **Representation** - WHY are Duty Disabled Officers not represented/stakeholders in this bill? Confidential PERA documents were withheld from those they would impact.
- **Retroactive** - **We oppose the language in the bill that makes this retroactive**. PERA is breaking their promise made to its members. ALL have paid into PERA for a retirement benefit and PERA is changing the rules for Duty Disabled *only* and making it retroactive. Retroactive law change? Is that legal?
- **Recruitment and Retention** - There are over 1000+ vacancies for First Responders in the state of MN. While MN is considering lowering protections for first responders, other states are working to raise theirs. Voting yes on this bill will increase First Responder Vacancies.

Please **VOTE NO** as this bill is detrimental to all First Responders; past, present and future.
It is short-sighted and discriminates against Veteran First Responders that gave or plan to give their all to help others and suffer life-long injuries because of their dedication.