Work Group on Duty Disability and the Public Safety Officer's Benefit Account

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Enabling legislation and background

Purpose of work group

- Developing recommendations and proposed legislation to:

  (1) reform duty disability for members of the police and fire plan; and

  (2) ensure that members of the police and fire plan who become duty disabled or retire have access to affordable health insurance coverage until Medicare eligibility.

- Items the work group is required to study include:
  - Benefit adequacy (retirement, medical, and other benefits)
  - Funding of public safety officer's benefit account
  - Retiree health insurance coverage
  - Duty disability—definition, assessment, process
  - Psychological treatment

Work group members

- The work group includes representatives from:
  - Labor Organizations
    - Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association
    - Minnesota Professional Fire Fighters Association
    - Law Enforcement Labor Services
  - Local Government
    - League of Minnesota Cities
    - Association of Minnesota Counties
    - Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities
    - Minnesota Inter-County Association

Work group members, cont.

- Public Safety Leadership
  - Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association
  - Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association
  - Minnesota Sheriffs' Association
- State Agencies
  - Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA)
  - Public Safety (DPS)
  - Management and Budget (MMB)
  - DLI
- Legislature
  - Representatives Terry Stier (Co-chair) and Pete Johnson
  - Senators Judy Seeberger and Bill Lieske

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Work group meetings

Meeting background

- The work group has been meeting since the end of June; last week marked the 14th meeting
  - Meetings have included presentations from work group members and outside entities
- The work group has also split into subcommittees
  - Currently two subcommittees (originally three):
    1. Funding Health Insurance Coverage for Duty Disabled Members and Retirees (Led by Co-chair Rep. Stier)
    2. Duty Disability Reform (Led by Co-chair Shane Myre, MPPOA)
       - DLI is part of Subcommittee 2.

Overview of meetings to-date

- Members of the work group have provided background information on PTSD claims and process, including:
  - DLI (July 9th meeting)
  - PERA
  - DPS
  - MMB
  - League of Minnesota Cities (and League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust)
- The work group has also heard presentations from the following:
  - Minnesota Department of Veteran's Affairs (on Disability schedules and benefits)
  - Iowa Municipal Fire and Police Retirement and Public Employees Retirement
  - Colorado and Wisconsin Disability Plans
  - MNFire

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Proposed changes/legislation

Status of proposed legislation

- As of now, the work group is still discussing potential changes to address the statutory mandates
- However, the work group and subcommittees have pointed to recommendations in the PTSD report as potential changes they would like to see in workers' compensation
  - The main change that the group has mentioned has been the time for accepting/denying a PTSD claim
- The work group's goal is to have recommendations and a proposed bill ready for the legislature before the start of the next session
  - The Co-chairs will likely present to the WCAC in December

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Thank You!