



# Association of Minnesota Counties

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May 1, 2023

Senator Ron Latz  
Senator Clare Oumou Verbeten  
Senator Sandra Pappas  
Senator Judy Seeberger  
Senator Bonnie Westlin

Representative Kelly Moller  
Representative Sandra Feist  
Representative Jamie Becker-Finn  
Representative Cedrick Frazier  
Representative Brion Curran

Dear Members of the Conference Committee on S.F. 2909/H.F. 2890:

**On behalf of the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), a voluntary association representing all 87 counties, we want to thank you for your work on the Judiciary and Public Safety omnibus bill.** We appreciate the opportunity to outline our perspective on how various proposals from both the Senate and House versions of S.F. 2909/H.F. 2890 impact county government and the people we serve.

### **AMC 2023 Public Safety Priorities**

- **Community Supervision Funding and Formula Change** – According to the report from The Council of State Governments on Justice Reinvestment in Minnesota, the inadequate and inequitable community supervision funding in Minnesota has led to poor outcomes, increased revocations, and has exacerbated racial and geographic disparities.
  - **A new probation formula must pass this year. \$56.67 million is the amount needed to fully fund the probation formula.** Amounts less than that will require proration to lower each county's amount to less than full funding based on an objective caseload, workload analysis. The DOC's recommended appropriation of \$43 million is currently the amount in the committee spreadsheet.
  - **The formula must include a base** which was an agreed upon principle (DOC, MACCAC, MACPO) since 2022.
  - **The budget cannot be balanced by reducing the community supervision funding.** Cutting community supervision funding (specifically for counties) at the end of session is why the system is underfunded so drastically and we must change it this year.
  - **AMC asks that the Committee and legislative leadership to finally address the critical funding gap for community supervision statewide (DOC, CCA, CPO), and ensure the same situation does not repeat itself in the future by passing the funding policy language in House Article 19 and Senate Article 12 and expanding the committee target to include full funding.**
- **Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER) Funding** – AMC supports the \$9.945 million grant program created in *Senate Article 1, sec. 11, subd. 8, clause (e)* (funded at \$2 million in the House) to reimburse local governments for ARMER radios and other equipment. This provision is desperately need as thousands of emergency radios throughout the state are outdated and close to

being unusable. Emergency response radios generally cost more than \$5,000 each making it an untenable cost for many counties and small EMS/Fire stations. **AMC asks the Committee to support the Senate language.**

### Other Policy and Finance Provisions

- **Juvenile Justice and Diversion Programs** – AMC supports expanded prevention and early interventions efforts that will reduce contact with the criminal justice system. We appreciate the emphasis in both the Senate and House proposals for intervention services, mental health services and wellness support for juveniles and families, the crossover and dual status youth model grant program.
- **Next Generation 9-1-1 Transition Grants** - Funding the \$7 million grants in both versions of the bill is a critical first step in the process of transitioning the emergency network from aging, legacy systems to next generation technology that will ensure Minnesotans continue to have reliable 9-1-1 service. Counties need access to resources for planning, cybersecurity, GIS work, and more to ensure implementation of Next Generation 9-1-1 is a success.
- **Local Government Emergency Management Grants** – AMC appreciates the acknowledgement by both bodies of the importance of the work of local government emergency managers and the need for dedicated predictable state funding. We ask the Committee to support the House proposal of \$2 million for grants to emergency management departments in the 87 counties, 11 federally recognized tribes, and four cities of the first class, for planning and preparedness activities.

### Area of Concern

- **Elimination of Local Supervision Fees without Replacement Funding**– While we agree that Minnesota should strive to remove community supervision fees charged to clients, Neither the Senate nor House version of S.F. 2909 fund this decrease in revenue for counties. If fees are eliminated without adequate funding in the aforementioned community supervision formula to replace them, it will negate the gains from the formula appropriation, create several counties who will actually lose money compared to last year, and only exacerbate counties increasing concern about the important state/county partnership in community supervision.

The Association of Minnesota Counties sincerely appreciates your consideration of these perspectives. Should you have any questions about the information provided above, please do not hesitate to reach out to your local county commissioners or AMC policy analyst Carli Stark at [cstark@mncounties.org](mailto:cstark@mncounties.org) or 651-789-4335.

Sincerely,



Carli Stark  
Public Safety Policy Analyst  
Association of Minnesota Counties

CC: Nicole Kaplan, Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee Administrator  
Ellen McDaniel, House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee Administrator  
Anna Borgerding, House Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee Administrator