

Dakota County Mandate Recommendation

Health Insurance for Disabled Peace Officers			
Mandate	Statute	Rule	Comment
Either Eliminate or Totally State-Fund Continued Health Insurance for Disabled Peace Officers	299A.465		Employers are required to pay the employer share of disabled peace officers' and their dependents' health insurance until the peace officer reaches age 65 even if the officer gains other employment and health insurance coverage. Since this benefit was created in the late 1990s, there has been a surge in disability retirements. In part because of this, both employer and employee contribution rates to the PERA Police and Fire pension plan are increasing over 50%. When this benefit was originally enacted, it was predicated on the state paying 100% of its costs. The state has not kept its part of that bargain for several years. If the state cannot meet that obligation, the mandated payment by the employer should be eliminated.