

## Legislative Update February 26, 2011

Below is a link to a bill that will repeal a number of state aids to cities and counties and the Highway patrol. <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bin/bldbill.php?bill=H0398.0.html&session=ls87>

Of vital concern to us is the repeal of all the state aids the state gives to cities, counties and state police officers for pensions. The relevant sections of the repealer are those in Chapter 69 and 423A and 424A.

This means the 2% tax from auto and fire insurance premiums dedicated to police and fire pensions would be ended. This will either require the City to levy for the required contribution OR if the council has not approved the benefit, the pension benefit must be lowered.

The bill number is HF 398 and will be heard Wednesday morning (March 2) at 8:15 in Room 10 of the State Office building. If your able to attend this hearing, please make every effort to do so. Kirk will forward you the list of the members on the committee.

Rep. Lenczewski is carrying the bill. This is a very, very serious matter. In this budget crisis, the unimaginable is now very thinkable. Anything can happen. These aid programs are the very backbone of our pension system. Without them, we easily could be an Illinois or New Jersey.

The following is a link to the House Property and Local Tax Division membership and contact information: Please open up link (click or paste into your browser) and if your legislator is on this list, contact them prior to the hearing on Wednesday.

<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/comm/committeemembers.asp?comm=87022>

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"Do or do not, there is no try." - Yoda