

## **House File 2004 (Lesch)**

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### **Unredacted information provided to parties in closed cases under circumstances**

- This technical bill would amend the Minnesota Human Rights Act (Minn. Stat. 363A.35 Subd. 3) to allow MDHR to provide unredacted information to the parties of a closed case, when the parties subsequently file an action in district court.
  - Individuals can withdraw a case with the Department and file in district court during the process if they choose.
  - Charging parties have the option to file in district court after the Department has reached a determination as well. This is most common in employment cases.
- The current law requires the Department to redact the information case parties provided to the Department prior to sending the information back to the case parties.
  - In court, the former charging party and the respondent then requests and receives redacted versions of those same documents.
  - The redactions are different for each party, but the effect is each party can compare each version and it essentially becomes an unredacted version of the same documents.
- This proposal is limited to parties accessing data for the case they were involved in when the charging party files in district court. This bill does not change requirements for requests made by the media or general public.
- This bill would simplify and expedite providing data to case parties in this specific situation. This would help speed getting documents to case parties by eliminating the need for redaction, saving staff time and simplifying workflow.
- This proposal has no fiscal impact.

Please contact Scott Beutel, Department of Human Rights, Public Policy Director, at (651) 539-1104 or [scott.beutel@state.mn.us](mailto:scott.beutel@state.mn.us) with questions.