

**Minnesota Coalition on Government Information (MNCOGI)
Written Testimony of Matt Ehling, MNCOGI board member
March 3, 2023**

Dear Chair Klevorn, Rep. Bahner, Rep. Elkins, Rep. Nash, and members of the House State and Local Government Finance and Policy Committee,

The Minnesota Coalition on Government Information writes to recommend a change to HF 1710, a bill that would modify Minn. Stat. 3.888 to — among other things — define “closed meeting records” of the Legislative Commission on Cybersecurity (the “Commission”).

Under the existing text of HF 1710, the bill would set forth a definition for “closed meeting records” that would encompass all “minutes, documents, and member voting records” of the Commission.

While the Commission will, per its enabling legislation, discuss security-sensitive matters in the course of its duties, the withholding of any Commission records should only extend to documents or recordings that would qualify for “security information” status under Minn. Stat. § 13.37 subd. 1(a). Minutes that do not contain security information, as well as voting records, should not be made inaccessible to the public for the eight to twenty year time-frame set forth in the bill.

MNCOGI recommends that the definition of “closed meeting records” in the bill be modified to narrow its scope solely to security-related information. MNCOGI is willing to discuss such options with Representatives Bahner, Elkins, and Nash, as well as other stakeholders as this bill moves further through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

Matt Ehling
MNCOGI board member