



Association of Minnesota Counties

125 Charles Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55103-2108 | www.mncounties.org

March 23, 2026

Re: H.F. 4295 – County authorized to approve up to 24 chickens on any lot by ordinance.

Chair Quam, Chair Freiberg, and members of the House Elections Finance and Government Operations Committee:

On behalf of the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), the statewide, nonpartisan membership organization representing all of Minnesota's 87 counties, I write in support of HF4295. This bill amends Minnesota Statutes § 394.25, subdivision 3c, to grant counties authority to adopt ordinances allowing up to 24 chickens on any lot.

AMC advocates for policies that preserve and enhance local control, enabling counties to make land-use decisions to meet the needs, values, and circumstances of their communities. There is growing interest in sustainable, home-based food production, including raising backyard chickens for fresh eggs. Small-scale chicken keeping is of minimal environmental risk.

Under this proposal, feedlots setbacks remain intact for larger operations while providing a pathway for low-impact, residential-scale activities. Counties are well positioned to balance resident requests with neighbor concerns, property rights, and environmental stewardship.

AMC supports passage of HF4295 to empower counties to meet evolving community priorities in a practical, flexible manner. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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