



February 26, 2024

Chair Fischer and Members of the House Human Services Policy Committee:

The League of Minnesota Cities appreciates the opportunity to provide comments outlining concerns about HF 3938 (Curran), as amended by the A1 author's amendment, that would exempt group homes governed by Minn. Stat. § 245A.02, subd. 14(b) from municipal rental licensing.

Rental licensing is an important tool to ensure that habitability and livability standards are met for a city's residents, including residents living in group homes licensed under Minn. Stat. § 245A.02, subd. 14(b). Cities are generally the closest unit of government to the customer. Through rental licensure cities are often able to respond more quickly to address issues and concerns from residents related to the livability, safety, and conditions of their housing that may arise throughout the course of the year, beyond a yearly inspection by the licensing agency or county.

Group homes are a critical component of overall housing stock in our communities, and cities have a strong interest in safeguarding the health, safety, and welfare of their residents across all ranges of housing. We look forward to working with Representative Curran and other legislators and stakeholders to find an approach that will offer residents an avenue to address the conditions of their housing while ensuring that group homes can continue to serve residents in their communities of choice.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brooke Bordson', written in a cursive style.

Brooke Bordson
League of Minnesota Cities

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Lightfoot', written in a cursive style.

Daniel Lightfoot
League of Minnesota Cities



February 23, 2024

Dear Chair Fischer and Members of the House Human Services Policy Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HF 3938 – Curran, that would exempt group homes governed by Minnesota Statutes § 245A.02, subdivision 14(b) from municipal rental licensing.

Residential group homes are an important component of a community’s housing stock. Municipal officials recognize and support the services that residential programs provide and are responsible for safeguarding the health, safety, and welfare of residents in group homes as well as other types of housing.

Municipal residential licensing ensures livability and safety standards for residents and allows a city to promptly respond and address conditions that may present health and safety concerns. As such, Metro Cities is concerned with language in the bill that would exempt certain residential programs from local regulations for residential property that are designed and intended to protect the safety of residents and the community.

We look forward to working with the author and other stakeholders on a bill that can meet the needs of group homes and the residents they serve.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael Lund'.

Mike Lund
Government Relations Specialist
Metro Cities