



MICA MINNESOTA
INTER-COUNTY ASSOCIATION



March 15, 2022

Rep. Frank Hornstein
Minnesota State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Hornstein,

Thank you for your attention to the Driver & Vehicle Services Independent Expert Review. As you are aware, license bureaus operated by counties and cities make up nearly half of the deputy registrars providing licensing services to Minnesota's residents on behalf of the state of Minnesota.

The Minnesota Association of County Officers (MACO), Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), Minnesota Inter County Association (MICA), and League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) recognize the high-quality work from Dr. King's team and generally support the findings of the report.

Most of the findings confirm that compensation for the shift in labor for services from DVS to local service providers has not been matched by a shift in fee allocations leaving public and private Deputy Registrar offices in a position where revenues are less than expenses. Counties and cities have the ability to make up for their losses through their levies, but historical intent has been for these services to be self-financing and growing tax levy subsidies raises the question by members of county boards and city councils as to whether they can sustain these losses or discontinue providing these services.

We especially support the following findings:

- At least 70% of online and mail-in motor vehicle (MV) transaction filing fees captured by DVS should be shared back to private and public deputies.
- Increase license filing fees from \$8 to \$16 for initial Enhanced or Real ID driver licenses to address losses specific to driver license transactions.
- Implement an appeals process for reinstating any staff member's revoked data access to take into consideration legitimate contributing factors that may have led to revocation of access.
- Establish a background check system for new hires that is more efficient and results in a drastic reduction in turnaround time.

While we find much agreement with the Report, we share many of the same concerns as the Minnesota's privately operated Deputy Registrars.

- Deputy Registrars should not be mandated to become full-service driver license agents if they aren't already, especially if it's tied to any DVS motor vehicle online transaction revenue sharing.
- A non-compliant DL renewal cycle of 8 years should be optional for customers rather than mandated.



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We appreciate the amount of time and care that Dr. King's team put into creating this Report and look forward to continuing to work with you, the Deputy Registrar's Associations, and other legislators to implement the Report's findings while resolving the issues of concerns to public and private agents.

Sincerely yours,

Julie Hanson
Scott County Property & Customer Service Manager, Deputy 135
Co-chair, Minnesota Association of County Officials Legislative Committee

Matt Massman, Executive Director
Minnesota Inter-County Association
651-222-8737 (office)
763-458-1681 (cell)

Emily Murray
Transportation & Infrastructure Policy Analyst
Association of Minnesota Counties
Office Phone: 651-789-4339
Cell Phone: 952-994-8816
emurray@mncounties.org

Assistant Intergovernmental Relations Director
League of Minnesota Cities
651-281-1263
afinn@lmc.org