



March 11, 2025

**Re: HF 1917 - Definition of public official in a city or county modified**

**Chair Scott and members of the House Judiciary Finance and Civil Law committee:**

The League of Minnesota Cities appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on HF 1917 which proposes amendments to the definition of a city or county official under the Minnesota Data Practices Act (MGDPA). On behalf of our 841 member cities, we believe this bill would have significant consequences for small cities across Minnesota. This bill eliminates the 7,500-population threshold, affecting 732 cities that are currently exempt from this section.

Minn. Stat. § 13.43 classifies various types of personnel data under the MGDPA. Subdivision 2(e) relates specifically to the classification of data specific data on public officials following a completed investigation into complaints or charges against them that resulted in discipline, resignation, or termination. At present, this provision defines a public official in a city as:

- The top three highest paid employees in cities over 15,000 in population; and
- Managers, chiefs, heads or directors, and any equivalent position in cities over 7,500 in population.

It's challenging to estimate the volume of data this change would generate for each city, but the aggregate impact would be significant. This bill would strain cities' already limited resources and divert attention from other critical services that cities provide to their communities.

Thank you for your consideration of the League's concerns with the language in HF 1917. We look forward to working with Representative Anderson as this bill progresses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tori Kee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Intergovernmental Relations Representative & Attorney  
League of Minnesota Cities