



March 18, 2025

Re: Support for HF 1836 – State government; changes made to data practices.

Chair Scott and Members of the House Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee:

The League of Minnesota Cities appreciates Representatives Klevorn, Howard, and Bahner for bringing this bill. On behalf of our 841 member cities, we support the proposed amendment to Minn. Stat. §13.04, subd. 4, which aims to address the administrative and financial burdens experienced by local governments and taxpayers when responding to data accuracy challenges under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (MGDPA).

The 2014 *Schwanke v. Minnesota Department of Administration* ruling clarified that while subjective judgments in performance evaluations cannot be challenged under the MGDPA, the data supporting those judgments can still be subject to appeal. However, the absence of any limitation on when such challenges can be brought places significant strain on public resources. Additionally, under current law, even invalid challenges to subjective opinions require resolution through contested case proceedings, further delaying outcomes.

We support the proposed changes, which would:

- Allow the Commissioner of Administration to dismiss an appeal if a final decision has already been issued on the same data and parties.
- Enable responsible authorities to submit private data to the commissioner during the appeal process to facilitate more informed determinations.

These amendments strike a necessary balance—ensuring the rights of data subjects to challenge inaccuracies while alleviating unnecessary administrative and financial burdens on local governments and taxpayers. By expediting the appeals process, these changes will help protect public resources while maintaining accountability and fairness.

We urge you to support HF 1836 and join us in providing the tools necessary to address this critical and growing issue.

Sincerely,

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

Intergovernmental Relations Representative
League of Minnesota Cities