



Minnesota Inter-County Association

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Sent Via Email

April 6, 2021

Representative Mike Nelson, Chair
House State Government Finance and Elections
585 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Nelson and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HF1952, as proposed to be amended as the 2021 House Omnibus State Government Finance and Elections budget and policy bill.

The Minnesota Inter-County Association (MICA) represents fifteen of our states largest and fastest growing counties, including eleven Greater Minnesota and four suburban counties. While we are continuing to review the HF1952 language, we do want to express our full support for Article 6, Section 23 of the DE2 amendment, repealing the only state imposed local compensation limit law in the nation.

Repeal of 43A.17, subd. 9 would ensure local control and accountability over the pay of the staff hired, managed, retained, and promoted by local elected officials. Current law confounds the fundamental link that otherwise exists for all private/public employers between hiring, retention, pay, and performance management. The existing waiver request process further diminishes accountability by shifting compensation decisions away from elected officials, and to a state agency without direct insight into the labor market pressures or individual employee capacities that are most relevant to such decisions.

We support the language of HF1952 that would restore local control over these important local decisions, while streamlining state-local government operations in the process.

Sincerely,

Matt Massman, Executive Director
Minnesota Inter-County Association