

**Subject** State government: reverse-location and reverse-keyword data

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## Overview

This bill would prohibit a Minnesota government entity from requesting or requiring that a third party—like a technology company or telecommunication service provider—use certain *methods* to search for and disclose people’s digital information. The prohibited methods are: (1) searches for information about all the electronic devices in a particular area at a given time (a “reverse-location” search); and (2) searches for information about all people who searched for a certain phrase online (a “reverse-keyword” search). The bill prohibits a government entity from making a request for these kinds of searches, seeking a court order or a warrant to compel these kinds of searches, or using any data derived from these kinds of searches, except in certain emergency situations. If a government entity obtains a person’s information using these kinds of searches, the bill allows that person to sue the government entity.

The Legislative Commission on Data Practices heard testimony on this bill at its January 22, 2026, meeting.

## Summary

Section	Description
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1	<b>Reverse-location and reverse-keyword data.</b>
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Creates a new section of statute prohibiting Minnesota government entities from accessing reverse-location and reverse-keyword data

**Subd. 1. Definitions.** Defines key terms. “Government entity” is coextensive with the definition in the Government Data Practices Act. Distinguishes a “request” from a “court order” with regard to reverse-keyword data and reverse-location data, and defines those terms. Defines “sudden emergency.”

**Subd. 2. Prohibition on requests.** Prohibits a government entity from: seeking a reverse-location or reverse-keyword court order; making a reverse-location or reverse-keyword request; honoring or assisting with such orders and requests; or

Section	Description
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using data obtained through those means. Prohibits courts from: issuing reverse-location or reverse-keyword court orders; or making a government entity's failure to comply with such an order or request the basis of contempt-of-court.

**Subd. 3. Evidence derived from data.** Prohibits evidence obtained in violation of subdivision 2 from being used as evidence in any court proceeding, except to establish a government entity's violation of this section.

**Subd. 4. Civil action.** Requires a government entity to notify any person whose name or identifying information is obtained by the government entity in violation of this section. Authorizes the person to bring a civil action for the forms of relief listed.



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