

**Senate Civil Law and Data Practices Policy Committee
March 17, 2022**

**Minnesota Coalition on Government Information (MNCOGI)
Written testimony in support of amendment to SF 3487
Submitted by Matt Ehling, MNCOGI board member**

Dear Chair Matthews, Senator Limmer, and members of the Senate Civil Law and Data Practices Policy Committee,

The Minnesota Coalition on Government Information (MNCOGI) writes in support of the proposed amendment to SF 3487 (see amendment numbered SCS3487A-2). The amendment would modify the data provision found on lines 7.27-7.30 of the bill to conform to standard Chapter 13 practices governing criminal investigative data, which have been long-standing. Under current law, criminal investigative data is “confidential” until the end of the active investigation, and then it reverts to a “public” status (rather than a “private” status), unless another provision of law classifies the data.

The change provided in the amendment would ensure that the data elements at issue (see lines 7.20 -7.21) are treated in the same manner as all other criminal investigative data, while still providing privacy protections found in existing law.

For instance, the names of crime victims can already be withheld from inactive criminal investigative data upon request, per Minn. Stat. § 13.82 Subd. 17 (d). Likewise, if the release of address or telephone information poses risks related to “theft” or “improper use,” then such data can already be withheld as “security information” pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13.37 Subd. 1(a). (For background, financial account numbers can also be withheld as security information pursuant to the same section.)

Accordingly, MNCOGI supports the amendment to SF 3487, in order to conform its data classification provision to match existing law.

Sincerely,

Matt Ehling
MNCOGI board member