



## MINNESOTA GROCERS ASSOCIATION

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Chair Xiong and Members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee:

The Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA) thanks you for the opportunity to express our support for the proposed changes to the lottery background check requirements in SF1891 (Lang) that would bring clarity to the process of identifying which officers, directors, or owners of lottery retailers are required to undergo an FBI background check.

Minnesota has a unique culture of hundreds of hometown grocers and convenience stores, many of whom are independent, multi-generational, and locally owned. The MGA has been representing Minnesota's food industry for over 125 years and today totals over 300-member companies with over 1,300 locations statewide, which includes food producers, manufacturers, brokers, and wholesalers. Our industry provides over 150,000 jobs in the state.

The MGA believes that this bill will help simplify the regulatory landscape for retailers, making it easier to comply with the law while maintaining appropriate oversight of Minnesota Lottery operations. The changes proposed in SF1891 are a clear step toward supporting both the retail industry and the state's lottery system.

- **Clarification of Requirements:** The bill clearly outlines which individuals—officers, directors, or owners—who have oversight of Minnesota Lottery ticket sales will be required to complete an FBI background check. This will eliminate confusion and ensure compliance.
- **New Definition of "Responsible Lottery Officials":** By defining a specific class of individuals the bill ensures that only those with direct oversight of ticket sales are subject to background checks, making the process more focused and efficient.
- **Reduced Regulatory Burden:** This bill reduces the regulatory burden on retailers by defining who needs a background check. It ensures that individuals without direct involvement in lottery ticket sales are not unnecessarily subjected to background checks.
- **Targeted Background Checks:** By ensuring that background checks are conducted only on those authorized to oversee lottery ticket sales, the bill makes the process more efficient while protecting the integrity of Minnesota's lottery system.

We strongly encourage your support for SF1891 and look forward to working with you to help move this important legislation forward. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Steve Barthel  
Director of Government Relations  
Minnesota Grocers Association