



March 17, 2025

Re: Support for HF 286 – Federal Background Checks for Political Subdivision

Chair Latz and members of the Seante Judiciary and Public Safety Committee:

On behalf of our 841 member cities across the state, the League of Minnesota Cities appreciates the opportunity to express our support for HF 286, which authorizes cities and counties to conduct a background check that includes national databases for applications for a license that provide massage or that qualifies as an adult entertainment establishment under section 617.242, subdivision 1.

Then licensing of such establishments, local governments spend a great deal of time and resources conducting statewide background checks to ensure the legitimacy of such businesses and to identify those who have conducted illegal activity in such businesses in other cities.

However, many of these bad actors have run illegitimate businesses in other states and currently, local law enforcement lacks the ability to use federal criminal data bases to ensure those who have a history of illegal activity can be identified and the information used when cities decide to grant or deny a business license. We believe this change would create another important tool and in the toolbox for local law enforcement and licensing personnel to help support strong legitimate businesses and to keep bad actors from operating in their communities.

We are grateful to Sen. Howe for authoring the Senate companion of this bill and for helping to bring this needed legislation forward.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Pierre Willette
Senior Intergovernmental Relations Representative
League of Minnesota Cities