



Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA)
Executive Director Jeff Potts
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Re: MCPA Supports HF 286

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

On behalf of more than 300 police chiefs in our state, the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) supports House File 286, a bill that will allow cities and counties to conduct nationwide criminal history checks on people seeking a license to operate certain businesses or people seeking employment for a position that would provide access to residential or business property.

Current Minnesota law only allows law enforcement agencies to conduct a statewide criminal history check on these individuals. A statewide criminal history check is not as comprehensive as a nationwide search. The inability for law enforcement to search nationwide sources can compromise public safety.

For example, in Lino Lakes, MN, the police department's statewide criminal history check failed to find a criminal conviction on an individual who applied for - and was granted - a therapeutic massage license. It was later determined through a criminal investigation that this individual was operating a human trafficking business. Through the course of the investigation, Lino Lakes police uncovered a previous arrest for prostitution that would have likely resulted in the city denying the license.

Lino Lakes police worked with staff from the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to develop language that could be added to MN Chapter 299C to address this issue. The draft language has been reviewed by the FBI Criminal Justice Information Law Unit and meets its rules and regulations.

House File 286 would simply give cities and counties the authority in specific situations to access more comprehensive criminal databases to preserve public safety. We strongly encourage you to support this bill.

Respectfully,

Jeff Potts
Executive Director
Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association