

## MEMORANDUM

To: Chair and Members, Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee  
From: Nate Reitz, MSGC Executive Director  
Date: March 18, 2025  
**Subject: Support for S.F. 1719, as introduced (Task Force on Mandatory Minimum Sentences)**

The Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission—a thirteen-member body comprising representatives of the judiciary, defense, prosecution, police, corrections, probation, rehabilitation services, academia, victims, former felons, and the public—has a standing mandate to “make recommendations to the legislature regarding changes in the Criminal Code, criminal procedures, and other aspects of sentencing.”

Pursuant to that mandate, all thirteen members of the Commission last week unanimously adopted a resolution in support of S.F. 1719—a bill to create a Task Force on Mandatory Minimum Sentences.

This task force will review Minnesota’s various mandatory-minimum penalties—which have grown in number and severity over several decades—in a data-driven and results-based manner, with input from the various stakeholders affected by these mandatory sentences. This is a worthwhile process, and the Commission is pleased to support the task force’s creation.