

SENATE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
March 26, 2025

Testimony on SF 2200
Prepared by Matt Ehling, board member
Minnesotans for Open Government

Dear Chair Latz, Sen. Pappas, and co-authors Sens. Westlin, Anderson, and Limmer,

Minnesotans for Open Government suggests the attached amendment to SF 2200, in order to ensure that the “name” data associated with government staff and volunteers who administer restorative justice programming continues to remain “public,” as it is today under existing law (see § 13.43, subd. 2). The amendment would also preserve the “public” status of “name” data related to other individual participants in this often court-ordered programming (since in court proceedings, such individuals will have already been publicly identified).

The attached amendment incorporates changes already adopted in House Civil Law to the companion bill HF 104 (section 1), as well as a data modification that we propose to that language (section 2). While our proposed amendment preserves the privilege language from HF 104 (as amended), it proposes a modification to the data classification language. The effect of the modification would be to keep the “name” data of participants (staff; volunteers; others) “public” while permitting a “private” classification for data that documents the contents of the discussions.

We have been in contact with Rep. Feist and the bill advocates about this proposed idea, and have notified the Senate authors as well.

I will be unable to attend the Senate Judiciary hearing on SF 2200 due to a work conflict, but am passing this information along so that the committee is informed about the status of these discussions.

Sincerely,

Matt Ehling
Board member,
Minnesotans for Open Government