Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement

445 Minnesota Street • Suite 1600 • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101

Phone: 651.201.7500 • Fax: 651.297.5259 • TTY: 651.282.6555 • age.dps.mn.gov

Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement

Bureau of Criminal Apprehension

Driver and Vehicle Services

Emergency Communication Networks

Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Minnesota State Patrol

Office of Communications

Office of Justice Programs

Office of Pipeline Safety

Office of Traffic Safety

State Fire Marshal

March 9, 2026

Chair Klein and Committee Members:

I am writing to note regulatory and public safety concerns with SF4256. I have met with the proponents of this bill and understand their desire to minimize regulatory requirements within an already regulated facility. This proposal removes these facilities from the regulatory structure established in Chapter 340A and eliminates the statutory basis for AGE inspection, investigation, and enforcement authority.

Creating a total exemption eliminates statutory standards governing intoxication, overservice, and age of consumption and does not address risks associated with residents who may be taking medications that interact with alcohol. The proposal contains no requirement that individuals serving alcohol be of legal age or trained in responsible alcohol service. It also removes the ability of AGE to investigate health concerns associated with alcohol service and storage.

Without a license holder, there is no clearly identifiable responsible party for violations involving alcohol service, storage, or distribution. The proposal also creates a regulatory gap between AGE and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), which regulates resident care but does not enforce liquor laws. In any licensed restaurant, MDH relies on AGE to handle the alcohol side of inspections and violations, and this bill would remove the regulatory experts from these facilities.

The exemption may have unintended consequences, including permitting unlicensed alcohol manufacturing or service to the public without oversight. It would also remove facilities from compliance with Minnesota Rules Chapter 7515 governing alcohol purchasing and distribution. Without licensure, facilities could not purchase alcohol from wholesalers and may instead obtain alcohol from retail outlets for redistribution, which could constitute unlawful resale and may have tax implications.

Although there are existing statutory licenses that would allow residents and guests to consume alcohol at these facilities, those options require compliance with Minnesota's established liquor regulatory framework. Alcohol is allowed in these facilities today in individual residences. These facilities could have alcohol in common areas during events by obtaining a consumption and display permit through AGE, an on sale license, or hiring someone with a catering permit for specific events. Any of these options would ensure public safety and regulatory standards for alcohol use are enforced with minimal additional regulatory requirements for the facilities. At a minimum, the proposal should require that all listed conditions be satisfied before the exemption applies, rather than allowing the exemption when any conditions.

We will continue working with Senator Hoffman and the bill proponents to find a solution that meets the needs of all interested parties. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jon Anglin
Director, DPS Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement Division