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State of Minnesota  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
NINETIETH SESSION

H. F. No. 2954

02/22/2018 Authored by Lesch  
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Civil Law and Data Practices Policy

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to open government; clarifying application of certain data practices laws  
1.3 to the legislative branch; amending Minnesota Statutes 2016, sections 13.02,  
1.4 subdivision 17; 13.03, subdivision 1.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 13.02, subdivision 17, is amended to read:

1.7 Subd. 17. **State agency.** "State agency" means the state, the University of Minnesota,  
1.8 and any office, officer, department, division, bureau, board, commission, authority, district  
1.9 or agency of the state. To the extent required by each body's individual rules of procedure  
1.10 or by joint rule, the senate, house of representatives, and joint offices and commissions in  
1.11 the legislative branch are a state agency for purposes of this chapter.

1.12 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 13.03, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

1.13 Subdivision 1. **Public data.** (a) All government data collected, created, received,  
1.14 maintained or disseminated by a government entity shall be public unless classified by  
1.15 statute, or temporary classification pursuant to section 13.06, or federal law, as nonpublic  
1.16 or protected nonpublic, or with respect to data on individuals, as private or confidential.  
1.17 The responsible authority in every government entity shall keep records containing  
1.18 government data in such an arrangement and condition as to make them easily accessible  
1.19 for convenient use. Photographic, photostatic, microphotographic, or microfilmed records  
1.20 shall be considered as accessible for convenient use regardless of the size of such records.

1.21 (b) In addition to the methods of classification authorized by paragraph (a), data collected,  
1.22 created, received, maintained, or disseminated by the senate, house of representatives, or a

- 2.1 joint office or commission of the legislature may be classified by the individual rules of
- 2.2 procedure adopted by each body of the legislature or by the legislature's joint rules.