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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

H. F. No. 1397

02/24/2025

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Public Safety Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to public safety; making the use of sign and release warrants optional;
1.3 amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 629.415, subdivision 5.

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

1.5 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 629.415, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

1.6 Subd. 5. **Sign and release warrant; law enforcement duties.** (a) When a peace officer
1.7 encounters a defendant who is the subject of a sign and release warrant, the officer ~~shall~~
1.8 must inform the defendant of the missed court appearance and may provide a new notice
1.9 that includes a time to appear.

1.10 (b) If a peace officer provides notice of the new time to appear ~~shall~~, the notice must be
1.11 made in writing and must include the court file number or the warrant number. The defendant
1.12 may be asked to sign a form acknowledging receipt of the notice. A defendant may not be
1.13 required to sign the acknowledgment, but the peace officer or other employee may indicate
1.14 that a notice was given and that the defendant refused to sign.

1.15 (c) After providing the notice, the peace officer shall release the defendant at the scene.

1.16 (d) As soon as practicable after providing the notice, the peace officer shall:

1.17 (1) inactivate the warrant or direct the appropriate office or department to inactivate the
1.18 warrant; and

1.19 (2) submit a form or other notification that can be filed in the court's electronic filing
1.20 system that includes the court case number, updates the defendant's personal contact
1.21 information, and indicates that the defendant received notice of the new time to appear.

2.1 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.