Minnesota Bill Tracker Act

A Citizen-Powered Legislative Transparency & Accountability System

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Act is to create a public, searchable, real-time "Bill Tracker" platform and mobile application that allows any person to view, follow, and understand proposed legislation, amendments, and votes in Minnesota—so citizens can see what is being worked on, who is working on it, what changed, who voted which way, and what became law.

Fraud and bad policy thrive in darkness. This system makes government operate in the light.

II. Creation of the System

Section 1. Establishment
The State of Minnesota shall create and maintain a public digital platform known as the Minnesota Bill Tracker (MBT), accessible through:
1. A public website; and
2. A mobile application.

Section 2. Core Rule
Any bill, amendment, proposal language, revision, vote, and stage movement must be posted to the MBT system and kept permanently searchable.

III. Bill Posting Requirements

Section 1. Bills Must Be Posted Early
Any bill, resolution, amendment, or draft proposal being worked on by state legislators, the Governor's office, or state agencies acting on behalf of elected officials shall be uploaded to MBT even if raw or unfinished once official drafting has begun.

Section 2. Bill Ownership & Contributors
Every bill entry must show primary author(s), co-author(s), assigned committee(s) and staff, political party affiliation of each author/co-author, and district or jurisdiction represented.

IV. Mandatory Change Tracking

Section 1. Full Version History
MBT must display the full history of every bill, including all versions, date/time of each update, who made the update (name and role), and a side-by-side comparison showing exactly what changed.

Section 2. Deadline to Post Updates
Any change—even one word—must be uploaded by end of business day on the day the change is made.

Section 3. Single Word Rule
MBT shall include notice that single-word changes can alter meaning (e.g., “may” to “must”), and therefore every change must be visible.

V. Voting Transparency

Section 1. Vote Records
When any vote occurs, MBT must display who voted Yes, who voted No, who was Absent/Excused, party affiliation, and district/jurisdiction.

Section 2. Search by Person
MBT must allow users to search any official by name and view bills they authored, co-authored, voted for, voted against, or were absent for.

VI. Bill Status Colors and Stage Tracking

MBT shall display clear color-coded status for every bill:
Orange = Passed the House
Yellow = Passed the Senate
Green = Signed into law
Red = Failed (but remains permanently visible)

A timeline shall show all legislative stages from introduction to final action.

VII. Citizen Accounts, Following, and Notifications

Minnesota residents may create verified accounts using a Minnesota driver’s license/ID or approved school ID.

Verified residents may follow bills and officials and receive notifications when bills are updated, changed in stage, voted on, or newly proposed.

Out-of-state users may register to follow but may not comment or react.

VIII. Citizen Reactions and Comments

Verified Minnesota residents may react to bills with approved emojis.

Residents are limited to five comments per month, each comment limited to four sentences and no more than 40 words.

IX. Public Analytics Dashboard

MBT shall display public analytics including total views, reactions, comment counts, and district-based engagement maps.

Demographic data (age range, party, gender, district) shall be displayed only in aggregated form to protect privacy.

X. Official Contact Requirements

All covered officials must maintain a profile including photo, name, party affiliation, district/jurisdiction, official phone number, and official email.

All officials must acknowledge receipt of emails submitted through MBT. Profiles must disclose whether responses are from the official or staff.

XI. Download and Print Rights

Every bill and every version must be downloadable, printable, accessible in draft form, and permanently archived after passage or failure.

XII. Search and Filtering Tools

MBT must support keyword searches by bill name/number, topic, status, author, committee, vote outcome, and currently active proposals.

XIII. Enforcement and Compliance

Periodic audits shall ensure compliance with posting deadlines and transparency standards.

Failure to comply may result in public compliance notices, administrative penalties, or referral for investigation.

XIV. Implementation Timeline

An MVP version shall be launched within 12 months of enactment.

Full platform functionality shall be implemented within 24 months.

XV. Statement of Transparency

This Bill Tracker ensures Minnesotans can see what is on the docket, what is changing, who changed it, how representatives voted, and what became law.

Transparency restores trust. Sunlight prevents corruption.