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State of Minnesota  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**EIGHTY-FIFTH  
SESSION**

**HOUSE FILE No. 2787**

February 12, 2008

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations, Reform, Technology and Elections

February 14, 2008

By motion, recalled and re-referred to the Committee on Public Safety and Civil Justice

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to the interpretation of statutes; providing that certain private actions  
1.3 are in the public interest and benefit the public; amending Minnesota Statutes  
1.4 2006, section 645.17.

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

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 645.17, is amended to read:

1.7 **645.17 PRESUMPTIONS IN ASCERTAINING LEGISLATIVE INTENT.**

1.8 (a) In ascertaining the intention of the legislature the courts may be guided by the  
1.9 following presumptions:

1.10 (1) the legislature does not intend a result that is absurd, impossible of execution, or  
1.11 unreasonable;

1.12 (2) the legislature intends the entire statute to be effective and certain;

1.13 (3) the legislature does not intend to violate the Constitution of the United States  
1.14 or of this state;

1.15 (4) when a court of last resort has construed the language of a law, the legislature in  
1.16 subsequent laws on the same subject matter intends the same construction to be placed  
1.17 upon such language; and

1.18 (5) the legislature intends to favor the public interest as against any private interest.

1.19 (b) A private action on behalf of one or more persons alleging any violation of a  
1.20 law of this state respecting unfair, discriminatory, or other unlawful practices in business,  
1.21 commerce, or trade is in the public interest and benefits the public.

1.22 Sec. 2. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

1.23 Section 1 is effective the day following final enactment.