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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

March 11, 2008

Committee Recommendation and Adoption of Report:

To Pass as Amended and re-referred to the Committee on Finance

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. Nothing in this section  
1.22 shall be construed to create a cause of action not available under chapter 72A.

1.23 Sec. 2. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2.1 Section 1 is effective the day following final enactment.