

Sec. 2. Section 1 shall be effective county wide but only if adopted by majority vote of the Rice county board. If not adopted by said board, section 1 shall be effective only in any city or village in Rice county ratifying the same by majority vote of the city or village council.

Approved April 24, 1959.

CHAPTER 679—H. F. No. 438

An act relating to automobile accident reports; amending Minnesota Statutes 1957, Section 169.09, Subdivision 13.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1957, Section 169.09, Subdivision 13, is amended to read:

Subd. 13. **Reports confidential.** All required accident reports and supplemental reports shall be without prejudice to the individual so reporting and shall be for the confidential use of the department for accident prevention purposes, except that the department or any law enforcement department of any municipality or county in this state shall, upon written request of any person involved in an accident or upon written request of the representative of his estate, disclose to such person, the representative of his estate, or legal counsel *any information contained therein except the parties' version of the accident as set out in the written report filed by such parties.* No such report shall be used as evidence in any trial, civil or criminal, arising out of an accident, except that the department shall furnish upon the demand of any person who has, or claims to have, made such a report, or, upon demand of any court, a certificate showing that a specified accident report has or has not been made to the department solely to prove a compliance or a failure to comply with the requirements that such report be made to the department. Disclosing any information contained in any accident report, except as provided herein, is unlawful and a misdemeanor.

Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent any person who has made a report pursuant to this chapter from testifying in any trial, civil or criminal, arising out of an accident, as to facts within his knowledge. It is intended by this subdivision to render privileged the reports required but it is not intended to prohibit proof of the facts to which such reports relate. Legally qualified newspaper publications shall upon

request to a law enforcement agency be given an oral statement covering only the time and place of the accident, the names and addresses of the parties involved, and a general statement as to how the accident happened without attempting to fix liability upon anyone, but said legally qualified newspaper publications shall not be given access to the hereinbefore mentioned confidential reports, nor shall any such statements or information so orally given be used as evidence in any court proceeding, but shall merely be used for the purpose of a proper publication of the news.

Approved April 24, 1959.

CHAPTER 680—H. F. No. 889

[Not Coded]

An act proposing an amendment to the constitution of the State of Minnesota providing for the succession to the office of governor and for continuity of government in times of emergency caused by enemy attack; amending Article V, Section 6.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

Section 1. Continuity of government during emergency. In order to provide in the Constitution for succession to the office of governor in case of the death, removal, resignation, or inability of both the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, and to authorize providing by law for the continuity of state government in emergencies caused by enemy attack in this state, the following amendment to the Constitution of the State of Minnesota is hereby proposed to the people of the state for their approval or rejection.

Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of the State of Minnesota, is amended to read:

The Lieutenant Governor shall be ex officio president of the Senate; and in case a vacancy should occur, from any cause whatever, in the office of Governor, he shall be Governor during such vacancy. The compensation of Lieutenant Governor shall be double the compensation of a State Senator. Before the close of each session of the Senate they shall elect a president pro tempore, who shall be Lieutenant Governor in case a vacancy should occur in that office. In case