

Subject Providing private attorneys with remote access to court records

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Overview

The judicial branch makes certain information accessible to the general public through the Minnesota Court Records Online system (MCRO). For certain documents and searches, a person must go to a terminal in a courthouse. Some attorneys, including prosecutors and public defenders, can access the information available at a courthouse terminal through a remote account. That form of an account is known as Minnesota Government Access, but is not available to all attorneys employed by the government.

In 2023, the legislature passed a new law, section 484.98, allowing attorneys who do not have a Minnesota Government Access account to apply for such an account. The supreme court issued an order on June 28, 2023, stating: “notwithstanding the 2023 Legislation, remote access to district court case records for Minnesota attorneys shall continue to be governed by the Rules of Public Access to Records of the Judicial Branch. Minnesota attorneys will not be granted remote access to Minnesota Government Access (MGA) or another access application beyond what is available for the general public unless this court authorizes otherwise.”

This bill requires the court to issue Minnesota Government Access accounts to attorneys and authorizes the judicial branch to charge a fee to private attorneys.

Summary

Section	Description
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| 1 | Attorney access to court records.
Directs the judicial branch to provide an account with login rights to Minnesota Government Access. Authorizes the judicial branch to charge a fee for private attorneys to view and print case documents. |
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