



WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

January 27, 2025

Issue No. 3

Anoka | Benton | Blue Earth | Carver | Chisago | Crow Wing | Dakota | Olmsted | Otter Tail | Rice | St. Louis | Scott | Sherburne | Stearns | Washington | Winona | Wright

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HEADLINES

State Supreme Court Rules 68 Members are Required for Quorum, House in Flux

After hearing oral arguments on Thursday, January 23 the state Supreme Court ruled the next day that 68 members of the House of Representatives are required to meet quorum requirements under the Minnesota Constitution. After the ruling was released **all House committee hearings for the following week were cancelled**. But what is not known is how quickly the House will be able to return to conducting any business, let alone something resembling a normal process. With the DFL House caucus presently only at 66 members, their boycott of the House floor is likely to continue until some type of agreement with the House GOP is reached.

Following the ruling, House Republican leader Lisa Demuth (R-Cold Spring) [released a statement](#) calling on House DFLers to attend Monday's floor session. Other Republican members echoed that call on social media. DFLers are highly unlikely to return to the capitol without some type of power sharing agreement. House DFL Leader Melissa Hortman (DFL-Brooklyn Park) [released a statement](#) calling on House Republicans to negotiate. The Leaders met over the weekend in an effort to end the impasse.

The special election for the House 40B seat from the Roseville/Shoreview area that is currently vacant has not yet been set, though March 11 has been suggested as the closest possible date. Unless a power sharing agreement is reached or the House DFL chooses to attend a floor session providing quorum, that special election is what would likely return a 67-67 tie to the House and a resumption of activity. On Friday [on Almanac](#) when he was asked whether the House would return to normal business prior to March 11, Rep. Jamie Long (DFL-Minneapolis) said "We're hoping we can be in next week but it takes two to reach an agreement."

Meanwhile, the Senate has been meeting in a way that resembles a normal body in their currently constituted 33-33 tie. Any bills passed by the Senate will not be able to become law with the House unable to reach quorum, but they are organized and continue to work while the House remains in disarray.

News and Notes:

- **Bonding Bill:** The Governor announced his \$887 million 2025 capital investment bill on Thursday in Mankato. [You can find an individual listing of each project on the MMB website.](#)
- **Senate District 60 Special Election:** DFLer Doron Clark will face Republican Abigail Wolters on Tuesday to fill the open Minneapolis seat. The winner will tip the majority control in the Senate by one member.

LAST WEEK

Senate Tax Committee starts hearing bills

The Senate tax committee met three times last week with Sen. Bill Weber presiding each day. Most bills were relatively non-controversial with support from both Republican and DFL committee members. One bill that drew a particularly robust discussion was [SF339](#) (Weber), a bill that would establish a licensed in-home child care provider property tax credit and reimburse local governments for the lost revenue. Republican members of the committee noted its importance in greater Minnesota citing increased mandates placed on family childcare providers. DFLers voiced support as well, saying it was a creative approach in attempting to address the dwindling childcare options in the state. [A revenue estimate for the proposal is available here.](#)

House Committee on Taxes has first introductory meetings

On Tuesday and Wednesday Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston) chaired meetings where non-partisan staff provided an overview of the state tax system and legislative process for tax bills. Only Republican members of the committee were present. Some members raised questions over the significant increase of county program aid in 2024 and whether that aid should be dedicated to specific types of spending rather than for general purposes. Rep. Wayne Johnson (R-Cottage Grove) [noted that while County Program Aid increased state mandates have increased significantly as well](#) and removing flexibility from County Program Aid would make it more difficult for counties to be effective and potentially increase property taxes.



Discussion of House Property Tax Legislative Process

On Tuesday, Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston) noted that normally the House has a separate Property Tax Division to hear bills related to property taxes and that under the current structure all those bills would have to go through the full tax committee. The members discussed the option of creating a property tax division or a smaller property tax subcommittee to come up with a report for the whole committee rather than hearing each individual bill. With the State Supreme Court ruling on Friday putting a halt to any committee hearings in the House this question is on hold, but whenever the House returns to normal business this question will come back up.

Bill Introductions of Interest

- [SF491](#) (Housley) Metropolitan region sales and use tax repeal
- [SF532](#) (Anderson) Property market value exclusion to veterans with a disability modification
- [SF536](#) (Lucero) Residential housing construction materials sales and use tax exemption authorization
- [SF561](#) (Hauschild) Removal of fiscal disparities adjustment amounts contents of proposed property tax notice and tax statement modifications

THIS WEEK

In the Senate, Tax Committee will continue to hear bills with Sen. Ann Rest (DFL-New Hope) presiding this week.

Senate Tax Committee

[Tuesday, January 28](#)

- Department of Revenue presentation of the Governor’s tax budget, which includes the repeal of Local Government Cannabis Aid and reduction of Aquatic Invasive Species Aid. This overview will only cover the tax

proposals, not all the Governor’s proposals with property tax implications, so the DHS and Direct Care & Treatment cost shifts onto counties will not be covered in this hearing.

[Wednesday, January 29](#)

- [SF308](#) (Drazkowski) Homestead property confessions of judgements interest rates charged modification
- [SF309](#) (Drazkowski) Property tax refund filing day extended by one year

[Thursday, January 30](#)

- Numerous minor income and sales tax expenditures or modifications

House Committee on Taxes

The House Committee on Taxes remains in flux as all House committees currently do, with hearings canceled until a power sharing agreement or quorum of 68 members is reached.

TRANSPORTATION

LAST WEEK

Republican House Transportation Members Pass Delivery Fee Repeal

While the action is no longer valid based on the Supreme Court’s quorum decision, House Republican members of the Transportation Committee passed House File [HF5](#), which repeals the new retail delivery fee, halts indexing of the fuel tax, and redistributes proceeds in the Transportation Advancement Account (TAA) and from the metro area sales tax.

Rep. Jim Joy (R-Hawley), the chief author of the bill, said its goals were to keep Minnesota affordable and not put taxes on the auto pilot. He also described the burdens to small business of collecting the retail delivery fee. These concerns were echoed by representatives of the MN Propane Association, MN Retailers, and MN Grocers – all of whom testified that the costs of compliance were more than the amounts their members were collecting and remitting to the state.

Several local government groups also weighed in on the bill, with MN Small Cities and Minnesota Association of Townships, which are revenue winners under the proposed revisions to distributions from the TAA, supporting it. They also prefer having the TAA funded by more reliable sales tax revenues since the proceeds from the retail delivery fee have yet to meet their initial projections. Other local government groups were more nuanced in their testimony and preferred that legislators wait to undo facets of the 2023 transportation bill since the retail fee and fuel tax indexing have been in place for less than a year.

At the hearing, non-partisan staff shared their review, which shows the metro counties as net gainers, but CSAH founds as losing money without the fuel tax indexing and the rededication of the 9.2% rental tax to the TAA from the HUTDF.

Even though House File 5 and the committee’s actions have been invalidated, we expect House Republicans to continue to press for these changes when the House is officially reconvened.

Bill Introductions of Interest

- [SF285](#) (Jasinski) Limits cost participation by local governments in trunk highway projects and provides a blank appropriation from the general fund to MnDOT to cover these costs.
- [SF289](#) (Abeler) Appropriates \$250 million in bond proceeds to the Local Road Improvement Program and \$150 million for local bridges.
- [SF291](#) (Jasinski) Exempts certain highway projects that reduce fatalities and improve safety from the greenhouse gas and VMT assessment and mitigation requirements.
- [SF479](#) (Jasinski) Accelerates the dedication of the sales tax on auto parts and repairs to the TAA by three years.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT (BONDING)

LAST WEEK

Walz Unveils Bonding Package

Standing at the site of the breached Rapidan Dam in Blue Earth County, Governor Walz surprised many with the release of recommendations for a bonding bill on Thursday. Since no package passed in the second year of the last biennium, typically when bonding bills are enacted, there is pressure at the Capitol to do one this year. His proposal includes \$790 million in general obligation bonds, with the largest shares going toward:

- The Department of Corrections, which is slated for over \$123 million in bond proceeds for asset preservation and a \$57 million expansion of the Department's Rush City facility.
- Public Facilities Authorities with almost \$110 million for water infrastructure investments in communities across the state.
- The Higher Education Asset Preservation and Replacement with over \$102 million recommended for campus buildings across the Minnesota State system.
- The Department of Natural Resources at \$100 million, with over two-thirds allocated for maintaining agency assets including trails, public water, and fish hatcheries.



Shout out to Blue Earth County, including Commissioner Kevin Paap (left) and County Engineer and Public Works Director Ryan Thilges (right), who were featured at the governor's announcement and received a recommendation of \$10 million for removal of the failed Rapidan Dam.

Meager Monies for MICA Priorities

In terms of MICA priorities, the governor recommends \$3.6 million for the Board of Water & Soil Resources Local Government Road Wetland Replacement Program, which provides wetland mitigation for qualifying road reconstruction, repair and rehabilitation projects conducted by local road authorities. This year's number pales significantly from last year's recommendation of \$14.5 million, which also included \$10 million in general fund cash for the program, and is a far cry from the over \$26 million needed to overcome the deficit of available wetland credits around the state. For transportation, there is less than \$20 million proposed with the bulk recommended to the Met Council for improvements on bus rapid transit corridors. No monies for local roads or bridges are part of the Governor's infrastructure proposal.

THIS WEEK

Senate Capital Investment Committee

[Tuesday, January 28](#)

Sen. Sandy Pappas (DFL-St. Paul) has the gavel

The committee will hear overviews from non-partisan staff and several agency presentations on the governor's bonding recommendations, including from the Board of Soil & Water Resources.

LAST WEEK

Legislative Hearings of Interest:

Tuesday: January 21: The Senate Health and Human Services Committee received overviews from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).

Agency Overview: MN Department of Health
[2025-MDH-Overview-Senate-HHS-Committee-012125.pdf](#)

Deputy Commissioner Wendy Underwood highlighted several issues **impacting public health:**

- Minnesota’s public health system is locally driven, but also fragmented.
- Public health simply does not have enough capacity for needed, necessary work.
- Workforce challenges: There are inadequate funds or restrictions on using available funds.
- Funding is prescriptive and time-limited, inflexible, often addresses individual services, and cannot scale during emergencies.
- Prevention and population-level solutions are chronically underfunded - while medical costs balloon.
- Investing in public health and prevention is smart – public health saves more money than it costs.

The committee then dug into Minnesota’s response to H5N1(Avian flu):

- Can be spread to people through direct contact with infected animals or their environments.
- The spreading from person to person is rare and limited.
- There is a low risk to general public at this time.
 - Risk is primarily occupational.

MDH response to H5N1:

- Monitoring the health of workers and others in direct contact with infected animals since 2022:
 - 2,400 people monitored
- Coordinating testing for exposed people when needed, facilitate influenza antivirals when indicated.
 - Collaborating with local clinics, local public health
- Monitoring established routine human influenza and wastewater surveillance for potential detections of H5N1

See also [2025-Public-Health-System-Development-Report.pdf](#):

This report describes how Minnesota’s public health leaders, elected officials, and community members work together to help our communities thrive by doing the foundational work of public health in innovative and collaborative ways, partnering across sectors and geographies, and working together to meet today’s health needs while anticipating tomorrow’s. It was developed under the guidance and collaborative leadership of the Joint Leadership Team for Public Health System Transformation in Minnesota, representing local elected officials who are members of the State Community Health Services Advisory Committee (SCHSAC), the Local Public Health Association of Minnesota (LPHA), and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).

MDH publishes this report every two years on how the local public health system meets its responsibility to deliver core public health activities to the people of Minnesota, as required by Minn. Stat. § 62Q.33, since 1992. Minn. Stat. §145A, the Local Public Health Act, outlines the structure and responsibilities of the state and local public health system. Tribal health departments have their own sovereign authority.

Wednesday, January 22:

- The **Senate Human Services Committee** heard from both the Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA) and DHS regarding program integrity and fraud prevention.

OLA Presentation: Program Integrity and Fraud Prevention

[Human 20250122 OLA-Program-Integrity.pdf](#)

From 2018-2022:

- 592 nonprofit organizations received funding
- \$436 million in funding

Key findings:

- DHS did not comply with requirements related to conflict of interest documentation and resolution and pre-award financial reviews.
- **Senior Nutrition Program (Note Minnesota Board on Aging; not connected to DHS):**
- 296 out of 581 recertification forms had missing or inaccurate data.
- 6 of 7 either did not complete any site visits or did not complete the required number
- 13% enrollees received a different service
- 19% did not receive meals
- 37% required to pay for at least some meals

- Recovery of Payments: DHS has not attempted to recover over \$40 million in outstanding overpayments to MA providers' accounts

DHS Presentation: Program Integrity and Fraud Prevention

[Human 20250122 DHS-Program-Integrity.pdf](#)

Current DHS Commissioner Jodi Harpstead opened her comments stating that employee errors are errors – not fraud.

- DHS has done 4,000 investigations in the past 5-1/2 years and stopped payments to 750 entities (.5% of the entities it oversees)
- Has done site visits to 164 autism providers; referred 24 to fraud investigations.

DHS proposed solutions (Governor's budget recommendations):

- Improve interagency data sharing
- Transparency in payment withhold information
- Prohibit kickbacks
- Curb inappropriate billing
- Expand and enhance surveillance tools
- Provisional license for EIDBI

- The committee also heard the **counties' perspective on program integrity and fraud prevention:**

Matt Freeman, AMC/MACSSA, and Crystal Zaviska, Western Prairie Human Services, suggested several ideas, including the need for: (1) program simplification for cash benefits; (2) investment in technology so systems can speak to one another; and (3) bolstering local funding for fraud investigations, which would provide efficiencies for both counties and the State.

Michelle Eldien, Otter Tail County Attorney, testified regarding Medical Assistance, stating that on-line only MA applications are a disservice to our clients. The on-line portal can be difficult for clients, resulting in incomplete

applications, etc. She suggested in-person meetings or telephone calls, as are used in eligibility for other benefits, would be much more efficient. Her testimony also reflected that automatic MA renewals are generating problems in her county.

- The House Children and Families Committee did an **overview of childcare regulations**. The committee heard from family childcare providers; all reflected on the number of providers who have left the business - due to onerous childcare regulations and inconsistent compliance requirements, including:
 - One provider indicated that it took nine months for them to get the appropriate permit.
 - Strict staff to child ratios; penalties for including one's own children in care ratios, reducing the slots available for income-generating placement.
 - Lack of funding and resources for counties to support providers adequately. Investments in county-level recruitment and licensing staff are urgently needed.
 - According to 2024 data from Child Care Aware, the cost is more than \$20,000 to care for an infant. There are also often hidden expenses, including food, diapers, and other incidental expenses.
 - California data reflects its childcare expense is in the \$16,000 range.
 - Minnesota has some of the highest costs and yet the lowest wages for providers.
 - Minnesota is an outlier – our surrounding states have fewer regulations.
 - In one half of Minnesota counties, there are shortages of childcare providers.
 - Inequities remain between childcare centers and family childcare providers.

Several members suggested there will be legislation to lift the burden for childcare providers by repealing certain mandates to make childcare more affordable.

On Thursday, the Senate Health and Human Services Committee received agency updates from both DHS and DCYF:

- Agency Update and Overview: **MN Department of Human Services**
[Senate HHS DHS Budget and Medicaid 101.pdf](#)

Elyse Bailey, Fiscal Policy Director, and Diogo Reis, Division Director, Health Improvement and Benefit Design, presented the following:

- DHS directly impacts more than 25% of Minnesotans.
 - \$23.8 billion (FY26)
 - 89% of expenditures relate to MA
 - 42% of Minnesota children have their health care covered by MA
 - LTC facilities and waivers and home care represents 46% of MA expenditures
 - \$10 billion
 - General Assistance: 23,000 people served each month; \$52 million in FY24
 - Housing Support: 21,000 people served each month; \$228 million in FY24
 - MN Supplemental Aid: 30,000 people served each month; \$61 million in FY24
 - Grant Programs: although only 3% of DHS budget, it represents \$2.5 billion FY24
- Agency Update and Overview: **MN Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF)**
[DCYF Agency Overview.pdf](#)

Ashley Reisenauer, CFO, and Jennifer Sommerfeld, Government Relations Director for DCYF, presented as follows:

- DCYF total expenditures: approximately \$3.7 billion per year (see slide 19 in terms of where its budget came from)
- 3rd largest General Fund budget among state agencies
- Federal funds make up about 2/3 of DCYF's budget
- They oversee an additional \$1 billion in pass-through and fiduciary funds, including over \$640 million in the child support program.

Who is served each month:

- 77,384: MFIP recipients
- 13,747 CCAP recipients
- 10,553 Early Learning scholarship recipients
- 19,132 Families served in Northstar for Children
- 440,490 SNAP recipients
- 500,000 parents and children receive child support services

See page 10 of slide deck for illustration of programs transferred or yet to be transferred to DCYF.

Challenges/Opportunities:

- **Modernization of child welfare functions in SSIS**
- Supporting access to affordable, high-quality early care and education
- Improving early care and education program integration and efficiencies
- Implementing MFIP reforms
- **Preventing youth justice system involvement**

Also, on Thursday, the House Human Services Committee took testimony regarding the Governor's budget recommendations. Several advocacy groups testified against the Administration's proposals, which would **reduce funding for waived programs and nursing homes**. The HMO lobby testified against the MA pharmacy carve-out, **as well as the shift of NEMT to a single broker**. Hospitals also testified against the pharmacy carve-out; they also mentioned concerns regarding the necessity for 340B pricing, which helps with hospitals' overall expenses.

Bill Introductions of Interest

- [SF42](#) (Kunesh) Suicide prevention curriculum appropriation
- [SF93](#) (Hoffman) MinnesotaCare direct support professionals access authorization provision and appropriation
- [SF94](#) (Hoffman) Integrated community supports payment rates modification
- [SF142](#) (Boldon) Medical assistance for employed persons with disabilities program modification
- [SF284](#) (Utke) MinnesotaCare ineligibility for undocumented noncitizens provision
- [SF355](#) (Rarick) Commissioner instruction to make recommendations for paperwork reduction relating to child protection cases
- [SF376](#) (Coleman) Sale prohibition of menstrual products containing arsenic or chemical of high concern
- [SF390](#) (Pappas) Safe routes to school grant program bond issue and appropriation
- [SF391](#) (Lieske) Cottage foods exemption amendment
- [SF393](#) (Nelson) Safe routes to school grant program bond issue and appropriation
- [SF400](#) (Utke) Commissioner of human services instruction to authorize indirect billing for individualized home supports
- [SF401](#) (Utke) Room and board rates increase for certain individual receiving home and community-based services
- [SF402](#) (Seeberger) Disability waiver rates modification
- [SF446](#) (Rasmusson) Home and community-based services standards for out-of-home respite care services for children modification

- [SF456](#) (Utke) Protection to children and vulnerable adults from exposure to fentanyl establishment
- [HF89](#) (Torkelson) Licensing standards for childcare staff qualifications, staff ratios, and group sizes modified
- [HF100](#) (Quam) Trust for foster children receiving Supplemental Security Income benefits established, report required, and money appropriated
- [HF134](#) (Zeleznikar) Family childcare capacity limits amended
- [HF135](#) (Zeleznikar) Variances to childcare center licensed capacity rules allowed

THIS WEEK

Hearings of Note:

[Combined Legislative Meeting Calendar](#)

On Monday, Senate Human Services will hear an overview of Direct Care and Treatment, as well as an informational hearing on a proposed bill from Sen. Jordan Rasmusson (R-Fergus Falls), which would establish a commissioner for DCT and repeal the DCT executive board.

Senate Human Services

[Monday, January 27](#)

- DCT Overview
- [SF626](#) (Rasmusson) Establishing a commissioner for DCT; repealing the DCT executive board

Senate Health and Human Services Committee

[Tuesday, January 28](#)

Sen. Melissa Wiklund (DFL-Bloomington) has the gavel

- Presentation on the Governor's Budget Recommendations - MN Department of Human Services
- Presentation on the Governor's Budget Recommendations - MN Department of Health
- Presentation on the Governor's Budget Recommendations - MN Health Related Licensing Boards

Senate Finance

[Wednesday, January 29](#)

- Presentation on Legislative Auditor Recommendations
 - Legislative Auditor Judy Randall
 - Deputy Legislative Auditor Jodi Munson Rodriguez
- Presentation on Minnesota Management and Budget Internal Controls
 - MMB Commissioner Erin Campbell
 - MMB Deputy Commissioner Britta Reitan

Senate Health and Human Services Committee

[Thursday, January 30](#)

Sen. Paul Utke (R-Park Rapids) has the gavel

Agenda: To be announced.

ENVIRONMENT

LAST WEEK

As was true across most other committees, this week saw a lot of time dedicated to budget overviews from agency leaders and nonpartisan staff. The Senate Environment, Climate and Legacy committee met on Tuesday, January 21 and heard budget overviews from the relevant state agencies: the [Department of Natural Resources](#) (DNR), the [Minnesota Pollution Control Agency](#) (MPCA) and the [Board of Water and Soil Resources](#) (BWSR).

On Thursday, January 23, the Senate Environment committee heard [SF106](#), authored by Sen. Steve Drazkowski (R-Mazeppa), which would increase regulations for organizations receiving funds through the Outdoor Heritage Fund and Clean Water Fund. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) testified with concerns about the bill. Over a dozen conservation groups also [submitted testimony](#) against the bill, arguing it would require projects receiving an appropriation to take unnecessary, burdensome and, in some cases, redundant steps that would increase project costs and delay project outcomes. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion.

[SF107](#), also authored by Sen. Drazkowski, would require county boards who wish to limit the type of firearm that can be used to hunt deer provide notice and public hearing opportunities every year. Sen. Jen McEwen (DFL-Duluth) offered [the A1 amendment](#) on behalf of Olmsted County, which would remove the additional public hearing and notice requirements. The amendment was withdrawn as the bill was only going to be laid over, leaving room for further discussion. The bill was laid over, although Sen. Drazkowski shared that he hopes there will be a vote out of committee after he has had more time to work with his colleagues and other stakeholders on the bill language.

On the House side, nonpartisan staff walked through the Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy committee's budget and policy areas on Tuesday, January 21. On Thursday, January 23, [HF8](#) (Heintzeman) was heard in the House Environment committee on January 23, 2025. This bill is a Republican priority bill on permitting reform. The Minnesota Chamber Foundation gave a [presentation](#) on streamlining the state's permitting process and the weaknesses of the current permitting system and process. In his walkthrough of the bill, Chair Josh Heintzeman (R-Nisswa) noted that the intention of the bill is to streamline the environmental permitting process without lowering or relaxing existing standards. There was no member discussion, and the bill passed and was referred to the Labor and Workforce committee.

Finally, Governor Tim Walz also released [his \\$887 million proposed bonding package](#) on Thursday at the Rapidan Dam site in Blue Earth County. Highlights relevant to MICA's environment platform include:

- \$8 million to remove manmade contaminants, such as polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) substances, from the drinking water supplies of communities in Minnesota that are unable to provide safe drinking water due to these contaminants (pg. 8)
- \$39 million to match Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funds and federal infrastructure bill funding, and to increase lending capacity in the Clean Water and Drinking Water Revolving Funds (pg. 8)
- \$23.485 million for the Water Infrastructure Funding (WIF) program, which provides supplemental assistance grants to help communities build clean water and drinking water infrastructure projects while keeping costs affordable for residents (pg. 9)
- \$18.527 million for the Point Source Implementation Grants (PSIG) program which provides grants to communities to help communities construct wastewater, storm water and drinking water treatment projects (pg. 9)
- \$18 million for a new Emerging Contaminants Grant Program for local governments for the construction of drinking water treatment systems and/or alternative water supplies to mitigate impacts from emerging contaminants, such as manganese and PFAS (pg. 9)

Bill introductions of interest:

- [HF298](#) (Scott) Product stewardship program for wind and solar infrastructure required, fee on retail sales of wind and solar infrastructure provided, moratorium on disposal of infrastructure in landfills, report required and money appropriated.
- [HF303](#) (Zelevnikar) Presence of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances allowed in safety-related items and clothing used by juveniles operating all-terrain vehicles or dirt bikes.
- [SF279](#) (Lang) Public water inventory revision process amendment provision

- [SF283](#) (Lang) Public water inventory modifications temporary prohibition
- [SF332](#) (Baldon) Olmsted County materials recovery facility bond issue and appropriation
- [SF361](#) (Baldon) Olmsted County waste-to-energy facility improvements bond issue and appropriation
- [SF362](#) (Baldon) Olmsted County community reuse and recycling center bond issue and appropriation
- [SF506](#) (Hawj) Environmental and natural resources trust fund appropriation (LCCMR appropriations bill)
- [SF549](#) (Seeberger) City of Hastings water treatment plants appropriation
- [SF570](#) (Hauschild) Wetland Conservation Act determinations efficiency modifications; appropriating money
- [SF572](#) (Mathews) Energy provisions modifications *Companion: HF9*
- [SF577](#) (Eichorn) Efficiency improvement of Wetland Conservation Act determinations *Companion: HF8*

You can track all relevant environment bills [here](#) as they are introduced. If the bill has had a hearing, our team’s notes on testimony and member discussion will be included.

THIS WEEK

As of now, all House hearings have been cancelled due to Friday’s Supreme Court ruling and ongoing negotiations regarding a power-sharing agreement. The Senate Environment, Climate and Legacy committee also does not have any meetings on the schedule, and no relevant MICA environment bills are being heard in other committees.

CORRECTIONS & PUBLIC SAFETY

LAST WEEK

Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee

[Wednesday, January 22](#)

The Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee utilized this week by hearing presentations from the Judicial Branch, Board of Public Defense, Civil Legal Services, and Guardian ad Litem Board. All presentations provided updates on utilization of previous appropriations and provided the committee with their update legislative priorities.

House Public Safety Finance & Policy Committee

[Tuesday, January 21](#)

After an unexpected protest that made headlines in The House Public Safety Finance & Policy Committee last week, the committee continue in hearing presentations from Minnesota Sheriffs Association, Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association, and Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association. All associations shared their current challenges around staffing shortages, retention, and challenges they have faced as a result of legislation passed last session.

[Wednesday, January 22](#)

On Wednesday Rep. Paul Novotny (R-Elk River) introduced [HF7](#) to the House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee. The bill proposes significant updates to Minnesota’s public safety laws. Key provisions include mandatory predatory offender registration for certain stays of adjudication, stricter penalties for assaulting peace officers, and enhanced measures to address trespassing and damage to critical infrastructure. The bill also introduces a publicly searchable database of criminal sentences and reporting requirements for case dismissals.

Additional changes address crimes like sex trafficking, fleeing officers, and stolen vehicle involvement. The emphasis and discussion on the bill prioritized accountability, transparency, and providing law enforcement tools to improve public safety.

THIS WEEK

Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee

[Monday, January 27](#)

Sen. Warren Limmer (R-Maple Grove) will have the gavel

- Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association (MPPOA) Legislative Priorities Presentation
- [SF202](#) (Kreun) Minnesota Partition Act Establishment
- [SF571](#) (Westlin) Uniform Trust Code, Powers of Appointment, and Uniform Probate Code provisions modifications

[Wednesday, January 29](#)

Sen. Warren Limmer (R-Maple Grove) will have the gavel

- Minnesota Sheriff's Association Legislative Priorities Presentation
- [SF730](#) (Kreun) Classification clarification of certain data maintained by the attorney general

House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee

All upcoming Public Safety Judiciary Finance and Policy Committees have now been cancelled and bills that were scheduled to be heard are no longer to be in front of the committee until a new schedule is set. As a result, this could delay discussions on emergency response systems, mental health services, and community supervision funding.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT & OTHER

LAST WEEK

House Workforce, Labor and Economic Development Finance and Policy committee continues to discuss Paid Leave and Earned Sick and Safe Time requirements

Rep. Dave Baker (R-Willmar) chaired another committee hearing on the impact that paid leave and earned sick and safe time had on local governments, this time focusing on school districts. The Minnesota School Boards association testified as well as numerous superintendents and human resources directors from individual local school districts.

Senate Labor committee advances bills related to earned sick and safe time and whistleblower protections for public employees

On [Thursday, January 23](#) the Senate Labor Committee heard a bill from Sen. Gene Dornink (R-Brownsville) that would exempt family farm where there are five or fewer employees from the Earned Sick and Safe Time requirements. The Department of Labor & Industry testified in opposition. The bill advanced with bipartisan support but also numerous DFL senators voting no. That same day the committee also heard a bill that would add protections for public employees against retaliation for whistleblowing. Minnesota Management and Budget [submitted a letter with detail on the current protections for employees](#). The bill passed with unanimous support.

Bill introductions of Interest

- [SF494](#) (Rasmusson) Exempting people appointed to serve on a board or commission of a governmental subdivision from earned sick and safe time requirements
- [SF641](#) (Koran) Local governments acceptance of certain contributions for election expenses prohibition

THIS WEEK

The Senate continues to hold hearings but all further committee hearings in the House are canceled until further notice. Prior to cancellation, Rep. Dave Baker (R-Wilmar) had planned to hold a hearing on his bill to delay implementation of the paid leave requirements by one year.

Senate State and Local Government

[Tuesday, January 28](#)

Sen. Tou Xiong (DFL-Maplewood) has the gavel

- [SF59](#) (Green) Procedures establishment for county to alter preexisting boundary line.

Senate Elections

[Tuesday, January 28](#)

Sen. Jim Carlson (DFL-Eagan) has the gavel

- Overview from the Secretary of State

Senate Labor

[Thursday, January 30](#)

Sen. Gene Dornink (R-Brownsville) and Sen. Jennifer McEwen (DFL-Duluth) share the gavel

- To be announced

COMBINED HEARING SCHEDULES

[Next 7 Days Combined Hearing Schedule](#)

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