



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

ADVOCATING FOR MINNESOTA'S HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

By Ryan Hamilton • Mar 30, 2026

Smart Brevity® count: 3 mins...803 words

Welcome back. Deadline week at the Capitol brought the usual compression, but in a tied House it also underscored a broader reality of the 2026 session—getting a bill heard is not the same thing as getting it moving.

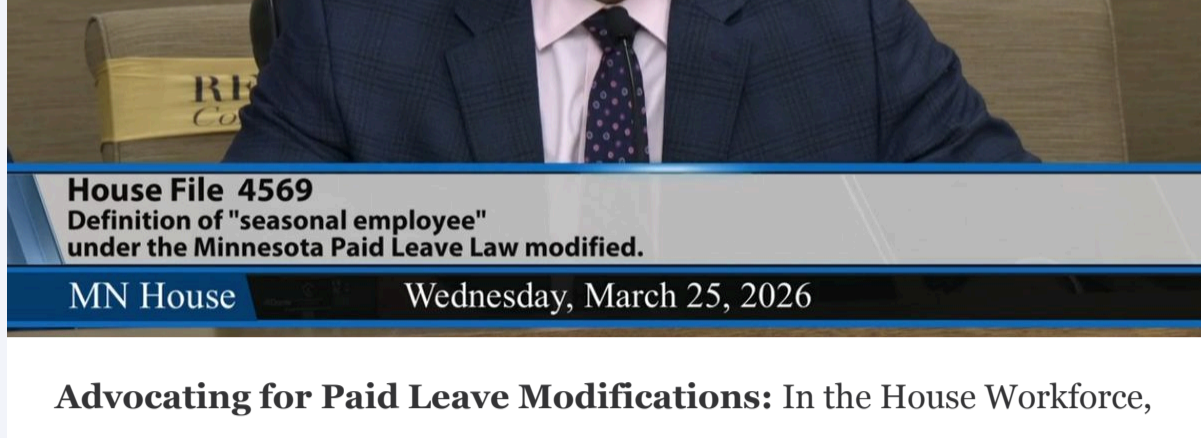
- **The current reality: committee work.** Committees continued to hear a substantial volume of legislation before the first and second deadlines, yet relatively few measures appear positioned for smooth advancement.

House remains in partisan deadlock. In the House especially, partisan balance continues to function as a brake. Bills may receive testimony, debate, and even some visible momentum, but absent bipartisan comfort, they often stall. That dynamic remains central to how we assess both risk and opportunity for the hospitality industry this year.

Reminder: Register for this year's [Day at the Capitol on April 8](#) before registration closes Thursday, April 2. We have a limited number of spots available.

- **Interested in sponsoring this update?** [Click here](#) to view all sponsorship options.

House Committee Work: HM Advocates for Seasonal Employee Modification



Advocating for Paid Leave Modifications: In the House Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee on March 25, [Ryan testified in support](#) of [HF 4569 \(Bakeberg\)](#), which would modify the definition of “seasonal employee” under Minnesota’s Paid Leave law.

Why it matters: Hospitality Minnesota supports this bill because it would standardize the seasonal employee definition with the seasonal employer definition in statute.

- **By the numbers:** The current mismatch creates a practical problem for seasonal operations by leaving a 30-day gap that serves neither employers, employees, nor the communities that rely on seasonal establishments. This is a technical correction, but one with real operational consequences.

Yes, and: That same committee also heard [HF 3878 \(Berg\)](#) regarding a required quality service wage for covered airport or related location workers. A [delete-everything amendment](#) significantly narrowed the bill so that it now applies only to MSP and removes relief and regional airports such as Holman.

- **Why we’re watching the amendment:** HF 3878 reduced the bill’s reach, but it did not eliminate concern. Hospitality Minnesota continues to watch this proposal closely as airport labor policy can become a vehicle for much broader wage-setting approaches if left unanswered.

Senate Committee Update: HM Advocates Regarding Liquor Posting Authority



HM testifies regarding liquor posting authority: On March 26, the Senate Taxes Committee heard [SF 4253 \(Putnam\)](#) concerning the Commissioner of Revenue and the temporary liquor posting authority issue and [Angie Whitcomb testified on behalf of Hospitality Minnesota](#).

- **The basic problem is straightforward:** Current law can trigger liquor posting consequences automatically even where a taxpayer has received an abatement from the Commissioner.

Why it matters: In practice, current law undermines the very relief the abatement is supposed to provide. Hospitality Minnesota’s position remains that liquor posting should not automatically attach where the state has recognized circumstances warranting tax relief.

Other Coalition Work: HM Advocates for Inclusion of Gift Card Fraud in Organized Retail Theft Framework



Coalition advocates against gift card fraud: Also during the week, [HF 3155 \(Tabke\)](#) was heard in the House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee to include gift card fraud within the organized retail theft framework. Hospitality Minnesota joined a [coalition letter](#) in support of the bill.

- **Why it matters:** This issue has obvious operational significance for restaurants, lodging properties, and other consumer-facing businesses. Organized fraud schemes do not respect sector boundaries, and gift card fraud is one more example of how criminal activity increasingly exploits everyday commercial tools.

Register Before Thursday’s Deadline for Next Week’s Day at the Capitol



Calling all advocates: Registration for this year’s [Hospitality Day at the Capitol next Wednesday at the Minnesota State Capitol](#) closes Thursday, April 2, EOD.

What to Expect:

- **Briefing Session:** Learn about current legislative priorities and how to effectively share your story with lawmakers.
- **Meetings with Legislators:** Engage in meaningful conversations with elected officials who shape policies affecting your business and community.
- **Networking Lunch:** Connect with industry professionals and legislative leaders while discussing shared industry goals.

The bottom line: Policy gets made with or without us. These are your chances to make sure it’s *with* us.

[Register Now!](#)

As Session Continues, You Can Count On Us



THE LODGING, RESTAURANT, RESORT AND CAMPGROUND ASSOCIATION

Week 6 Summary: Taken together, deadline week reflected both the intensity of advocacy work and the structural constraints of this session.

- **Hospitality Minnesota continues to show up where it matters:** protecting operators from unworkable labor mandates, advancing technical fixes that remove unnecessary burdens, and supporting practical public-safety measures that address real harm to businesses.

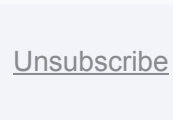
The legislative reality: The partisan environment cannot be understated. In a tied House, progress depends less on whether an issue gets airtime and more on whether it can attract enough bipartisan tolerance to keep moving.

- **Check back for future updates.** Additional communications will be provided as legislation continues moving through the committee process.

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