

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE**

ADVOCATING FOR MINNESOTA'S HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

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By Ryan Hamilton • Mar 16, 2026

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Welcome back. In today's GR Update, we offer [our first video update](#) on Minnesota's 2026 Legislative Session, including information on [social districts](#), [a hospitality carve out for junk fee legislation](#), [liquor posting relief](#), [a local tax proposal in Wayzata](#), [airport wage standards](#), and more.

- **Reminder:** Register for this year's [Day at the Capitol on April 8](#). We have a limited number of spots available, and we anticipate selling out very soon.

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The big picture: As the legislative session moves into its fourth week, the pace has shifted from behind-the-scenes drafting to active committee deliberations. Check out [this video](#) for updates on key issues impacting the hospitality industry, or read the video summary below.

Top Legislative Priorities

- **Social Districts:** We are gaining momentum on a proposal to establish social districts. Our goal is to see this language successfully integrated into the upcoming omnibus liquor bill.
- **Junk Fee Law Carve-out:** Work continues on securing a specific carve-out for restaurants and food halls. This would allow for transparent, upfront surcharges, providing much-needed clarity following the recently enacted junk fee legislation.
- **Liquor Posting Relief:** We are supporting a bill (authored by Rep. Dave Baker) that allows for tax abatement without triggering "liquor posting." Notable chef and owner [Daniel del Prado recently provided testimony on how this would provide critical relief for operators](#).

Industry Concerns & Advocacy

- **Local Tax Proposals:** Hospitality Minnesota formally raised concerns regarding a proposed 1% food and beverage tax in Wayzata. We believe these taxes hurt local competitiveness, especially when funds are not specifically earmarked to support tourism and hospitality.
- **Airport Wage Standards:** We are monitoring a proposal to apply the federal McNamara-O'Hara Service Contract Act to wages at MAC airports. We are advocating against this, as applying a rigid federal standard could disadvantage the local businesses that make up our unique concessionaire system.

Action Item

- **Hospitality Minnesota Day at the Capitol - April 8:** Your voice is our most powerful tool. Please [join us on April 8th to meet directly with state legislators and discuss the issues that matter most to your business](#).

As Session Continues, You Can Count On Us

THE LODGING, RESTAURANT, RESORT
AND CAMPGROUND ASSOCIATION

Stay tuned: Hospitality Minnesota will continue monitoring bill introductions, committee hearings, and legislative negotiations as the session progresses.

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

Thank you reading! Check out past [GR Updates](#) here.

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