



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

ADVOCATING FOR MINNESOTA'S HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

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By Hanna Zinn • Dec 13, 2024

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Welcome back. It's beginning to finally feel like winter, even if the lack of snow means it doesn't look like it. This week I'm bringing you an update on the Labor Standards Board, Junk Fees, and a preview of HM's legislative priorities. Due to the holiday season, I'll be back in your inbox next week before a two week break over Christmas and New Years.

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Labor Standards Board Update



Minneapolis City Council votes to uphold Mayor Frey's veto of the Labor Standards Board on December 5, 2024.

ICYMI: The Minneapolis City Council voted last week to sustain Mayor Frey's veto on the proposed Labor Standards Board.

- **Why it matters:** This outcome represents over two years of work by our team at HM, our members and [our coalition partners](#), who worked tirelessly to show up and make their voices heard. From the beginning, we maintained that the proposed board's structure would have created an undue burden on Minneapolis's hospitality businesses, particularly our small, independent establishments that help make our city's dining scene so vibrant.

Our work is being recognized! Our national partners recently recognized HM's efforts over the past two years. Here's a quote from the [National Restaurant Association](#):

The National Restaurant Association, with Hospitality Minnesota (HM) and the Save Local Restaurants (SLR) coalition, pushed back on the creation of the board, which would have been responsible for making labor regulation recommendations and workforce policies to both the city council and mayor. The resolution could come up again in 2025, so our advocacy team will continue to work with HM and SLR in support of efforts to fight back.

In an email to lodging association professionals across the country, the [American Hotel and Lodging Association](#) also made note of this success:

This is a significant victory for Minneapolis businesses and the result of over two years of work to stop a proposal that would have created an undue burden on Minneapolis hospitality businesses. This outcome is a direct result of the thousands of conversations, letters, and tireless engagement from many stakeholders, including Hospitality Minnesota. Read [more](#) from Hospitality Minnesota.

THANK YOU! We extend our sincere gratitude to all who participated in this important issue. Your advocacy has made a tangible difference.

Junk Fees Update



The big picture: Since receiving the Attorney General's guidance on Junk Fees over a month ago, many questions still haven't been answered. HM has been following up with the AG's office to get further guidance on our outstanding questions around banquets and catering, delivery fees, and other issues raised by members.

What's next: The AG's office indicated more guidance is coming in the upcoming weeks. We will be sure to send out any new information we receive.

Legislative Priorities Preview



The big picture: HM is hard at work finalizing our Legislative Priorities heading into the 2025 session. Before I send out the final list, I wanted to give our readers a preview of the main policy areas and issues we are expecting to engage in.

- Hospitality Minnesota Education Foundation ProStart Funding
- Junk Fees fix
- Statewide Social Districts
- Online Travel Agency Tax Loophole closure
- Prevent legislation harmful to the industry from advancing
- Ensuring hospitality voices are heard in every corner of the Capitol

What's next: I am interested in feedback from our members! [Please reach out](#) with comments, concerns, and questions. Our association's policy priorities should reflect our members – and that means hearing from all of you!

In the News



- [From humble dreams to standard bearers, 10 beloved Twin Cities restaurants with staying power](#)
- [Northeast Minnesota's best-kept secret – 5 fabulous State Forests](#)

That's all. Have a great week!

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