



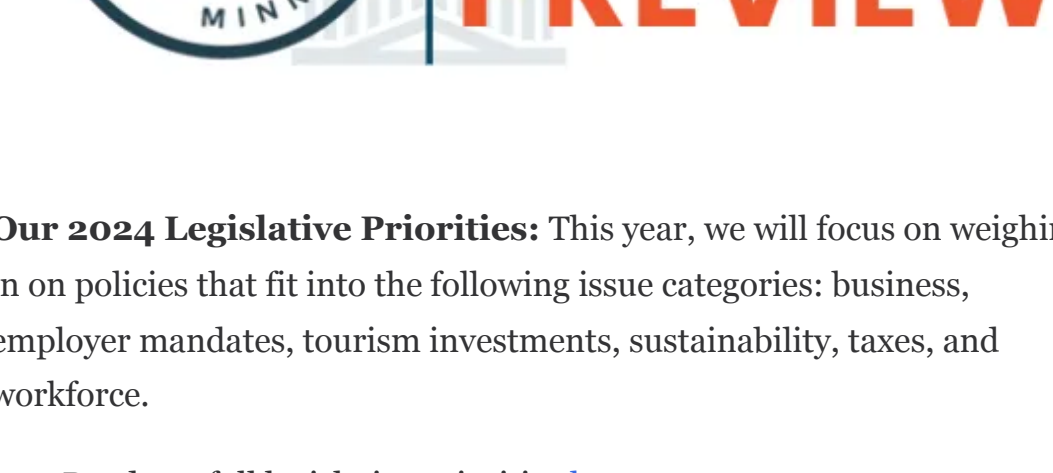
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE
ADVOCATING FOR MINNESOTA'S HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

By Jill Sims • Jan 26, 2024

Smart Brevity® count: 3.5 mins...923 words

Note from Jill: Happy Friday! We are inching closer to the legislative session. Read on to learn more about Hospitality Minnesota's legislative priorities, Walz's proposed bonding budget, walleye limits, investments in natural resources, and more. Don't forget to sign up for our [February 7 Session Preview Webinar](#) or our [March 13 Day at the Capitol!](#)

2024 Legislative Priorities & Session Preview



Our 2024 Legislative Priorities: This year, we will focus on weighing in on policies that fit into the following issue categories: business, employer mandates, tourism investments, sustainability, taxes, and workforce.

- Read our full legislative priorities [here](#).

Go deeper: Join us on Wednesday, February 7 from 9:30 – 10:30 AM for our annual session preview. [The webinar](#) will cover Hospitality Minnesota's 2024 legislative agenda, special events and an outlook of the session to come. [Register here](#).

Minneapolis Labor Standards Board Update



What happened: Yesterday, the Minneapolis City Council announced its intent to introduce a proposal for the Labor Standards Board at the next regular City Council meeting.

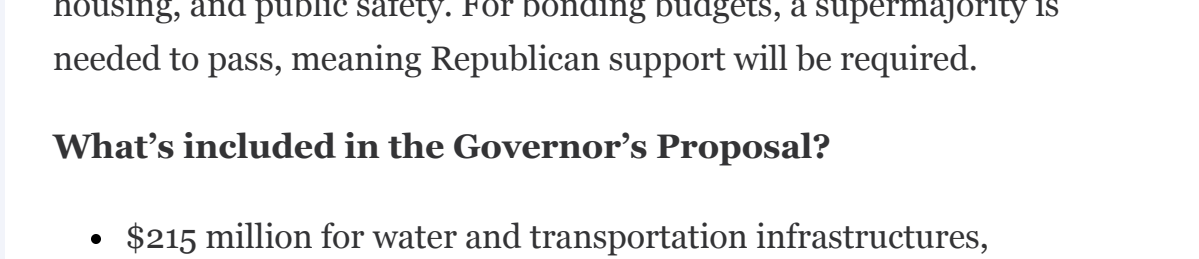
- The Notice of Intent was proposed by Vice President Chughtai and Councilmembers Chowdhury and Cashman.

Why it matters: This means that we could see the official language for a Labor Standards Board proposal by February 8, 2024.

What we know: The Councilmembers' proposed language for a Labor Standards Board has not been released yet. It is still unclear how or if this language will differ from the Mayor's proposal.

- **Minneapolis Operators:** We need your feedback on how this policy could impact your operations in Minneapolis. Reach out to [Jill](#) or [Kaleb](#) with any questions or concerns you may have.

Walz Bonding Budget



Governor Tim Walz released his bonding budget proposal last week, which proposes \$982 million in spending on water, transportation, housing, and public safety. For bonding budgets, a supermajority is needed to pass, meaning Republican support will be required.

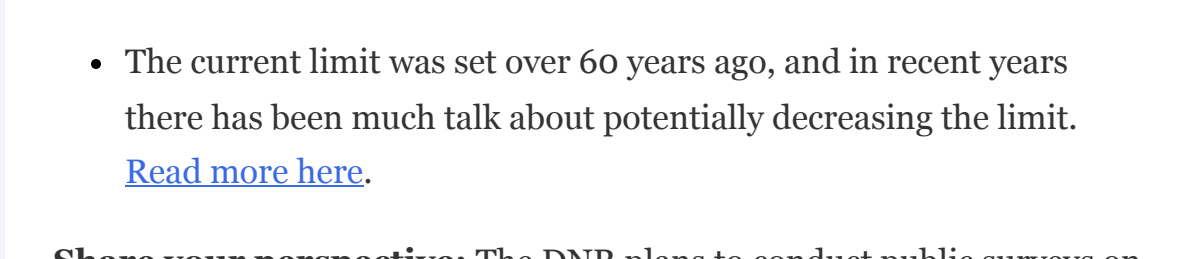
What's included in the Governor's Proposal?

- \$215 million for water and transportation infrastructures, including \$28 million to establish a grant program to help remove contaminants from drinking water and \$2 million to develop a continuous nitrate monitoring network.
- \$97 million for housing and the environment, including Housing Infrastructure Bonds to support the development of multifamily housing for seniors, the homeless, and families.
- \$142 million for public safety projects, including expanded laboratory space for the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.
- \$206 million for renovations of Minnesota State and University of Minnesota facilities.

What's next: The Minnesota Department of Management and Budget will release their Budget and Economic Forecast of state revenues and expenditures in February which will play a large role in the development of Governor Walz's bonding budget.

- **But don't forget:** The forecast released in November 2023 warned of a significant structural imbalance that would constrain the budget outlook in FY 2026-27.

Minnesota DNR Considers Walleye Limits

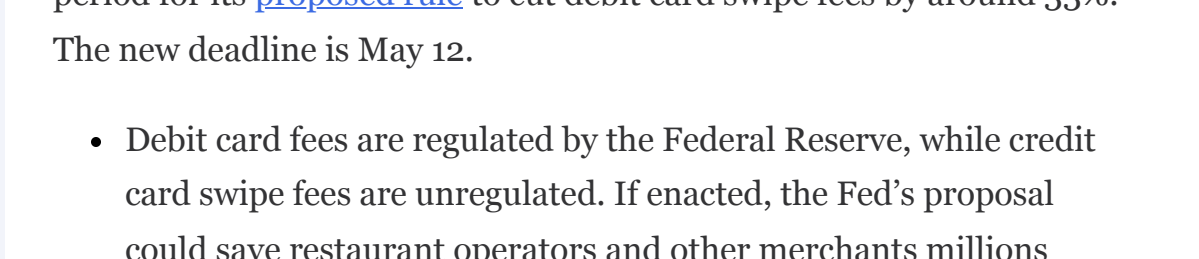


What's happening: Last week, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources officials announced they are considering undertaking the rule-making process to reduce the walleye limit from six to four.

- The current limit was set over 60 years ago, and in recent years there has been much talk about potentially decreasing the limit. [Read more here](#).

Share your perspective: The DNR plans to conduct public surveys on the issue, but please let us know if you have concerns.

Federal Reserve Extends Comment Period for Debit Card Fee Proposal



The news: Yesterday, the Federal Reserve extended the public comment period for its [proposed rule](#) to cut debit card swipe fees by around 33%. The new deadline is May 12.

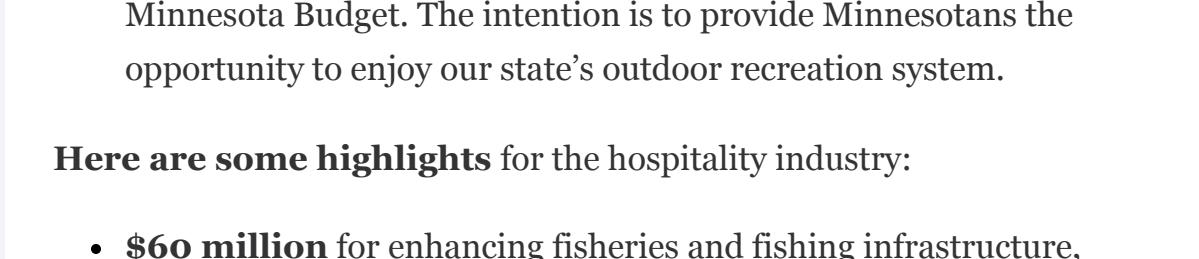
- Debit card fees are regulated by the Federal Reserve, while credit card swipe fees are unregulated. If enacted, the Fed's proposal could save restaurant operators and other merchants millions annually.

Wait, there's more: Also yesterday the Fed provided more data to provide further insight into how, under the proposed rule, the Fed would determine debit card swipe fees going forward.

- **Key takeaway:** The data shows that the cost of processing each debit card transaction has gone down 50% since the Fed started collecting that information in 2009.

What's next: The retail community's allotted meeting with Fed staff regarding this proposal, which was planned for Jan. 25, will be rescheduled.

Get Out MORE - DNR Makes Investments Statewide



What's happening: The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has announced the programmatic framework that will guide how and where the Get Out MORE (Modernize Outdoor Recreation Experiences) investments will be focused.

- **By the numbers:** \$149.9 million dollars was allocated last year toward Get Out MORE in Gov. Walz and Lt. Gov. Flanagan's One Minnesota Budget. The intention is to provide Minnesotans the opportunity to enjoy our state's outdoor recreation system.

Here are some highlights for the hospitality industry:

- **\$60 million** for enhancing fisheries and fishing infrastructure, including significant improvements to the Waterville and Crystal Springs hatcheries.
- **\$35 million** for modernizing boat accesses.
- **\$8 million** for hiking and paved trail surface improvements.

Go deeper: [Click here](#) for a full spending breakdown.

Beyond the Headlines: Minnesota's Political Landscape

- **Retirements rise:** This past week, Rep Pat Garafolo and Rep Laurie Pryor announced retirements, bringing the House total up to 13. [Read the full list here](#).
- **All bets aren't off:** CBS Minnesota reports that sports betting is on the table this legislative session. [Read more here](#).
- **Presidential Primary:** Early Voting began January 19 in Minnesota. If you can't vote on March 5, find your early voting information [location here](#).

Have a great weekend!

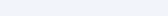
Interested in sponsoring this newsletter? Get your company's logo on our banner. [Click here](#) to learn more and contact [Tony](#) if interested!

Learn more about our advocacy work [here](#).

Feedback

Anonymously tell us what you thought of this edition. Your responses will help us create better content for you!

Was this edition useful?



[Unsubscribe](#)

This newsletter is powered by

Like this email style and format?

It's called Smart Brevity®. Hundreds of orgs use it — in a tool called [Axios HQ](#) — to drive productivity with clearer workplace communications.