

By Hanna Zinn • Apr 25, 2025

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Welcome back! Thank you to everyone who participated in our two action alerts in the past week – your feedback and engagement with legislators truly does make a difference in our advocacy work! This week the legislature has been hard at work hearing budget bills across all policy areas except taxes and capital improvement projects. In this week's GRU I'll give a recap of all the policy debates on the floor and what's next for the bills we're watching.

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Session Snapshot



The big picture: The Senate Finance and House Ways and Means committees have been busy hearing various omnibus budget bills. In the House, three budget bills are still in negotiations: Education Finance, Health, and Workforce Development. The Workforce Development bill is where our ProStart funding bill, any Paid Family Medical Leave changes, and other labor-related policy changes would be made.

Zoom in: Yesterday, the Senate's version of the <u>Education Policy</u> bill was taken up on the Senate floor for final passage. A floor amendment was proposed to allow school districts to begin before Labor Day, but not prior to August 1, for the next two school years. The amendment was defeated 32-32, in part because of HM's efforts to highlight the resort and hospitality industry and the negative impacts this amendment would have on our businesses!

Dive in: Here's an updated version of all the omnibus bills currently moving through the legislature.

Senate – awaiting floor vote:

- Jobs and Economic Development and Labor
- Energy, Utilities, Environment and Climate
- Agriculture, Broadband, and Rural Development
- <u>Legacy</u>
- <u>Human Services</u>
- <u>Health</u>
- <u>Transportation</u>
- <u>Higher Education</u>
- Education Finance
- <u>Public Safety</u>

Senate – passed to House:

- <u>Veterans</u>
- <u>Commerce and Consumer Protection</u>
- <u>Housing and Homelessness Prevention</u>
- <u>State and Local Government and Elections</u>
- Education Policy

House - awaiting floor vote:

- Commerce Finance and Policy
- <u>Cannabis</u>
- <u>Human Services</u>
- <u>Energy</u>
- Veterans and Military Affairs
- Education Policy
- Environment and Natural Resources
- <u>Higher Education</u>
- <u>Housing</u>
- Labor and Industry Policy
- <u>Transportation</u>
- Education Finance

House – passed to Senate:

- State and Local Government and Elections
- Public Safety
- <u>Legacy</u>
- Children and Families
- <u>Agriculture</u>

What's next: These bills need to be heard in both chambers before a conference committee can be established. Once a conference committee is created and members are assigned to it, more negotiations to align the Senate and House positions will take place to pass the budget. All bills heard on the House floor need to have bipartisan support for a bill to pass.

One fun thing: For those interested in the legislative process, check out the Minnesota Legislature's website <u>here</u> for more information on how a bill becomes law. Based on that page, the MN Legislature is right in between "Committee" and "Conference".

Thank you reading! Check out past <u>GR Updates</u> here.

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