



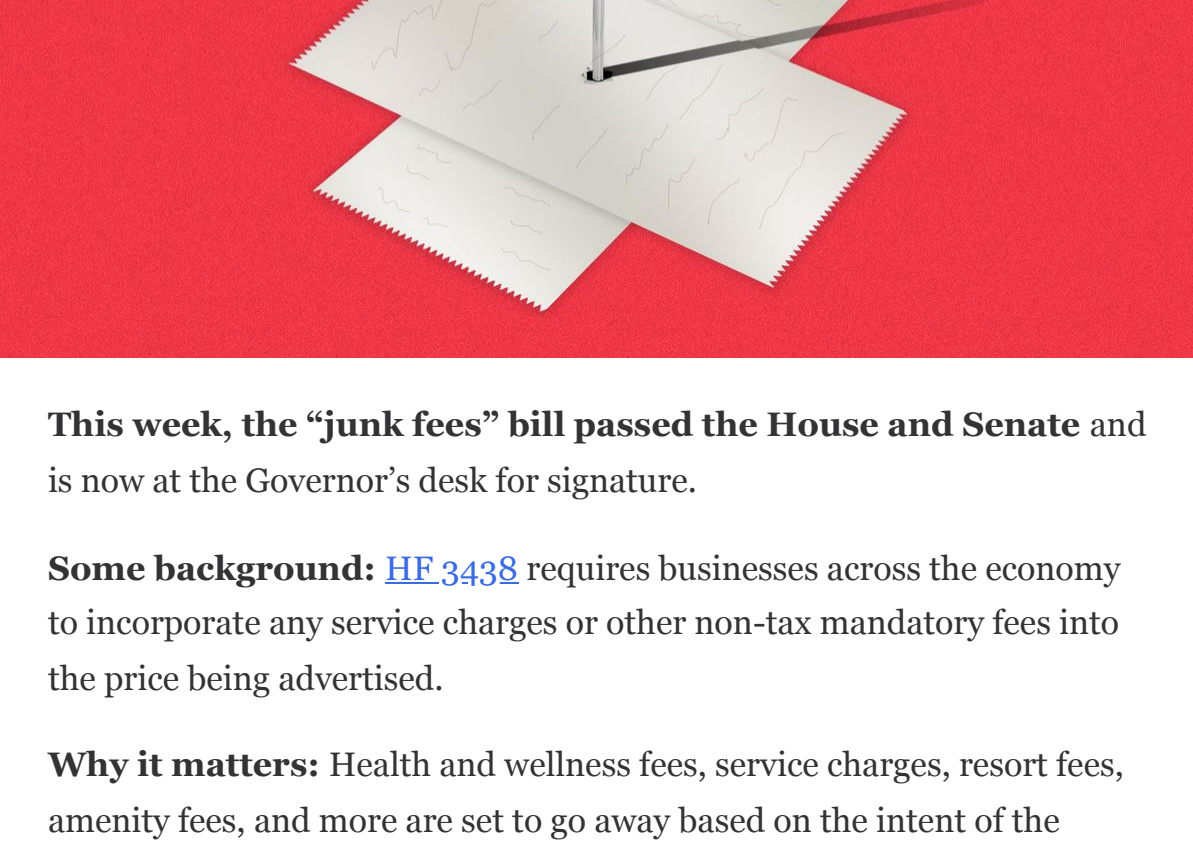
By Jill Sims • May 17, 2024

Smart Brevity® count: 3.5 mins...908 words

From the Desk of Jill Sims: Less than 72 hours remain for legislative business (all bills must pass before Monday) and there is *a lot* of work to be done. High stakes, low sleep, lots of feelings as we round the corner. Read on about junk fees, rideshare, omnibus bills, and BWCA forest management.

ICYMI: Angie Whitcomb, our President and CEO, penned an op-ed that ran in MinnPost yesterday, [check it out here](#) and feel free to share!

'Junk Fees' Bill Passes; Heads to Governors Desk



This week, the “junk fees” bill passed the House and Senate and is now at the Governor’s desk for signature.

Some background: [HF 3438](#) requires businesses across the economy to incorporate any service charges or other non-tax mandatory fees into the price being advertised.

Why it matters: Health and wellness fees, service charges, resort fees, amenity fees, and more are set to go away based on the intent of the legislation.

- **Yes, but:** Credit card fees, mandatory gratuities (i.e. 18% on party of 6 or more or ‘no tip’ model restaurants), and government taxes/fees are not included in this legislation.

The big picture: Legislators have called for “all in pricing” across the economy to avoid hidden fees. The bill will go into effect January 01, 2025.

- **What’s next:** Once the bill becomes law, Hospitality Minnesota will work with the Attorney General’s Office and Department of Revenue to seek guidance. Additionally, we will review other options available to our industry.

House Scheduled to Vote Today on Rideshare Legislation

MINNESOTA, IT'S TIME TO #SAVERIDESHARE

ELECTED OFFICIALS ARE FORCING RELIABLE RIDESHARE OUT OF MINNESOTA ON JULY 1, 2024.

What’s happening: Legislative leaders have continued to move legislation on rideshare, having the final committee stops early this week.

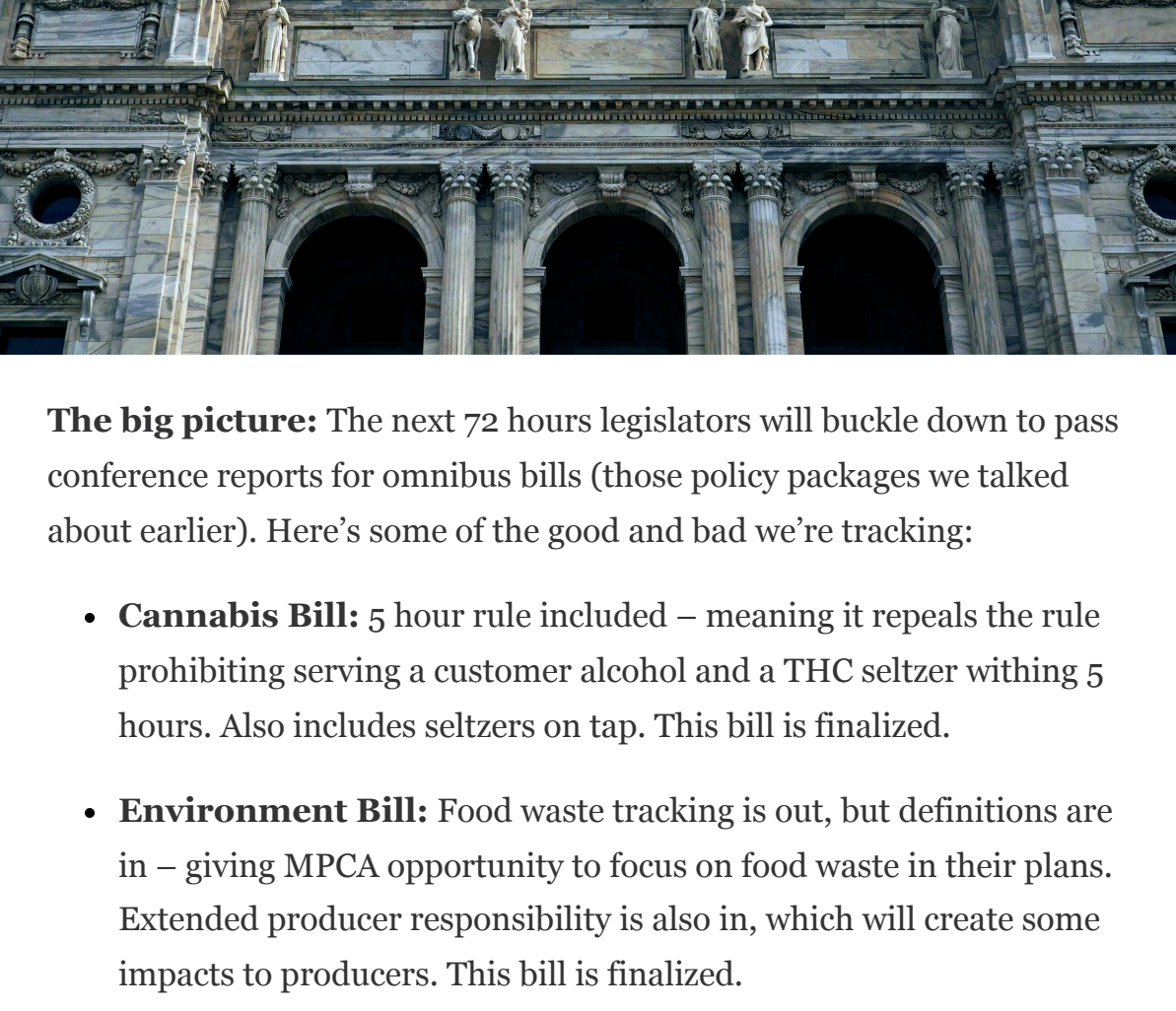
Some background: [HF4756](#) and [SE4780](#) establish on a rate of \$1.27 per minute and \$0.49 per mile. However, this rate was determined by elected officials and not in good faith negotiation with rideshare.

- **With only 72 hours to go, the House has placed [HF4756](#) on the calendar,** meaning they intend to vote today (Friday). Yesterday, Majority Leader Jamie Long offered an amendment with “\$...” dollar amounts as a way to ‘continue the conversation’.

The challenge: even if the House can pass legislation, does the Senate have the votes? Currently, it’s unclear and I believe the rate would need to change.

- **What can you do?** Tell your legislator to support legislation that keeps reliable rideshare in Minnesota! [Click here](#) to send your legislator a message – it takes 30 second or less!

The Final Days of Session: Outstanding Omnibus Bills



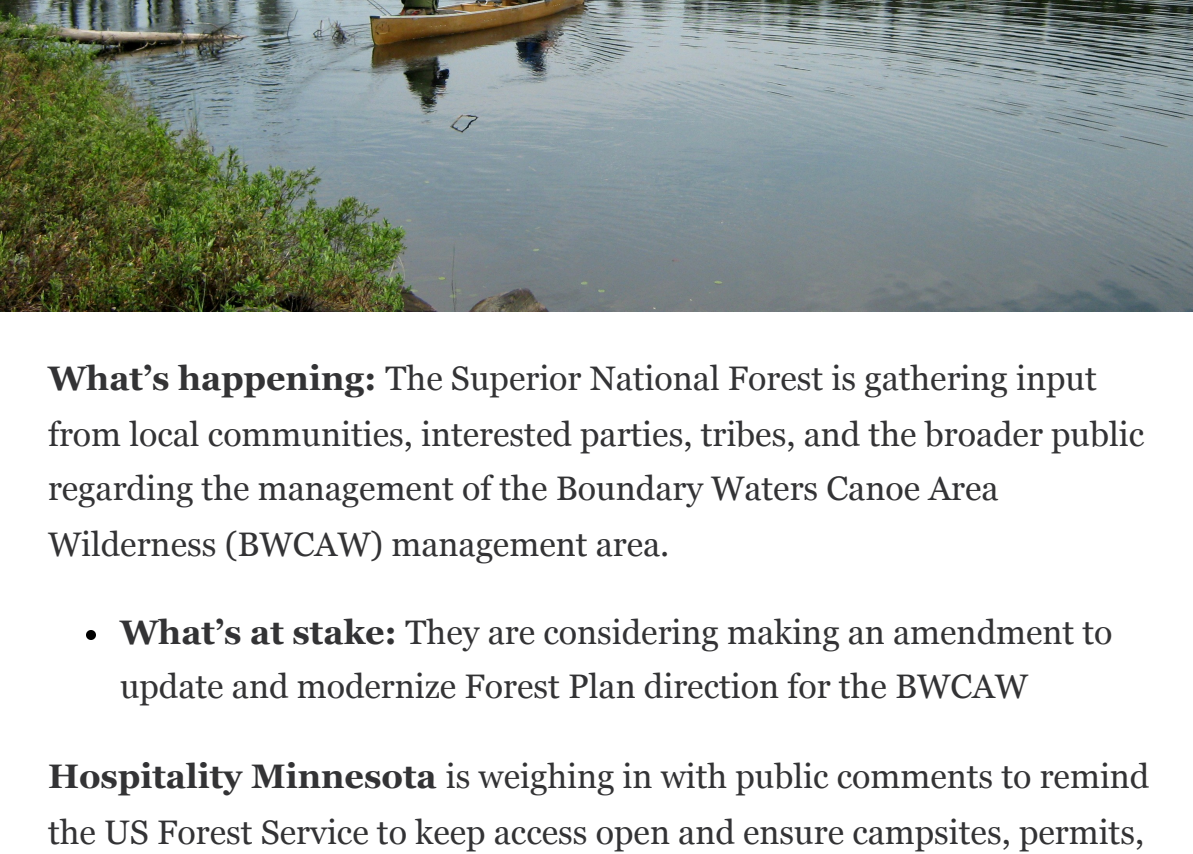
The big picture: The next 72 hours legislators will buckle down to pass conference reports for omnibus bills (those policy packages we talked about earlier). Here’s some of the good and bad we’re tracking:

- **Cannabis Bill:** 5 hour rule included – meaning it repeals the rule prohibiting serving a customer alcohol and a THC seltzer within 5 hours. Also includes seltzers on tap. This bill is finalized.
- **Environment Bill:** Food waste tracking is out, but definitions are in – giving MPCA opportunity to focus on food waste in their plans. Extended producer responsibility is also in, which will create some impacts to producers. This bill is finalized.
- **Tax Bill:** Lowering the Minneapolis downtown food and beverage tax to 2.5% while expanding the taxing area to the North Loop is in; and so is relief for homestead resorts (1c classification). This bill is in negotiations.

The bottom line: The list goes on and on, given there were 5,000+ bills introduced this year.

- **What’s next:** We’ll be back with a full recap on what made it in/out soon. In the meantime, have a cup of coffee for us at the legislature!

Forest Service Amending Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Management Plan



What’s happening: The Superior National Forest is gathering input from local communities, interested parties, tribes, and the broader public regarding the management of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) management area.

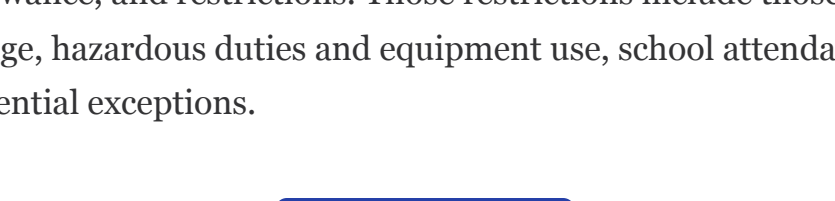
- **What’s at stake:** They are considering making an amendment to update and modernize Forest Plan direction for the BWCAW

Hospitality Minnesota is weighing in with public comments to remind the US Forest Service to keep access open and ensure campsites, permits, and points of entry are not reduced.

- **Yes, and:** We are encouraging more education and permissible use of motorized watercraft to ensure tow boat guides can continue to operate.

Want to share your voice? If you’d like to learn more about their plan or weigh in, [learn more here](#). Comments are due by midnight tonight, Friday May 17.

Tuesday Webinar on Restrictions of Youth and Teen Workers



What’s happening: The Minnesota Department of Labor will host a webinar on Tuesday, May 21 at 10:00 AM to help businesses prepare for hiring teen and youth workers ahead of the summer season.

- **What to expect:** The webinar will review state and federal laws, allowance, and restrictions. Those restrictions include those related to age, hazardous duties and equipment use, school attendance and potential exceptions.

[Register Here!](#)

Beyond the Headlines: Minnesota’s Political Landscape



- [Here’s what still could pass \(but might not\) in the final 5 days of the 2024 Minnesota legislative session](#)
- [KSTP/SurveyUSA Poll: Voters weigh in on sports betting, rideshare pay, Sen. Nicole Mitchell](#)
- [Tensions flare at Minnesota Capitol as debates stretch on: DFLers say they’ll push ahead with ERA measure](#)
- [Uber and Lyft drivers remain as divided as lawmakers over minimum pay rates](#)

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