



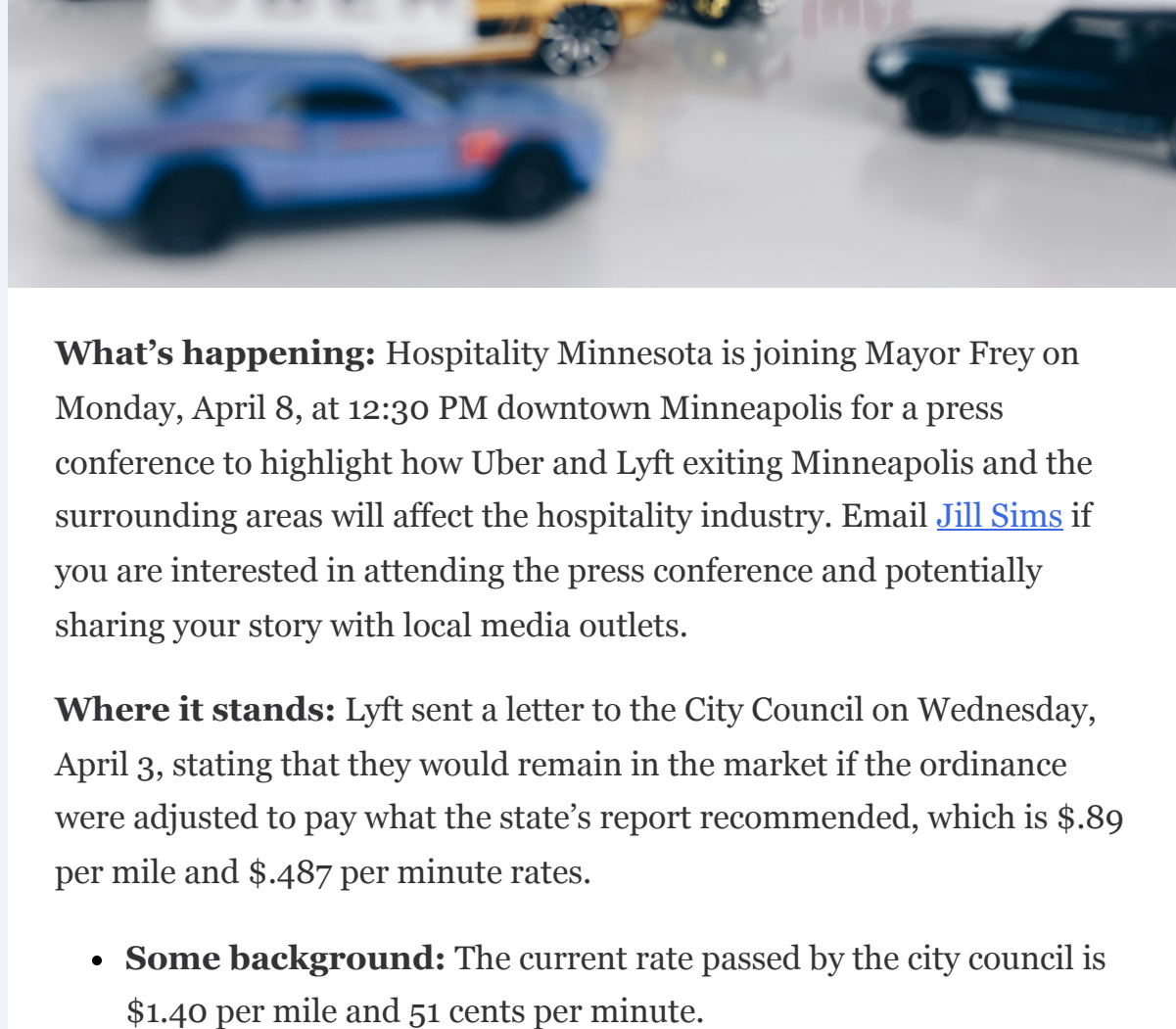
By Jill Sims • Apr 05, 2024

Smart Brevity® count: 4 mins...1083 words

From the Desk of Jill Sims: After a quick break, the legislature is back in swing and is beginning to move policy packages through omnibus bills and identify key priorities.

Simultaneously, the Minneapolis City Council is heating up as there is less than a month until Uber and Lyft plan to exit the market. Read on for a rideshare update, more on the MAC bill, changes to ESST, OSHA's new walk-around rule, MPCA's food waste grants, and DNR's investments in public infrastructure.

Uber/Lyft Update

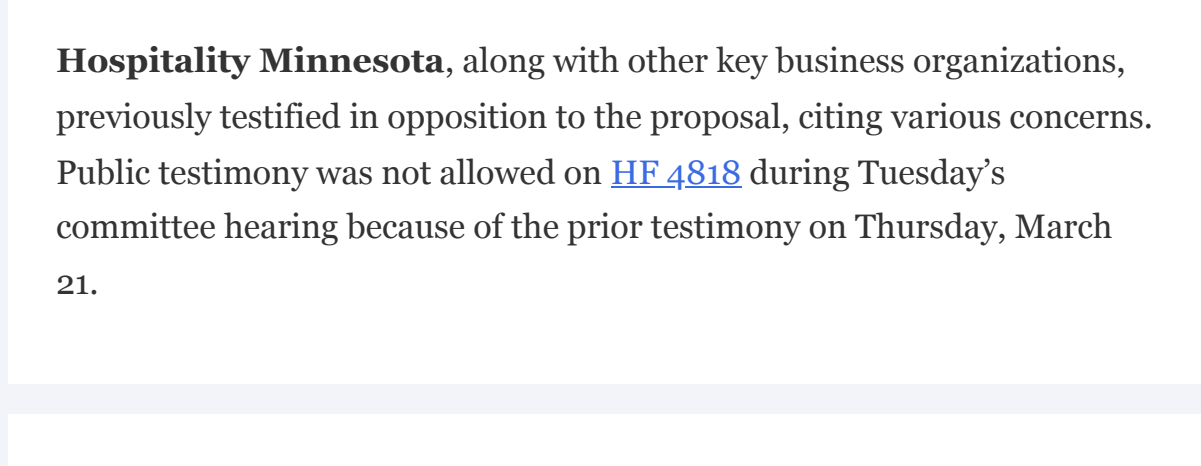


What's happening: Hospitality Minnesota is joining Mayor Frey on Monday, April 8, at 12:30 PM downtown Minneapolis for a press conference to highlight how Uber and Lyft exiting Minneapolis and the surrounding areas will affect the hospitality industry. Email [Jill Sims](#) if you are interested in attending the press conference and potentially sharing your story with local media outlets.

Where it stands: Lyft sent a letter to the City Council on Wednesday, April 3, stating that they would remain in the market if the ordinance were adjusted to pay what the state's report recommended, which is \$.89 per mile and \$.487 per minute rates.

- **Some background:** The current rate passed by the city council is \$1.40 per mile and 51 cents per minute.

Legislature Contemplates MSP International Airport \$4.98/Hour Employer Health Benefit Supplement

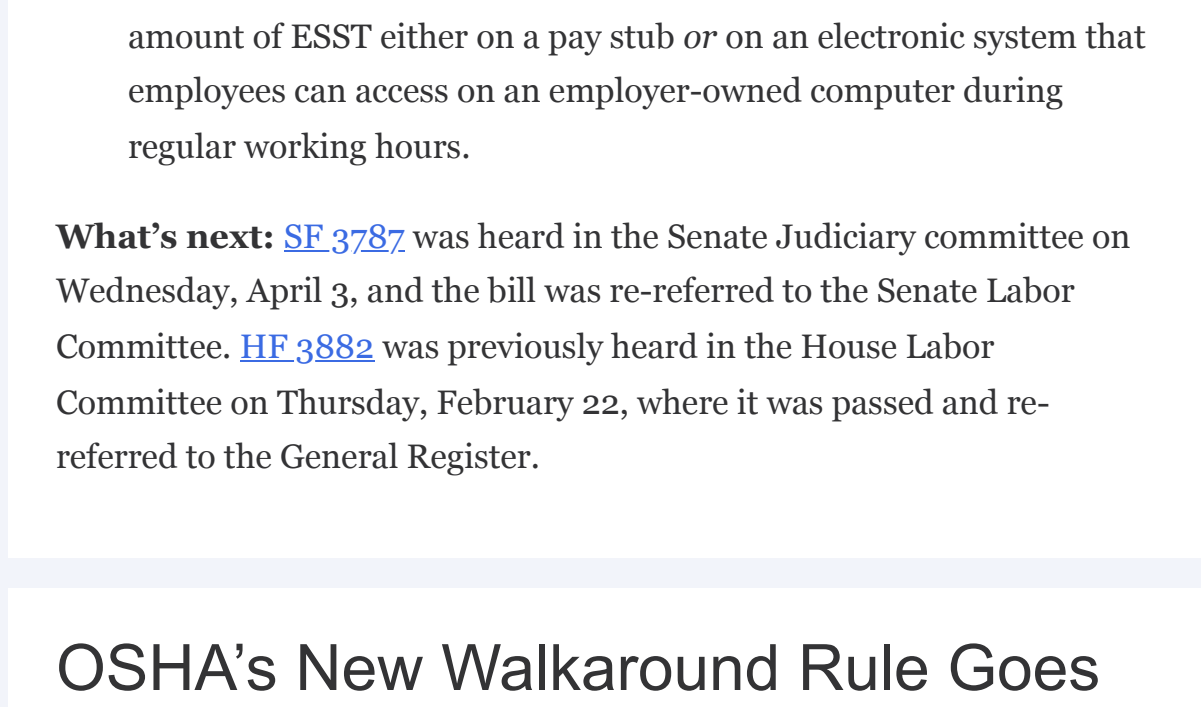


Some background: [HF 4818](#) / [SF 4708](#) would require any business located on property of the Minneapolis-St. Paul International airport to pay employees an additional \$4.98 per hour to be used for supplemental health care expenses.

- **Where it stands:** [HF 4818](#) was sent to the House Floor after being heard in the House Labor committee on Tuesday, April 2. [SF 4708](#) was previously heard in the Senate Labor committee and re-referred to the Senate Commerce committee where it still awaits a hearing.

Hospitality Minnesota, along with other key business organizations, previously testified in opposition to the proposal, citing various concerns. Public testimony was not allowed on [HF 4818](#) during Tuesday's committee hearing because of the prior testimony on Thursday, March 21.

Modifications to Earned Sick and Safe Time (ESST) Bill



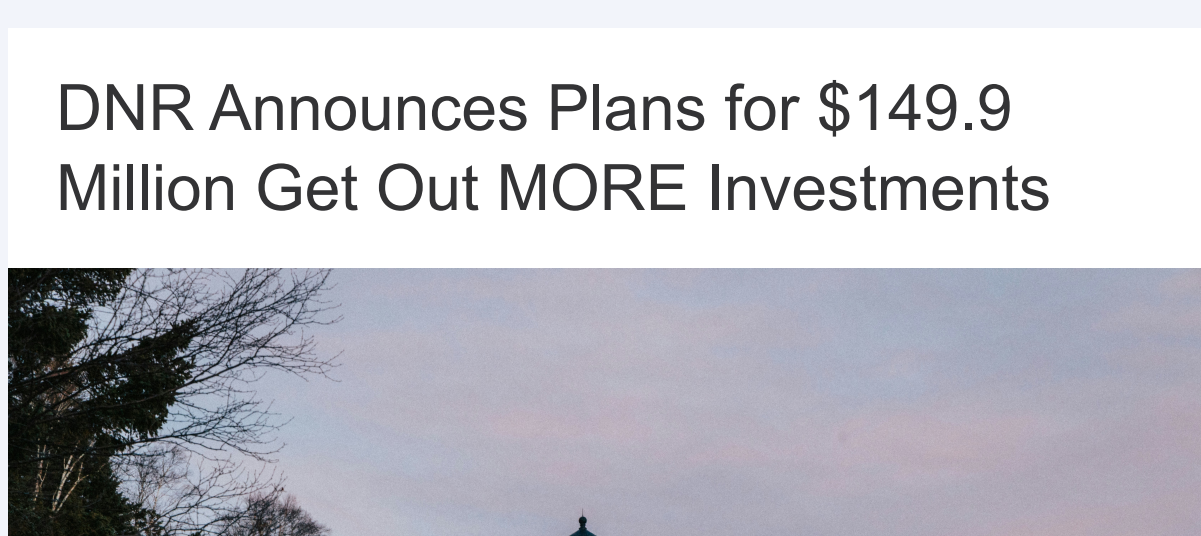
[HF 3882](#) / [SF 3787](#) are bills that make technical changes to the Earned Sick and Safe Time bill that was passed last year.

Why it matters: Changes to ESST are mostly technical, but there are several substantive changes. Key proposed changes include:

- Employers would be held liable to all employees who were not provided or allowed to use ESST for an amount equal to all time that should have been provided.
- Employers would be liable for an amount equal to 48 hours of ESST for each year if an employer does not possess sufficient records of an employee's banked ESST.
- Employees would be allowed to use ESST to make arrangements or attend funeral services, along with addressing financial or legal matters that arise after the death of a family member.
- Employers would have the choice to display an employee's current amount of ESST either on a pay stub *or* on an electronic system that employees can access on an employer-owned computer during regular working hours.

What's next: [SE 3787](#) was heard in the Senate Judiciary committee on Wednesday, April 3, and the bill was re-referred to the Senate Labor Committee. [HF 3882](#) was previously heard in the House Labor Committee on Thursday, February 22, where it was passed and re-referred to the General Register.

OSHA's New Walkaround Rule Goes Into Effect May 31st



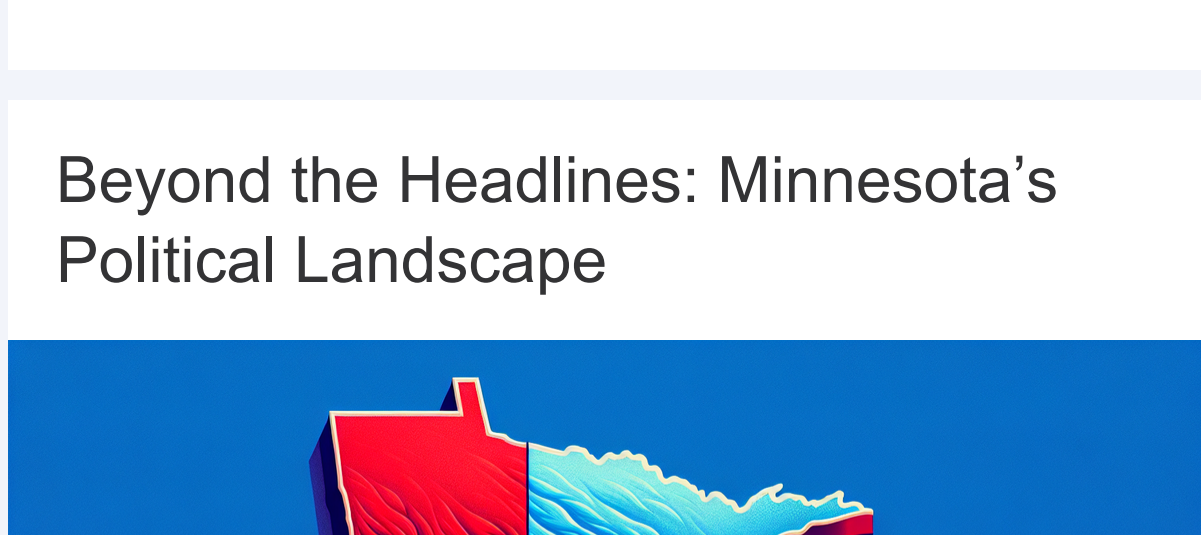
Our partners at the American Hotel & Lodging Association and the National Restaurant Association have been tracking OSHA's Walkaround Rule issued on Friday, March 29th.

- **Why it matters:** The new rule would empower OSHA inspectors to allow union organizers, community activists, or other third parties who are not employees of the employer to accompany OSHA on an inspection of a workplace if an employee asks the inspector to do so.

Some background: Third parties previously could only accompany an inspector when "good cause has been shown why accompaniment by a third party who is not an employee of the employer is reasonably necessary to the conduct of an effective and thorough physical inspection of the workplace."

- **AHLA** joined [comments](#) filed by the Coalition for Workplace Safety and CWS's [letter](#) to the House Subcommittee on Workforce Protections in September. The final rule goes into effect on May 31st, 2024, and AHLA expects one or more business groups will pursue a legal challenge.

MPCA's Statewide Prevention of Wasted Food and Food Rescue Grants

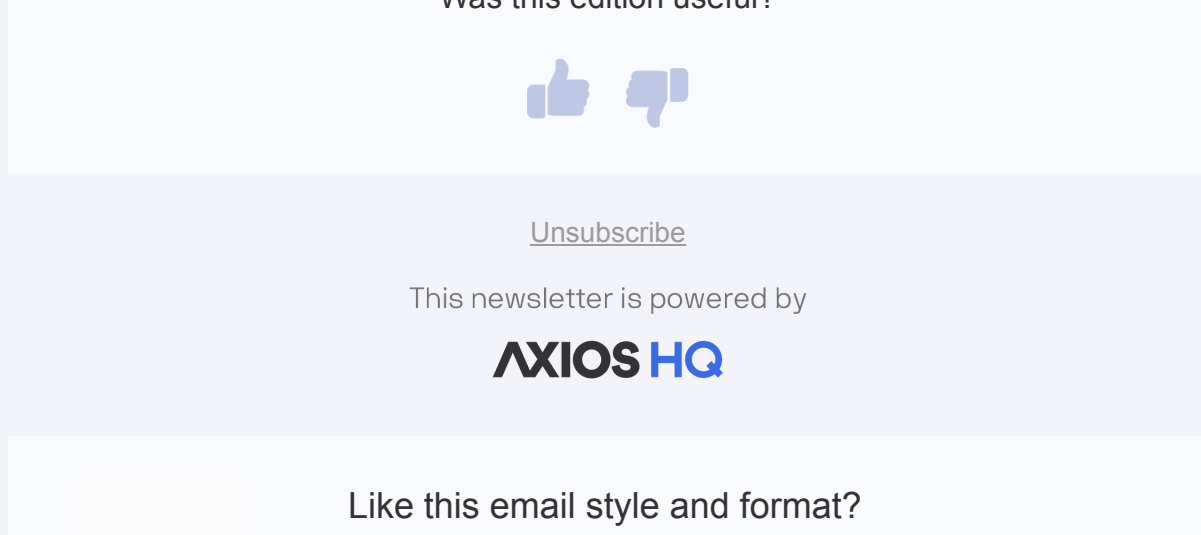


In their current grant round, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has approximately \$4.5 million available to support the prevention of wasted food and food rescue projects across the state. Applications must be received no later than 4 p.m. on May 2, 2024.

- **Eligible applicants** include entities that are serving Minnesota Communities or have operations in Minnesota, including not-for-profit organizations, businesses, institutions, political subdivisions, state agencies, and tribal governments.

Go deeper: Learn more about how to apply [here](#).

DNR Announces Plans for \$149.9 Million Get Out MORE Investments



Outdoor recreation infrastructure in Minnesota desperately needs updating, in particular boat ramps (also known as public water accesses).

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has identified more than 40 public water access sites throughout the state for extensive upgrades. They also anticipate smaller-scale improvements to more than 75 additional accesses.

Funding includes \$35 million that will go toward modernizing boating access, including:

- **\$30 million for accessible features**, stormwater improvements, enhanced facilities for aquatic invasive species prevention, restoration to improve shoreline health, and accessible ramps for non-motorized boats
- **\$5 million for longer launch ramps**, wider drive lanes, wider and longer parking stalls, and improved stormwater treatment.

Get Out MORE investments center on five key areas:

- Enhancing fisheries and fishing infrastructure (\$60 million),
- Enhancing access and welcoming new users to public lands and outdoor recreation facilities (\$35.4 million),
- Modernizing boating access (\$35 million),
- Restoring streams and modernizing water-related infrastructure to support outdoor recreation (\$10 million),
- Modernizing camping and related infrastructure (\$9.5 million).

Go deeper: Details about what is included in this investment can be found [here](#).

Beyond the Headlines: Minnesota's Political Landscape



[Mankato's Arch + Cable runs into liquor license hiccup](#) (Jill Sims quoted)

[Hennepin County public defender concerned clients will miss court appearances without rideshare](#)

[Proposal to provide hourly airport employees a health insurance stipend heads to House Floor](#)

['Missing middle' housing bill off the table at the Legislature](#)

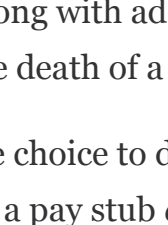
Have a great weekend!

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

Feedback

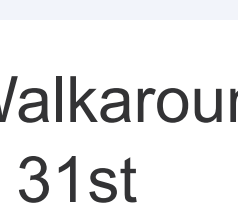
Anonymously tell us what you thought of this edition. Your responses will help us create better content for you!

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.