



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

ADVOCATING FOR MINNESOTA'S HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

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By Ryan Hamilton • Apr 17, 2026

Smart Brevity® count: 3 mins...781 words

Welcome back. As the Legislature enters the final stretch before adjournment on May 18, Hospitality Minnesota is continuing to press the case that public policy must reflect the actual condition of the industry. That condition is now clearer than ever. Our recently released [2026 State of Hospitality Report](#) shows an industry that remains economically vital, but increasingly strained by weaker traffic, rising costs, and policy pressures that are landing on already thin margins.

The current reality: session endgame. With roughly 30 days remaining, attention is shifting from committee movement to what can still find a vehicle, survive negotiation, and reach the governor's desk before adjournment. For hospitality operators, that means the next month will be less about how many ideas are in play and more about which ones can actually be carried across the finish line.

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Hospitality Minnesota Day at the Capitol



Hospitality Minnesota Day at the Capitol: On April 8, Hospitality Minnesota welcomed 70 association members to the Capitol for a day of advocacy, relationship-building, and industry visibility. The event also featured participation from staff with the National Restaurant Association and the American Hotel & Lodging Association, who traveled to Minnesota to offer remarks during the plenary session.

- **Why it matters:** The day was not only about meetings. It was a visible demonstration that Minnesota's hospitality industry is organized, engaged, and prepared to speak with one voice about the policy environment operators need in order to keep serving, hiring, and investing in communities across the state. That message was strengthened by the public rollout of Hospitality Minnesota's 2026 State of Hospitality Report, which was unveiled during a press conference that morning.

Yes, and: The rollout generated meaningful media pickup, including coverage by Fox 9, KARE 11, and the Pioneer Press.

- That matters because the report is doing more than describing industry conditions. It is helping establish a factual record that policymakers and the public can use to better understand the pressures bearing down on restaurants, hotels, resorts, and other operators.

House Passes Omnibus Liquor Bill



Liquor bill advances: On April 13, SF 2511, the omnibus liquor bill, came up for final vote in the House and passed 129-1. According to the bill status reflected in the version provided, the measure was subsequently sent forward after final legislative action and now awaits the governor's signature.

- **Why it matters:** SF 2511 is a broad liquor-policy package rather than a single-issue bill. It includes trade-practice clarifications, local licensing provisions, food hall licensing language, county seasonal-license language, and several venue-specific and municipality-specific license authorizations. In other words, it reflects the kind of omnibus end-of-session vehicle that often becomes important as lawmakers try to resolve multiple outstanding liquor-policy items at once.

What to watch: The separate tax-abatement and liquor-posting technical fix Hospitality Minnesota has been advancing does not appear in the text of SF 2511 as provided here. That issue instead remains tied to the tax bill discussions still ahead in the final weeks of session.

What We're Working on in the Final 30 Days



Tax bill negotiations: Hospitality Minnesota continues to work toward inclusion of a technical fix addressing the conflict between Minnesota's tax abatement process and current liquor-posting consequences. Our position remains straightforward: where the state has recognized circumstances warranting tax relief, the law should not automatically impose a liquor-posting consequence that undermines that relief.

- **Junk fee exemption:** We also are continuing to pursue a hospitality exemption to Minnesota's junk-fee law. The question is not whether consumers deserve transparency; they do. The questions is whether lawmakers are willing to balance consumer protections against the realities of why surcharges came to be. In 2024, California Legislature chose to create a hospitality exemption from its broader hidden-fees law, acknowledging that restaurant pricing and service-charge structures do not fit neatly within a one-size-fits-all consumer fee framework. Hospitality Minnesota is pressing for a similar result in Minnesota: a policy that preserves transparency while also reflecting the operational realities of hospitality businesses.

The bottom line: The final month of session is where broad narratives either translate to legislative results or do not. Hospitality Minnesota has now put both the facts and the stakes on the table. Our [State of Hospitality Report](#) shows an industry under real strain, and our advocacy agenda remains focused on practical reforms that remove friction rather than add to it. With adjournment scheduled for May 18, the work ahead is to make sure lawmakers act accordingly.

As Session Continues, You Can Count On Us



THE LODGING, RESTAURANT, RESORT AND CAMPGROUND ASSOCIATION

Check back for future updates. Additional communications will be provided as proposals continues moving through the legislative process.

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