



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

ADVOCATING FOR MINNESOTA'S HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

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By Hanna Zinn • Mar 14, 2025

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Whew – we all made it to Friday. This week was a packed one for Hospitality Minnesota at the Capitol – 93 legislative meetings at our Day at the Capitol, 2 testifiers at 2 different committees, and an election that tied up the House. I've got all of this and more in our Session Spotlight this week.

But first, I want to give a huge thank you to our attendees and sponsors of our 2025 Day at the Capitol. The best part of my job is watching our members interact with legislators and emphasize the importance of the hospitality industry in Minnesota. I have heard from many different legislators about the impressive caliber of hospitality representatives, and I could not be prouder of how you all showed up on Wednesday. Here's to a short two-day break and then to begin planning for next year!

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Session Snapshot



The big picture: As I stated in the opening, Hospitality Minnesota members had over 90 meetings with legislators on Wednesday. Our members truly flooded the halls of the Capitol sharing their business experience and highlighting legislation impacting their operations.

Why it matters: Our members were able to have meaningful conversations with legislators about key issues impacting the hospitality industry. Important topics our members covered in their meetings included:

- Support for Hospitality Minnesota Education Foundation's ProStart funding
- Creating alignment between the [FTC ruling](#) and Minnesota's current Price Transparency law
- Investing in Minnesota food service businesses by exempting purchases of capital equipment from sales taxes
- The harms to Minnesota's tourism and outdoor recreation industry if schools begin classes before Labor Day

Our voices were heard. These meetings also provided an opportunity for legislators to hear about all aspects of the hospitality industry. Attendees represented restaurants, hotels, tourism, and key partners to the hospitality industry.

- **One fun thing:** If you were not able to attend HM's Day at the Capitol this year but would like to meet with your legislator about these important issues, contact Hanna Zinn, hanna@hospitalitymn.com to find out more!

Yes, and: This week also saw two HM members testify in committee.

Paid Family Leave testimony: Mindy Fredrikson, of Gunflint Lodge & Outfitters, testified on Thursday morning in the House Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development committee in support of [House File 1976](#), a bill that would modify Minnesota's Paid Family Leave law before it goes into effect Jan. 1, 2026. Watch the full hearing [here](#).

- **Why it matters:** The bill would standardize the hospitality exemption for employees and employers across state law. It would also modify the number of weeks an individual can take based on the size of the employer.
- **What's next:** The bill was laid on the table in committee, meaning it can be taken up for member discussion at a future committee meeting.

Social Districts testimony: Ray Herrington, Operations Director at Letnes Restaurant Group, testified on Thursday afternoon in the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection committee in support of [Senate File 1182](#), a bill authorizing cities to create a social district. Watch the full hearing [here](#), bill discussion begins at 52:45.

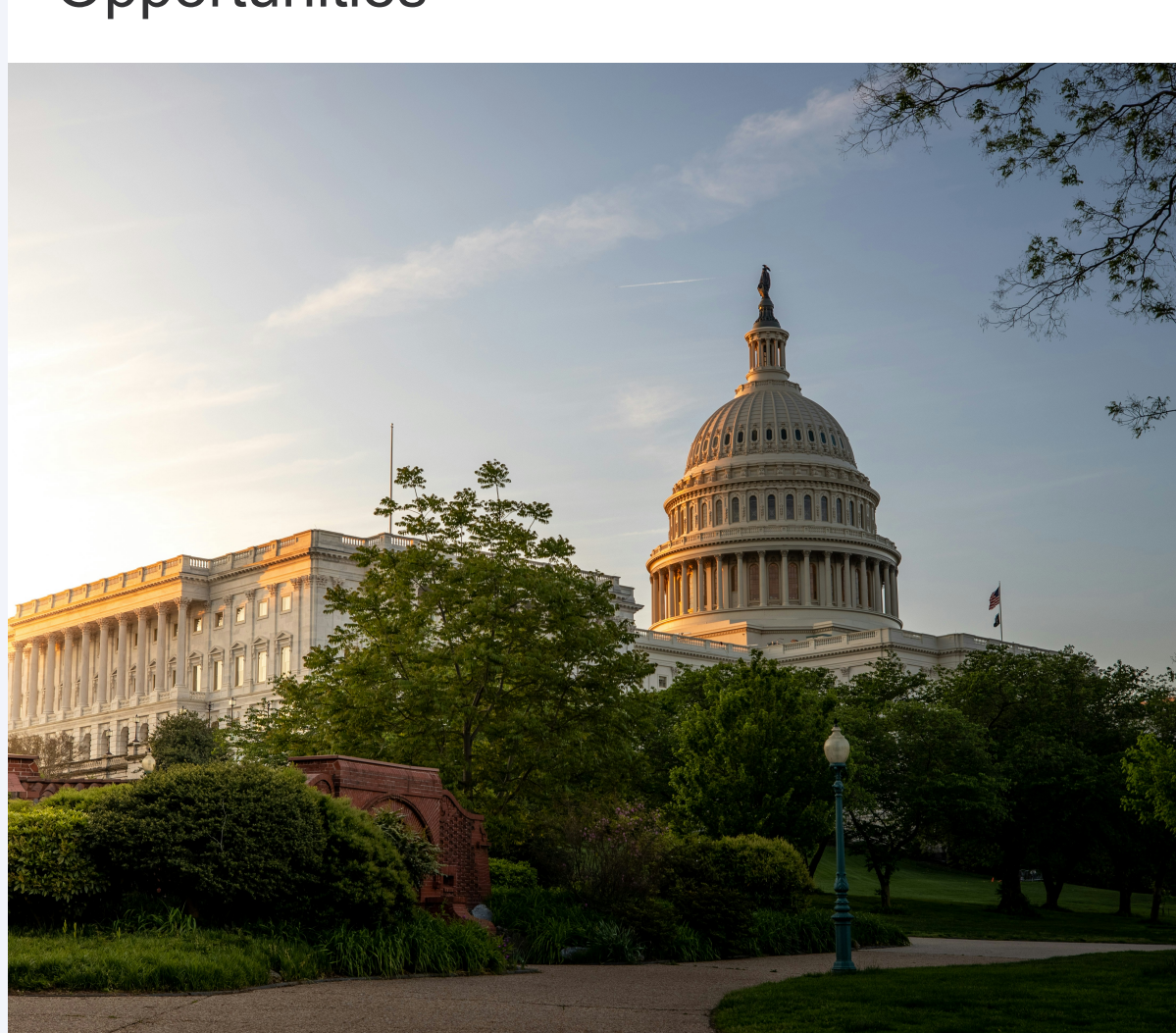
- **Why it matters:** The bill would give cities the authorization to implement a social district. The bill is a result of the successful social district in Anoka which was authorized as a pilot program following the 2022 session. The social district in Anoka has expanded from a 30-day pilot to a 6 month, 7-day a week program.
- **What's next:** The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in a liquor omnibus bill. The committee will discuss next week which bills should be included.

In other news, the House is tied once again: Following a [special election](#) for House Seat 40B where voters elected a DFL representative, the chamber will begin a power-sharing agreement next week. The election makes the House officially tied at 67 Republican and 67 DFL members. Details of the power sharing agreement include:

- Each standing committee must be made of equal representation of each party
- One member from each party will serve as co-chair of the committee
- A majority vote is required to move a bill out of committee

What's next: Beginning next week committees will begin alternating control of the committee from Republican to DFL members.

Register for Other National Advocacy Opportunities



Did you know: Registration is still open for both the [National Restaurant Association's Public Affairs Conference](#) (April 1-3) and the [American Hotel and Lodging Association's Hotels on the Hill](#) (May 13-14).

- **Questions?** Reach out to [Hanna](#) for more information.

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