



The first week of the Minnesota legislative session started out on a somber note with the Remembrance of Speaker Melissa Hortman. The tone of unity and bipartisan work was the main focus of the event. Soon after, partisan bickering has already returned across much of the Capitol hearings. It was nice while it lasted.

Floor Proceedings

On Tuesday this week both the House and Senate gaveled in the start of the 2026 regular session at noon. Senators welcomed back with applause Sen. John Hoffman who survived an assassination attempt on June 14th of 2025, and he gave a speech thanking those who were able to make it so he was able to return to work. Over in the House, members remembered Melissa Hortman in a joint event with the Senate members.

On Thursday, both the House and Senate came back in to do their work. In the House, Rep. Niska moved to suspend the rules to take up SF856, the Office of Inspector General bill, which the motion was not passed 66-67 on a party line vote. Rep. Long then moved to suspend the rules to take up HF3405, which would require the MN BCA to conduct investigations into incidents involving federal agents. That motion also failed on a 67-66 party line vote. The Senate passed a few noncontroversial motions and adjourned for the day.

The Legislature has used 44 of their 120 allotted legislative days. As a reminder, Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 3.012, a legislative day is counted when either house of the legislature gives any bill a third reading, adopts a rule of procedure or organization, elects a university regent, confirms a gubernatorial appointment, or votes to override a gubernatorial veto. This was changed prior to the 2024 session which gives the legislature much more flexibility in what counts as a legislative day compared to previous years.

Legislators have introduced 3553 House Files and 3720 Senate Files.

Hearing Updates

House Proceedings:

This week the House Children and Families Committee met on Wednesday to discuss licensing modernization as well as implementation updates. The full report on modernization can be found at [the following link](#). Additionally, the full presentation from DCYF can [also be found here](#).

Senate Proceedings:

The Senate Health and Human Services committee met this week for a presentation from Minnesota Management and Budget on the impact [of Federal Funding cuts and withholds](#). This is unlikely to affect DCYF's work around child care.

Next Week (As officially scheduled by 9:00 AM 2/20/26)

- Monday, Feb. 23
 - House and Senate Floor Sessions
- Tuesday, Feb. 24
 - [Senate Health and Human Services](#)
 - Discussing [DCYF Modernization](#) report and [proposed legislative language](#)
 - Children and Families Finance and Policy
 - Discussing the Think Small Report on WeVision and further DCYF Implementation Updates.
- Wednesday, Feb. 25
 - [Senate Health and Human Services](#)
- Thursday, Feb. 26
 - [Senate Health and Human Services](#)

General Interest

This week Rep. Ginny Klevorn along with 34 coauthors introduced a bill, [HF3455](#), which would rename the State Office Building after Melissa Hortman. The bill states The state building located at 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in St. Paul is renamed as the Melissa Hortman State Office Building. This bill was referred to the State Government Finance and Policy Committee where it is expected to get a hearing.