



The second week of the Minnesota session was fraught with political divisions as one of the main themes of the session, school safety and gun control, popped up in a variety of committees. Most of these bills ended up staying in their first committee either by being laid over or being voted down on party line votes. The path to a bipartisan finale to session is looking difficult to achieve on large issues. That said, less controversial issues still have a path to success.

Floor Proceedings

The House met in session this week on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The Senate met on Monday and Thursday. In the House, Monday was a quick business day, Wednesday had a few longer debates about moving a pair of bills to other committee jurisdictions, and Thursday was another quick business day.

In the Senate, Monday was a quick business day. Thursday, the Senate made some confirmations for the Campaign Finance Board before adjourning until next week.

The Legislature has used 44 of their 120 allotted legislative days.

Legislators have introduced 3813 House Files and 3989 Senate Files.

Hearing Updates

House Proceedings:

This week the House Children and Families Committee met on Tuesday to discuss the Think Small presentation on the WeVision work. Dr. Nicole Smerillo led the presentation, with supporting testimony from Candace Yates. There were some concerns raised from other testifiers, but the committee as a whole seemed interested in the future of child care quality being separate from health and safety licensing.

Senate Proceedings:

Over in the Senate, DCYF presented in the Health and Human Services committee about their child care regulation modernization, with proposed legislative language shared with

the committee. Committee members expressed support for modernization efforts and discussed the importance of a robust procurement process for IT systems to ensure accountability. The meeting also focused on enhancing program integrity within DCYF, particularly regarding CCAP. Inspector General Randy Keyes outlined compliance efforts, including increased checks and investigations into potential fraud. The importance of unannounced inspections for child care providers was emphasized, along with the need for stricter eligibility criteria.

Next Week (As officially scheduled by 10:00 AM 2/27/26)

- Monday, March 2
 - House and Senate Floor Sessions
- Tuesday, Feb. 24
 - [Senate Health and Human Services](#)
 - Discussion of the February Forecast on DCYF

Bill Lists

[Transforming Minnesota's Early Childcare Workforce](#)

[Child Care Aware](#)

General Interest

This week a new sub-caucus of the Minnesota Republican Party was formed at the legislature. The new Freedom Caucus of Minnesota has seven members and is chaired by Sen. Eric Lucero. Other members in the new sub-caucus are Sen. Bill Lieske, Sen. Michael Holmstrom, Sen. Nathan Wesenberg, Rep. Drew Roach, Rep. Ben Davis, and Rep. Mike Wiener. Members of the new caucus said they want to see an end to "massive omnibus bills," "reckless spending," and "wasteful fraudulent programs."