



We're in the final countdown of session. Today marks the third deadline for committees in the House and Senate, meaning committees must act favorably on major appropriation and finance bills for these bills to move forward. Any bills not moved forward or heard by 5:00 p.m. today are considered stalled and unable to move forward this year. This week both chambers spent time in committee putting together these finance packages and passing them out of committee to each chamber's respective finance committee. In the Senate, each committee was able to come to a conclusion on which bills would make up their final finance packages. In the House, many committees stalled on their final finance bills with legislators hoping to go to a conference committee with their Senate counterparts to hammer out a final bill.

Floor Proceedings

The House met on Monday and Thursday. On Monday the House heard eight bills on the Calendar for the Day. The bills were largely noncontroversial. The first, providing that certain veterans or former members of the armed forces who have forfeited federal benefits do not qualify for state-funded veterans benefits, services, or programs, passed 133-0. The second bill, allowing the commissioner of veterans affairs to direct agency resources to veterans' initiatives; requiring reports, also passed unanimously. The third bill on the calendar, the Senate liquor omnibus bill, passed with an amendment 129-1. The fourth bill, modifying the application of residential mortgage loan fees and penalties in certain instances, passed 133-0. The fifth bill, clarifying right to postpone a mortgage sale, passed 128-5. The sixth bill, authorizing credit unions to obtain insurance from a credit union share insurance provider, passed 131-2. The seventh bill, modifying certain selection procedures for the Hennepin County medical examiner, passed 124-9. The final bill on the calendar for the day, adding requirements for state park license plate contest, passed 110-22.

On Thursday, the House did not have any bills on the Calendar for the Day. However, legislators asked for the rules to be suspended to take up two bills. These motions require two-thirds of the chamber to vote in the affirmative for the bill to be brought forward. The first, prohibiting health insurers from requiring co-payments for children's mental health services, did not pass. The second bill, the Republican Education Finance omnibus bill proposal, did not pass.

The Senate met each day this week, excluding Friday. On Monday the Senate heard three bills. The first bill changes the reporting date on the disaster assistance contingency account, the bill passed unanimously. The second bill amends the local correctional officers in Peace Officers Discipline

Procedures Act. This bill also passed unanimously. The final bill on Tuesday amends the exemptions to the certificate of need requirement. This bill passed unanimously.

Tuesday the Senate heard the omnibus liquor bill that passed the House on Monday. The bill was passed out of the Senate with no amendments on a 56-10 vote. The bill now heads to the governor for his signature. The chamber also confirmed the appointment of Joseph Sullivan to the Public Utilities Commission. Under special orders, the Senate took up two additional bills. The first bill modifying educational assistance for veterans' children and spouses, passed unanimously. The second bill making clarifying, technical, and conforming changes to the Minnesota Common Interest Ownership Act, also passed unanimously.

On Wednesday, the Senate took up three bills for the day. The first, modifying certain requirements governing the excavation notice system, including to require electronic positive response, passed 64-0. The second bill, modifying provisions relating to the practice of veterinary medicine and veterinary technology, passed 52-13. The third bill, modifying the port authority powers of the city of Lake City, passed 65-0.

Thursday the Senate took up four bills under special orders. All bills passed unanimously. The first bill provides that certain veterans or former members of the armed forces who have forfeited federal benefits do not qualify for state-funded veterans benefits, services, or programs. The second bill allows the commissioner of veterans affairs to direct agency resources to veterans' initiatives. The third bill clarifies the right to postpone a mortgage sale. The final bill of the day clarifies that an optometrist may prescribe certain window glazing materials.

The Legislature has used 59 of their 120 allotted legislative days. As a reminder, the legislative day count only goes up when one of the two bodies 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.

Legislators have introduced 5017 House Files and 5171 Senate Files.

Hearing Updates

House Proceedings:

This week the House Children and Families committee met on Tuesday and Wednesday. On Tuesday the committee heard two bills. The first modifies the Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act, which did not pass out of committee. The committee also heard a bill on child care modernization which was laid over for possible inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill. On Wednesday the committee discussed the funding omnibus bill. The committee meeting was tumultuous and amendments expanding the scope of the bill beyond child care modernization were not adopted. As a result of the committee meeting, no funding omnibus bill was passed out of committee. Co-Chair Kotyza-Witthuhn noted the Senate funding bill has provisions related to child care, so a conference committee on the budget bill is expected.

Senate Proceedings:

On Tuesday the Health and Human Services committee heard one bill, modifying provisions governing Medicaid fraud. The committee also heard updates on recent work regarding the financial stability of MN hospitals and systems, and ended the committee with continued discussion on the financial status of Hennepin County Medical Center. Wednesday the committee heard testimony on the omnibus funding bill, which includes policies on child care modernization, and held an informational only discussion on a bill for HCMC stabilization. On Thursday the committee did final markup and adopted amendments to the final funding omnibus bill. Article 6 of the HHS bill relates to the licensing modernization of childcare centers.

Next Week (As officially scheduled by 12:00 PM on 4/17/26)

- No committees scheduled

