



2026 REPORT on the MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE

by the
LEGISLATIVE EVALUATION ASSEMBLY
of MINNESOTA, INC

for an
INFORMED CITIZENRY



Founded in 1972 • www.lea-mn.org

CREDO — *The Legislative Evaluation Assembly of Minnesota (LEA) is a non-partisan and non-profit organization, established to inform the citizens of Minnesota of both important legislation and the voting performance of each Minnesota state legislator. LEA bases its evaluation on our declared American founding principles of self-evident truths and inalienable rights. These principles provide a basis for a constitutionally limited government established to sustain life, liberty, justice, property rights and free enterprise. LEA encourages the use of the material in its Reports, in whole or in part, with attribution, by any group or individual.*

2026 LEA HONOREES

					
Senator Cal Bahr 88%	Senator Steve Green 81%	Senator Michael Holmstrom 88%	Senator Bill Lieske 81%	Senator Eric Lucero 88%	Senator Nathan Wesenberg 81%
		<i>Honorable Mention House:</i> Ben Davis, Jimmy Gordon, Tom Murphy, Mike Wiener			
Representative Marj Fogelman 82%	Representative Drew Roach 87%				

2026 Legislative Review

Introduction

End of Session Omnibus Rush

As has all too often become customary for Minnesota's current crop of political leaders, a large chunk of the legislation, dominated by multi-subject/omnibus bills, passed in the last week of the legislative session, jammed together in closed-door negotiations driven by caucus leaders and Walz administration members. Some of these bills were given an entirely new title and contents, bypassing the normal committee process. Omnibus bills often serve as vehicles for lobbyist pork and unnecessary administrative growth.

Real public concerns like fraud, the social media impact on youth, and the bankruptcy of the Hennepin County Medical Center were addressed by creating new com-

mittees and boards with budgets, burdensome reporting requirements, and emergency allocations. An overarching theme in both the majority and minority caucuses was the need to deliver tangible benefits to their favored constituencies. For example, there was a push for sizable bonding bills dominated by local projects in both years of the biennium. Another example would be authorizing a constitutional amendment that would increase the distributions allowed to different school districts from the state's permanent school fund. They don't feel confident running for election or re-election on expanding freedom or merely stopping or rolling back the excesses of the current leaders in power.

Fraud and Waste When Program “Enrollment” Is Prioritized

Foremost in the news about the Minnesota government was the industrial-scale fraud uncovered by the Federal government in 2025. Billions of Federal dollars passed through Minnesota state agencies, notably the Department of Human Services (DHS), to NGOs that billed for services not provided, submitted false claims, engaged in kickbacks, and listed unqualified providers. Legislation in previous years built weak oversight into programs with low barriers to entry. By June 2026, 79 indictments and 66 convictions had been obtained, but only \$50-\$75 million had been recovered in the Feeding Our Future fraud case, the largest of the 14 identified programs.

In all cases, prosecutors charged only the end perpetrators, with no criminal convictions for government officials who facilitated the fraud. LEA believes that this massive fraud could not have taken place without the state government’s complicity in (1) legislation that created the fraud funnel, which measured success by program enrollment numbers, and (2) an administration that punished whistle-blowers and didn’t verify grant applications.

Minnesota finally passed legislation that terminates eligibility for those convicted of program fraud and allows withholding payments based on credible allegations of fraud. The main Office of Inspector General (OIG) legislation, which went through many committee hearings, may not make matters worse, but it may not help much either.

The governor will appoint the OIG leader and board. Will the appointees enthusiastically ferret out misdeeds within the administration that appointed them? More likely, it will be yet another agency that can be bent to political pressure. Already, this bill exempts school districts from OIG fraud oversight. Giving the OIG its own law-enforcement arm may lead to procedural abuses. Also, the bill places excessive emphasis on the OIG leader holding specific credentials. And incredibly, they could not resist throwing in an unrelated “public employee collective bargaining rights for elected officials taking leaves of absence” section, just because they knew a bill would pass. This year’s fraud legislation was mostly virtue signaling; an oversight commission was created, and money was allocated to fund it. Laws that provide state grants to NGOs and incentivize fraud were not repealed, and no criminal penalties were imposed for facilitating the fraud. There was no sign of genuine responsibility.

Good Process Is Necessary but Not Sufficient for Good Results

Another subject of popular concern that drew plenty of committee hearings was the laws reforming governance of homeowners’ associations (HOAs). Letting homeowners have some procedural safeguards before new policies can be decided and enforced was probably warranted, as was the section making it harder for governments to require that all new developments form HOAs. However, the new law also micromanages specific charges for penalizing policy violations or late payments, and only litigators will be happy with how often the word “reasonable” was used.

The new HOA law and the new OIG law both illustrate the “necessary, but not sufficient” maxim. It is important that the legislators responded to genuine popular concerns in a manner that gave them proper procedural consideration. However, we await better leaders before we can truly achieve better outcomes.

1. Capital Investment Bonding, Emergency Shelter Grants, and Temporary Tab Fee Cut.

HF719. Rep. Franson. [SF390. Sen. Pappas.]

Summary: This bill authorizes \$1.25 billion in bonding for various capital-investment projects. Appropriations include:

University of Minnesota	\$75 million
Other state colleges and universities	\$69.8 million
Projects linked to the Department of Natural Resources (such as \$2 million each for building the Cuyuna Lakes and the Root River state trails, respectively)	\$79.4 million
Local Government Roads Wetlands Replacement Program	\$4.5 million
Minnesota Zoo	\$9 million
National Sports Center	\$4.5 million
Department of Public Safety for various local public safety buildings	\$19 million
Department of Transportation (containing at least \$50 million for local roads and bridges without any state designation)	\$176.3 million
Met Council (projects include regional parks, trails, the Como Zoo, the Cedar Riverside Recreation Center)	\$57.8 million
Department of Veterans Affairs	\$77.4 million
Department of Corrections	\$52.1 million
Department of Employment and Economic Development	\$135.5 million

Public Facilities Authority projects	\$409 million
Minnesota Housing Finance Agency to rehabilitate public housing projects, etc.	\$17.5 million

The bill also includes a separate policy provision that creates an emergency shelter facilities account in the bond proceeds fund to shelter individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The bill authorizes \$10 million in start-up bonding for the Department of Human Services to issue emergency shelter facilities grants. Grants can cover project costs up to \$7 million per project, and 40 percent of the grant money must go to facilities in greater Minnesota, provided there are enough eligible applicants. The last article of the bill makes a cut in vehicle registration tab fees for 2027 only, with invoices specifying the size of the tab fee reduction due to this bill, and \$254 million in revenue shifted from the general fund to the highway user tax distribution fund to make up for the reduction in tab fees.

Analysis: Historically, bonding for state capital investment projects was authorized, like the budget bills for various departments and agencies, once per two-year cycle. Since there was already a bonding bill last year, this bill unnecessarily moves us further from that fiscally accountable pattern, without reducing appropriations to reflect the now-annual bonding bill pattern.

Some of the projects, such as those administered by Employment and Economic Development, as well as the large subset of Transportation appropriations dedicated to entirely local roads and bridges, are clearly not urgent or worthy of state-level funds. Creating a new homeless shelter grant program in the Department of Human Services does not seem particularly responsible, either, given that such shelters have usually been planned and funded by religiously affiliated non-government organizations and that the Department of Human Services has provided woefully inadequate grant oversight for years. Finally, the tab fee cut is an entirely different subject, unrelated to bonding, and therefore violates the spirit of the state constitution's single-subject rule, although it is unlikely anyone will try to legally challenge the reduction of the very unpopular and visible fee. Furthermore, the cut to taxpayers is an illusion; they will still spend the same amount for the same number of projects, with the difference being that more of the 2027 funds will be collected through general revenues rather than through vehicle tab fees.

Recommendation: LEA favored a NO vote on the bill that passed the House 122-11, the Senate 60-7, and was signed into law.

2. Housing Finance and Policy Bill

HF1141. Rep. Howard. [SF203. Sen. Port.]

Summary: Article one of this bill repurposes money sitting in a pair of state funds toward more housing programs. Earnings of \$25 million made from temporary investment of MN Housing Finance Agency (MHFA) housing development fund money are to be used for more housing programs, including \$14.275 million for the workforce housing development program, \$2 million for the family homeless prevention and assistance program, and \$150K for the Minnesota Nice HomeShare pilot program that will collect rent and do background checks on adults in need of affordable housing in order to match them with seniors in three counties who own homes that have spare rooms. Also, any leftover funds set aside for litigation over tax-forfeited lands will be redirected to the family homeless prevention program, minus a \$2 million reserve. Article two authorizes the MHFA to issue an additional \$100 million of housing infrastructure bonds beyond what had already been authorized in statute.

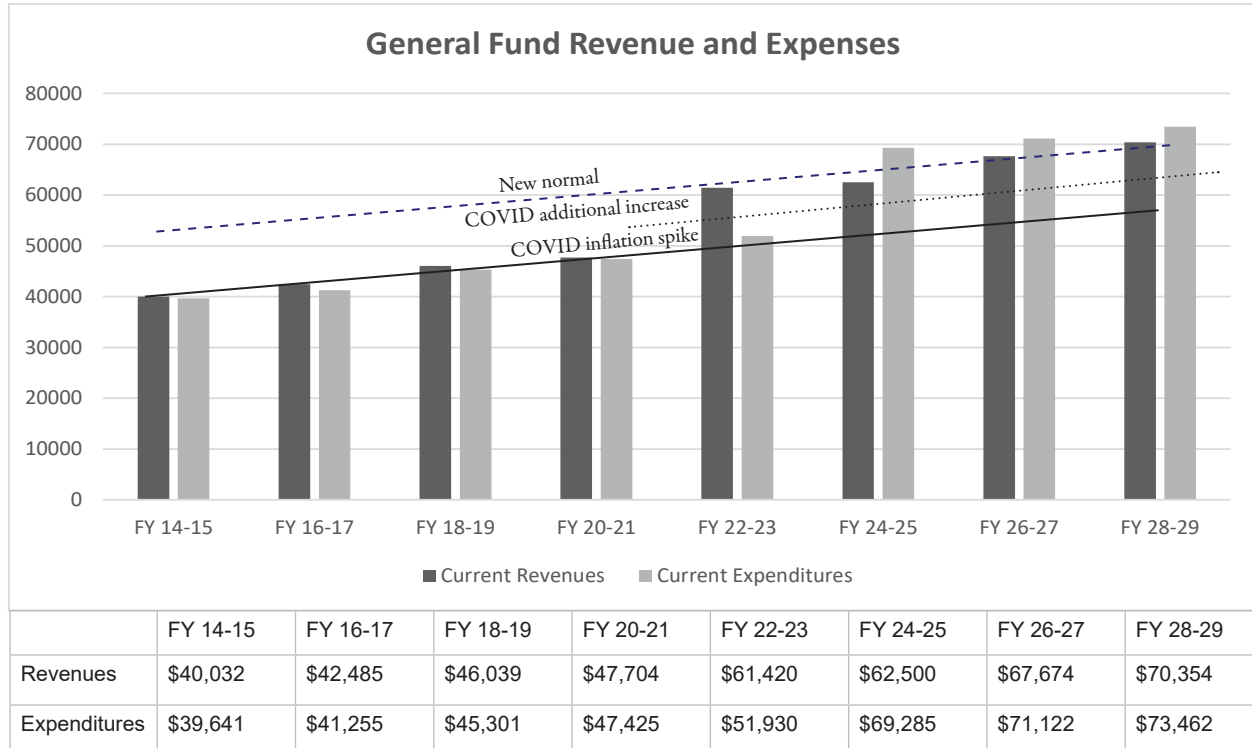
The policy article of this bill creates a new statute specifying that any money paid to persons by MHFA for "lived-experience engagement" to get feedback on existing and proposed programs is not to count as income when determining eligibility for any of the state's social-welfare programs. Another policy section in the bill states that the housing development fund cannot be used for anything other than housing programs. Furthermore, 25 percent of the housing development fund investment proceeds must be spent each biennium for purposes similar to other housing appropriations made by the legislature. Also, the MHFA must inform the chairs and ranking members of the legislature's housing committees prior to transferring funds between housing programs.

Analysis: As long as money in the housing development fund is growing from being reinvested in securities markets, this bill ensures that housing programs will also grow automatically. Creating more segregated funds wrongly reduces the legislature's power to set priorities for appropriating funds or returning surpluses to taxpayers. On top of all that, this bill authorizes another \$100

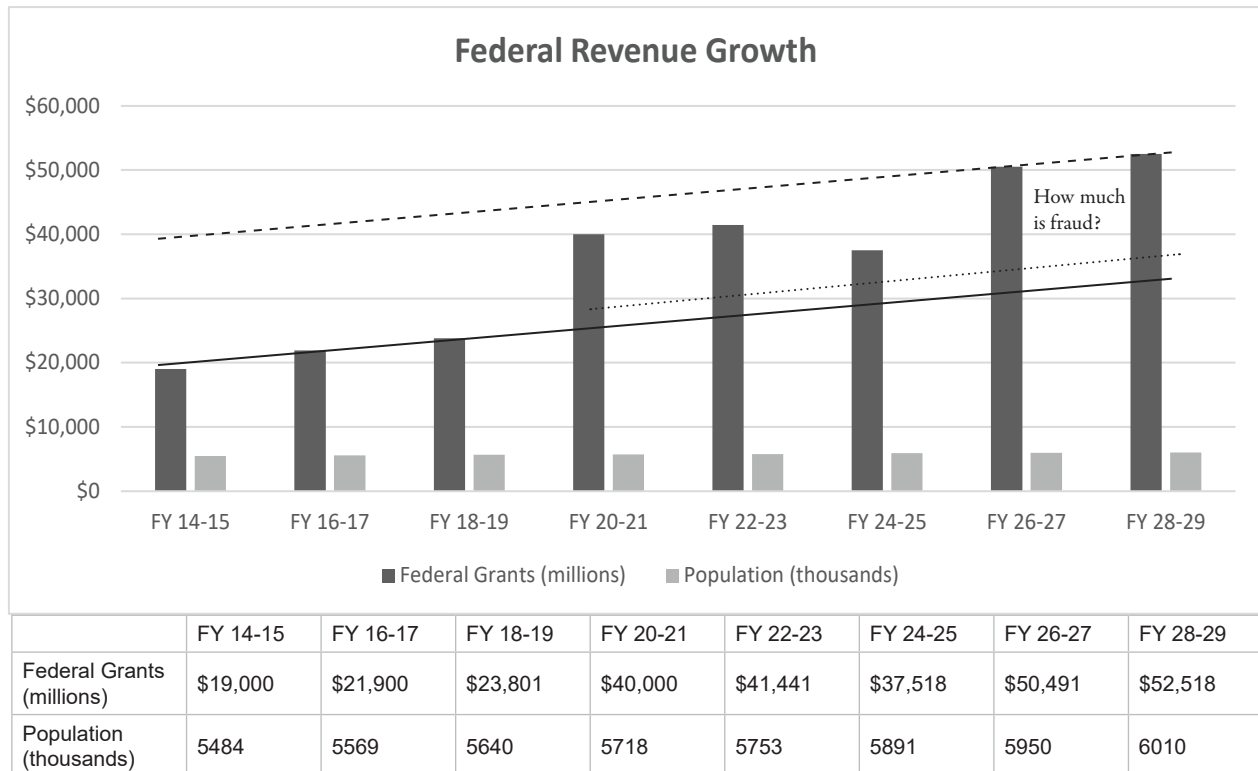
Minnesota's Pre- and Post-COVID Spending

Top Chart: Before COVID, Minnesota's general fund increases were similar to the rate of inflation (*solid line*). From 2021-23 Inflation spiked 10% above the norm (*dotted line*), but general fund increases were 10% above that causing a new normal (*dashed line*). COVID funds created a temporary surplus and were spent on new permanent agencies and programs, placing an ongoing burden on both state and federal taxpayers.

Bottom Chart: Federal grants doubled during COVID and started to decline in FY 24-25 as those grants ended. This was followed by a large spike in 2026, largely Federal entitlement driven increases in Medicaid, SNAP, and HHS programs. This far outpaced population growth and general inflation. The population only grew .68% each year. Federal entitlement increases correspond to higher health prices and state-level fraud.



The black line represents an annual increase of 2.1%, which is about the cost of normal inflation. Inflation increased 16.8% from 2021-2023, a COVID spike of 10.5%. The Minnesota state budget increase was about 20%, or double the inflation rate.



million in housing bonds and a pilot program having the government assume the role of broker between seniors with homes and renters looking for spare rooms, adding to the rapidly expanding size and scope of the government's involvement in the housing market when it clearly is having issues with responsibly overseeing existing programs.

Recommendation: LEA favored a NO vote on the bill that passed the House 105-28, the Senate 42-25, and became law.

3. Omnibus Taxation Bill with Some Spending Provisions.

HF2438. Rep. Davids. [SF2082. Sen. Rest.]

Summary: This bill had House and Senate floor votes in 2025 as a transportation appropriations bill but was tabled without the conference committee resolving differences between the House and Senate versions. This year, long after committee hearings and deadlines had passed, it was taken from the table and given an entirely new title and contents by a conference committee tasked with putting the leadership's closed-door tax compromises into bill form.

Analysis: The first article in the bill's 103-page final version deals with conforming to some tax policy changes made in the 2025 federal One Big Beautiful Bill, and not conforming to others. Other articles cover a wide range of subjects. Article two makes changes to "sustainable" aviation fuel and pass-through entity tax credits. It also authorizes an income tax subtraction for 2026 only to help pay nursing facility workers. Article three allows businesses within tourism improvement districts to collect service charges without charging sales tax and creates a sales tax exemption on certain events sponsored by the Professional Golf Association. Article four increases the tax-tier thresholds for homestead resort properties, increases the homestead credit refund, and extends Homeless Prevention Aid until 2032. Article eight's provisions include allowing information sharing among the Department of Revenue, the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, and the Office of Inspector General to help implement a new 100 percent tax on fraudulently obtained program payments. It also appropriates \$38 million from the general fund to the Housing Finance Agency for its homeless prevention program in 2026 and allocates \$500K for the Department of Commerce

to contract with the Great Plains Institute for a nuclear energy study. Article nine allows nonresident partners in a partnership with MN income tax liability to file a composite return. Article eleven allows a single county to prosecute a person charged with committing tax crimes in more than one county.

Recommendation: While the substance of this bill is not as harmful as many of the excesses of the 2023-24 trifecta and indeed has positive developments such as allowing data sharing among departments to catch more fraud and enforce a new 100 percent tax on fraud, this bill also unfortunately serves as a prime example of both special-interest favoritism and of procedural corruption by leadership to facilitate closed-door, multi-subject compromise agreements. Therefore, LEA favored a NO vote on the bill that passed the House 126-8, the Senate 52-15, and became law.

4. Omnibus State Government Finance and Policy Bill.

HF4591. Rep. Nash. [SF4889. Sen. Gustafson.]

Summary: This bill adds funds to the Office of Inspector General, Minnesota IT Services, and the MN Department of Education to support expanded interagency data sharing to aid fraud investigations. The bill reallocates funds from different state government agencies. This bill also appropriates \$1.925 million to the Commissioner of Administration for grants to public TV and radio broadcasting, and \$86K to set up the Melissa and Mark Hortman Memorial State Park Working Group. The working group, tasked with planning a memorial state park near the Capitol, will include representation from the executive branch, the legislative branch, and someone from the mayor's office in Saint Paul. The bill also provides guidance on how state agencies should address cash transaction rounding, due to the phaseout of the penny. If agencies are required by law to submit reports to members of legislative committees, they must submit them electronically. The chief clerk of the House and the Secretary of the Senate are authorized in this bill to direct funds necessary to maintain operations of the respective legislative bodies and the Legislative Coordinating Commission during any gap between the end of the previous term and the time that those bodies meet and become officially organized for a new term.

The last two articles of the bill address changes to the

licensing and regulation of barbers and cosmetologists. Substantial changes include a stipulation that third-party examiners may require fees by paid directly to them in addition to the fees examinees must pay to the government, new examination grading requirements, new language regarding fees/civil penalties/corrective actions for non-compliant operators, a public-meeting requirement as part of a barber school application review process, and a requirement that school staff and students must not provide training or services in a salon business, and vice versa.

Analysis: The justification for giving the Chief Clerk of the House and the Secretary of the Senate more interim operational authority stems from the gaps recently created by no longer convening the official start of session right after the previous term expires, or from such irresponsible actions as legislators preventing organization by walking out for a period of time and denying a quorum. There is little justification for continuously altering many rules and regulations related to licensing. Any alterations should be considered separately from language planning for a new memorial state park. There is less justification for authorizing new state grants for public TV and radio beyond what was in the two-year budget passed last year, and for including such grants with language relating to the Inspector General's operations. The bill began with just the public TV and radio grants. Near the very end of the session, it expanded to cover these other topics.

Recommendation: LEA opposes some of this bill's substance and the procedural abuse that added most sections long after hearings were done. It favored a NO vote on the bill that passed the House 113-20, the Senate 53-13, and became law.

5. HHS Supplemental Appropriations

SF4612. Sen. Wiklund. [HF4466. Rep. Bierman.]

Summary: The omnibus Health and Human Services supplemental appropriations bill makes policy changes across health, human services, and children/youth/families areas, includes appropriations and forecast adjustments, and addresses federal compliance issues. Major provisions include Hospital Stabilization, which grants \$205 million directly to Hennepin County Medical Center, with reporting requirements. It creates a \$500 million stabilization fund that may include other hospitals in the future. It establishes a program with grants (including

to Hennepin County Medical Center) and reimbursements for uncompensated care; it includes directed payments and adjustments for hospitals. There are large forecast-driven and policy-related appropriations (hundreds of millions across bienniums) for Medical Assistance (Medicaid), Behavioral Health, General Assistance, and eligibility systems. Information Technology upgrades of about \$45 million are proposed in versions for new federal eligibility work, fraud prevention, SNAP fraud, program adjustments, and federal conformity.

The Department of Health budget includes changes to health professional training/loan forgiveness programs, clinical training expansions (focus on rural/underserved areas), all-payer claims database fees, newborn screening, pool regulations, and other public health items. The Children, Youth, and Families section modernizes licensing for child care centers and family providers, updates the Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act, and modifies foster care and child welfare policies.

Analysis: This 300-page omnibus was pushed through at the last minute without public transparency or debate. The Child Care Modernization (Article 7) is expected to make compliance costs more burdensome for daycare providers, and critics called it a war on home daycares. Rural Minnesotans complained that it funded urban services and overlooked Greater Minnesota concerns.

Recommendation: LEA is concerned that money was thrown at real problems, but the accountability measures lacked teeth. Many of these new appropriations may be laundered to cronies who will produce reports without fixing the underlying issues of inefficient and fraudulent use of public money. LEA believes government officials need to bear some responsibility for the rampant fraud. Misdemeanor and felony charges for administrative and bureaucratic oversight failures should send bureaucrats to prison for handing out money to non-existent or non-functioning programs. LEA favored a NO vote. The bill passed 35-32 in the Senate and 108-26 in the House and was signed by the governor.

6. Omnibus Public Safety Policy Bill

SF4760. Sen. Latz. [HF3990. Rep. Novotny.]

Summary: This 109-page omnibus bill primarily addresses public safety and corrections policies. It allows individuals to file "line of duty" death claims within three

years due to exposure-related cancer from 2020 onward. The bill also requires removing all equipment or insignia from decommissioned law enforcement vehicles before selling them as general transportation vehicles. One article in the bill brings “forged digital likeness” artificial intelligence deepfakes under the statutory definitions and penalties for identity theft crime. Among the policies impacting harassment and domestic violence victims in this bill are a requirement to notify restraining order petitioners before or when an order is served, and a section including language releasing domestic violence victims from shared wireless telecommunication plans.

The corrections policies in this bill include a rewrite of laws governing the licensing, inspection, and security audits of both juvenile and adult-based residential correctional facilities, and greatly expanded regulations regarding inmate laborers. Minnesota Correctional Industries (MINNCOR) inmate labor projects must participate in the U.S. Department of Justice’s Prison Industry Enhancement Certification Program (PIECP) and calculate a PIECP wage based on 50 percent of the prevailing wage in each region of the state where MINNCOR is contracting with a private business. MINNCOR must not subsidize private businesses, must separately track wages paid to inmate laborers on (governmental unit) projects exempt from PIECP wages, and must classify each MINNCOR inmate laborer as having a PIECP or non-PIECP wage job position. The number of inmate jobs in a contracted project must not exceed four for every one full-time-equivalent employee of the private business. The MN Commissioner of Employment and Economic Development must verify that PIECP wage laborers will not displace employed private-sector workers in regions where MINNCOR projects are active, and MINNCOR must post the PIECP wage in each of these regions on its website.

Article eight of the bill contains a new statute making felony offenses for creating and hosting prediction markets as part of a business, or for advertising and promoting such businesses.

Analysis/Recommendation: Deepfake crime classification, inmate labor wage rules, restraining order notifications, line-of-duty cancer-exposure claims, procedures governing sales of decommissioned law-enforcement vehicles—all of these subjects could have been considered and voted on separately. Not doing so prevented lawmakers from voting for some justifiable policies in this bill without also voting for some of the more dubious

content included. The amount of language dedicated to concerns that inmate labor jeopardizes other jobs or wages does not seem to be there for employers hiring non-citizen laborers without proper documentation. Finally, the ambitious attempt by Minnesota to criminalize the national phenomenon of prediction markets, likely done to protect casinos and charitable-gambling interests, is predictably being legally challenged. One wonders if the disingenuous insertion of this identical language into the SF3432 Capitol Security Bill before it passed was not an attempt to get around such a challenge. For these reasons, LEA favored a NO vote on the bill that passed the House 100-32, the Senate 57-9, and was signed into law, though a judge has kept the prediction market section from being enforced during the challenge.



Become a Member of LEA

Join LEA! Dues are only \$10/yr per person! You will receive:

- a copy of our annual report
- an invitation to attend the annual awards banquet
- an invitation to our annual membership meeting
- and the ability to give input on what issues to score.
- Dues are used to print and mail the annual report and cover the costs of our annual dinner.

Name: _____

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Pay online by PayPal at www.lea-mn.org, or make checks payable to LEA and mail to:

Legislative Evaluation Assembly

P.O. Box 25803, Woodbury, MN 55125

SENATE

Pty	Dist	Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	2026%	c%
R	35	Abeler, Jim	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-		+	-	+	+	25	42
R	31	Bahr, Cal	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-		+	+	+	+	88	83
D	25	Boldon, Liz	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	+	+	13	7
D	52	Carlson, Jim	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	+	+	13	13
D	59	Champion, Bobby Joe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	+	+	13	11
D	60	Clark, Doron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	+	+	13	9
R	48	Coleman, Julia	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	A	-	A	-	-		+	-	+	+	29	43
D	49	Cwodziński, Steve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	+	+	13	16
R	15	Dahms, Gary	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-		+	+	+	+	44	54
D	61	Dibble, D. Scott	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	+	+	13	13
R	23	Dornink, Gene	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-		+	+	+	+	38	51
R	22	Draheim, Rich	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-		+	+	+	+	50	52
R	20	Drazkowski, Steve	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-		+	+	+	+	69	86
R	57	Duckworth, Zach	-	+	-	-	+	A	+	-	-	-	-	-		+	-	A	+	29	43
R	7	Farnsworth, Robert	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-		+	-	+	+	31	61
D	62	Fateh, Omar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NO SENATE VOTE	-	-	+	+	13	11
D	18	Frentz, Nick	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	+	+	13	18
R	2	Green, Steve	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-		+	+	+	+	81	75
R	17	Gruenhagen, Glenn	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-		+	+	+	+	63	71
D	36	Gustafson, Heather	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	+	+	13	9
D	3	Hauschild, Grant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	+	+	13	10
D	67	Hawj, Fong	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	+	+	13	15
R	6	Heintzeman, Keri	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-		+	-	+	+	50	65
D	47	Hemmingsen-Jaeger, Amanda	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	+	+	13	9
D	34	Hoffman, John	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	A		-	-	+	+	10	16
R	29	Holmstrom, Michael	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-		+	+	+	+	88	88
R	33	Housley, Karin	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-		+	+	+	+	38	45
R	13	Howe, Jeff	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	A		+	+	+	+	57	60
R	19	Jasinski, John	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	-		+	+	+	+	50	51
D	45	Johnson Stewart, Ann	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	+	+	13	16
R	1	Johnson, Mark	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	A	-	-	-	-		+	+	+	+	37	52
D	53	Klein, Matt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	+	+	13	18
R	28	Koran, Mark	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	-		+	+	+	+	63	58
R	32	Kreun, Michael	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-		+	-	+	+	38	66
D	39	Kunesh, Mary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	+	+	13	18
D	4	Kupec, Rob	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	+	+	13	10
R	16	Lang, Andrew	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-		+	+	+	+	44	48
D	46	Latz, Ron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	+	+	13	11
R	58	Lieske, Bill	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-		+	+	+	+	81	85
R	37	Limmer, Warren	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-		+	+	+	+	50	71
R	30	Lucero, Eric	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-		+	+	+	+	88	84
D	50	Mann, Alice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	+	+	13	7

KEY

R – Republican
D – Democratic-Farmer-Labor
I – Independent
+ Vote favored by LEA
- Vote not favored by LEA
A indicates legislator excused, absent, or not voting
X – Not a member at time of vote

Governor's Action
S - Sign
***S** - Sign with line-item vetoes
V- Veto
N- Not Applicable

29% = the percent of all legislators' votes favored by LEA in 2026 scoring
2026% = legislator's 2026 score
C% = legislator's career average LEA score
 LEA calculates the voting percentages using votes cast by each legislator and then deducting half a vote for each time that legislator did not cast a vote.
Honorees for 2026 scored **80% or higher**
Honorable Mention for 2026 scored **70% or higher**

This report may be freely copied, or purchased @ \$1.00 ea., 10 for \$8.00, or 100 for \$75. E&O excluded.
 Corrections made to website if errors are discovered.

SENATE

Pty	Dist	Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	2026%	c%
D	40	Marty, John	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	+	+	13	12
R	27	Mathews, Andrew	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-		+	-	+	+	50	58
D	56	Maye Quade, Erin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	+	+	13	14
D	8	McEwen, Jennifer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	+	+	13	13
R	26	Miller, Jeremy	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	-		+	+	+	+	44	45
D	63	Mohamed, Zaynab	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	+	+	13	7
D	64	Murphy, Erin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	+	+	13	13
R	24	Nelson, Carla	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-		+	A	+	+	30	49
D	66	Oumou Verbeten, Clare	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NO SENATE VOTE	-	-	+	+	13	8
D	65	Pappas, Sandra	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	+	+	13	8
D	38	Pha, Susan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	+	+	13	6
D	55	Port, Lindsey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	+	+	13	11
R	54	Pratt, Eric	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-		+	-	+	+	44	54
D	14	Putnam, Aric	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	+	+	13	12
R	11	Rarick, Jason	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	A		+	+	+	+	57	50
R	9	Rasmusson, Jordan	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	-		+	+	+	+	63	73
D	43	Rest, Ann	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	+	+	+	19	19
D	41	Seeberger, Judy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	+	+	13	7
R	5	Utke, Paul	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-		+	+	+	+	69	59
R	21	Weber, Bill	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-		+	+	+	+	44	48
R	10	Wesenberg, Nathan	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-		+	+	+	+	81	86
D	42	Westlin, Bonnie	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	+	+	13	9
R	12	Westrom, Torrey	-	+	+	A	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-		+	+	+	+	64	61
D	51	Wiklund, Melissa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	+	+	13	15
D	44	Xiong, Tou	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	+	+	13	11

HOUSE

Pty	Dist	Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	2026%	c%
D	45B	Acomb, Patty	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				+	+	13	11
D	59B	Agbaje, Esther	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				+	+	13	11
R	19A	Allen, Keith	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	40	33
R	20A	Altendorf, Pam	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	53	68
R	33A	Anderson, Patti E.	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	40	53
R	12A	Anderson, Paul H.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	27	54
R	09A	Backer, Jeff	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	40	55
D	37B	Bahner, Kristin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	A	-	-	NO HOUSE VOTE	NO HOUSE VOTE	+	+	11	9
R	54B	Bakeberg, Ben	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	33	55
R	16B	Baker, Dave	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	27	45
R	23A	Bennett, Peggy	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	67	53
D	55B	Berg, Kaela	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	10
D	56A	Bierman, Robert	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	11
R	02B	Bliss, Matt	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	40	62
D	47A	Buck, Shelley	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	13
R	01A	Burkel, John	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	33	59
D	42A	Carroll, Ned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	9
D	47B	Cha, Ethan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	9
D	53A	Clardy, Mary Frances	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	9
D	51B	Coulter, Nathan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	9
D	36B	Curran, Brion	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	9
R	26B	Dauids, Greg	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	27	60
R	06A	Davis, Ben	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+			+	+	73	73
R	13A	Demuth, Lisa	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	27	48
R	41B	Dippel, Tom	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	47	53

HOUSE

Pty	Dist	Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	2026%	c%
R	11A	Dotseth, Jeff	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	33	55
R	02A	Duran, Bidal	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	33	32
D	50B	Elkins, Steve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	11
R	36A	Engen, Elliott	A	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+			+	+	61	53
D	49A	Falconer, Alex	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	10
D	39B	Feist, Sandra	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	11
D	66A	Finke, Leigh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	10
D	44A	Fischer, Peter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	12
R	21B	Fogelman, Marj	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	A	+			+	+	82	81
R	12B	Franson, Mary	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	40	63
D	43A	Frazier, Cedrick	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	10
D	18B	Frederick, Luke	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	10
D	43B	Freiberg, Mike	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	13
R	01B	Gander, Steve	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	47	39
R	17A	Gillman, Dawn	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	33	59
D	62A	Gomez, Aisha	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	12
R	28A	Gordon, Jimmy	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+			+	+	73	65
D	40B	Gottfried, David	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	10
D	50A	Greene, Julie	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	10
D	63B	Greenman, Emma	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	10
D	53B	Hansen, Rick	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	14
D	55A	Hanson, Jessica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	9
R	17B	Harder, Bobbie	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	No HOUSE VOTE	No HOUSE VOTE	+	+	47	62
R	06B	Heintzeman, Josh	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	No HOUSE VOTE	No HOUSE VOTE	+	+	27	56
D	25A	Hicks, Kim	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No HOUSE VOTE	No HOUSE VOTE	+	+	13	10
D	33B	Hill, Josiah	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No HOUSE VOTE	No HOUSE VOTE	+	+	13	9
D	66B	Hollins, Athena	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No HOUSE VOTE	No HOUSE VOTE	+	+	13	10
D	51A	Howard, Michael	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No HOUSE VOTE	No HOUSE VOTE	+	+	13	12
R	30A	Hudson, Walter	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	No HOUSE VOTE	No HOUSE VOTE	+	+	40	60
D	56B	Huot, John	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No HOUSE VOTE	No HOUSE VOTE	+	+	13	11
D	65A	Hussein, Samakab	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No HOUSE VOTE	No HOUSE VOTE	+	+	13	8
R	07A	Igo, Spencer	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	No HOUSE VOTE	No HOUSE VOTE	+	+	27	50
R	20B	Jacob, Steven	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	No HOUSE VOTE	No HOUSE VOTE	+	+	53	68
D	08A	Johnson, Peter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No HOUSE VOTE	No HOUSE VOTE	+	+	13	10
R	41A	Johnson, Wayne	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	No HOUSE VOTE	No HOUSE VOTE	+	+	33	28
D	61A	Jones, Katie	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No HOUSE VOTE	No HOUSE VOTE	+	+	13	13
D	60A	Jordan, Sydney	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No HOUSE VOTE	No HOUSE VOTE	+	+	13	12
R	04B	Joy, Jim	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	No HOUSE VOTE	No HOUSE VOTE	+	+	53	67
D	04A	Keeler, Heather	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No HOUSE VOTE	No HOUSE VOTE	+	+	13	8
D	42B	Klevorn, Ginny	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No HOUSE VOTE	No HOUSE VOTE	+	+	11	11
R	05A	Knudsen, Krista	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	No HOUSE VOTE	No HOUSE VOTE	+	+	60	68
D	39A	Koegel, Erin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No HOUSE VOTE	No HOUSE VOTE	+	+	13	13
D	49B	Kotyza-Witthuhn, Carlie	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No HOUSE VOTE	No HOUSE VOTE	+	+	13	9
D	08B	Kozlowski, Alicia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No HOUSE VOTE	No HOUSE VOTE	+	+	13	8
R	57A	Koznick, Jon	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	No HOUSE VOTE	No HOUSE VOTE	+	+	33	56
D	46A	Kraft, Larry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No HOUSE VOTE	No HOUSE VOTE	+	+	13	9
R	10A	Kresha, Ron	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	No HOUSE VOTE	No HOUSE VOTE	+	+	27	50
R	27B	Lawrence, Bryan	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	No HOUSE VOTE	No HOUSE VOTE	+	+	47	56
D	59A	Lee, Fue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No HOUSE VOTE	No HOUSE VOTE	+	+	13	17
D	67A	Lee, K. Liz	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No HOUSE VOTE	No HOUSE VOTE	+	+	13	12
D	34B	Lee, Xiongpao	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No HOUSE VOTE	No HOUSE VOTE	+	+	13	13
D	24B	Liebling, Tina	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No HOUSE VOTE	No HOUSE VOTE	+	+	13	15
D	44B	Lillie, Leon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No HOUSE VOTE	No HOUSE VOTE	+	+	13	11
D	61B	Long, Jamie	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No HOUSE VOTE	No HOUSE VOTE	+	+	13	11
D	64A	Luger-Nikolai, Meg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No HOUSE VOTE	No HOUSE VOTE	+	+	13	13

HOUSE

Pty	Dist	Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	2026%	c%
D	62B	Mahamoud, Anquam	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	13
R	29A	McDonald, Joe	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	40	61
R	27A	Mekeland, Shane	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	40	74
D	40A	Moller, Kelly	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	10
D	38A	Momanyi-Hiltsley, Huldah	-	-	-	A	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	9	7
R	23B	Mueller, Patricia	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	27	53
R	09B	Murphy, Tom	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+			+	+	73	76
R	45A	Myers, Andrew	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	27	38
R	34A	Nadeau, Danny	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	27	43
R	48A	Nash, Jim	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	27	58
R	11B	Nelson, Nathan	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	33	54
R	31A	Niska, Harry	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	27	51
D	60B	Noor, Mohamud	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	12
D	32B	Norris, Matt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	9
R	30B	Novotny, Paul	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	40	60
R	13B	ODriscoll, Tim	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	33	55
R	22A	Olson, Bjorn	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	33	56
D	65B	Perez-Vega, Maria Isa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	6
R	14A	Perryman, Bernie	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	27	50
D	64B	Pinto, Dave	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	17
D	58A	Pursell, Kristi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	9
R	24A	Quam, Duane	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	40	69
R	29B	Rarick, Marion	-	-	-	-	+	A	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	32	59
D	48B	Rehm, Lucy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No HOUSE VOTE	No HOUSE VOTE	+	+	13	9
D	35B	Rehrauer, Kari	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	A			+	+	11	9
R	26A	Repinski, Aaron	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	27	20
D	52A	Reyer, Liz	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	9
R	58B	Roach, Drew	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+			+	+	87	79
R	37A	Robbins, Kristin	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	47	59
R	28B	Rymer, Max	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	+			+	+	53	45
R	21A	Schomacker, Joe	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	27	53
R	10B	Schultz, Isaac	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	60	68
R	18A	Schwartz, Erica	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	27	23
R	31B	Scott, Peggy	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	27	64
D	63A	Sencer-Mura, Samantha	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	11
R	19B	Sexton, Thomas	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	27	20
R	03A	Skraba, Roger	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	27	38
D	25B	Smith, Andy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	11
D	35A	Stephenson, Zack	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	11
R	22B	Stier, Terry	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	53	45
R	15A	Swedzinski, Chris	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	33	60
D	54A	Tabke, Brad	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	11
R	15B	Torkelson, Paul	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	27	57
R	16A	Van Binsbergen, Scott	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	53	45
D	38B	Vang, Samantha	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	12
D	52B	Virnig, Bianca	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	11
R	07B	Warwas, Cal	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	27	23
R	32A	West, Nolan	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	33	51
R	05B	Wiener, Mike	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+			+	+	73	70
R	57B	Witte, Jeff	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	27	45
D	14B	Wolgamott, Dan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	11
D	67B	Xiong, Jay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	12
D	46B	Youakim, Cheryl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			+	+	13	18
R	03B	Zeleznikar, Natalie	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+			+	+	27	43

Governor's Action	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Walz, Tim	S	S	S	S	S	S	N	S	S	S	S	S	N	N	N	S	S

7. Gun Control Disguised as Public Safety

SF4067/HF3433. Sen. Mohamed./Rep. Greenman.

Summary: SF4067's author presented an "all of the above" gun violence prevention omnibus bill that proposed the most significant firearm restrictions in the state's history. The sweeping legislation would prohibit the sale of what are called "semiautomatic military-style assault weapons" while allowing existing owners to retain theirs only if they register the firearms with the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. Additionally, the bill would generally ban large-capacity ammunition magazines holding more than 17 rounds, crack down on "ghost guns" by banning home-built firearms and restricting digital 3D-printer files, and reinstate a ban on binary triggers that allow semiautomatic weapons to fire at rapid speeds. The deployment of the "red flag" law would be further enabled by not requiring law enforcement to determine market value and offer compensation for surrendered weapons, by no longer requiring most gun-confiscation petitions for extreme risk protection orders to be public data, and by allowing some orders to be extended by five years. The Senate bill would also provide more "safe schools" revenue, more mental health grants, create anonymous-threat reporting systems, and fund a grant for a nonprofit Violence Prevention Project Research Center to focus on gun violence issues.

The HF3433 bill that supporters tried to move to a floor vote in the House was limited to "only" the banning of various semiautomatic "assault weapons."

Analysis: The legislation bans 17 specific models of rifles. This list is not the result of painstaking research to determine which rifles are most likely to be used in the commission of a crime. It is simply a wish list of popular rifles compiled by gun control activists across the country. In addition to the models listed, the bill also bans other rifles with certain cosmetic features, such as a pistol grip. There is no evidence to suggest that a rifle with a pistol grip is more deadly or more likely to be used for criminal purposes than any other.

Each demand for more gun control is accompanied by claims of how powerful these "weapons of war" are. (An AR-15 is not a weapon of war. An AR-15 is a semiautomatic rifle. Armies do not issue semiautomatic rifles to their soldiers.) In reality, the AR-15's .223 Remington cartridge is at the low end of the DNR's spectrum of deer

hunting cartridges. Some states don't consider the cartridge powerful enough to reliably bring down a deer.

More children drown in five-gallon buckets every year than are killed by rifles of all types, yet there is no outcry to ban five-gallon buckets or to restrict their use. The politicians who continually push gun control as a panacea for society's ills cannot claim that they are acting to protect children. The bottom line is that they want a disarmed populace, and they will use every perceived crisis as an opportunity to achieve that goal.

Recommendation: In the wake of every highly publicized mass shooting, such as the Annunciation School shooting, gun control advocates immediately demand that "something" must be done. That something invariably involves more gun control, setting aside the Second Amendment's constitutional limitation on government in the name of public safety. Schools can spend "safe schools" revenue on more security but also on vague "costs associated with improving the school climate." The discretion to seal more risk protection orders in the Senate bill from public scrutiny is also troubling. LEA favored a NO vote on both bills. SF4067 passed the Senate 34-33. A motion to take HF3433 out of committee for a floor vote failed 67-67 in the House.

8. Insurance Policies Should Remain Private Contracts

HF4133. Rep Moller. [SF4406. Sen Westlin.]

Summary: This bill requires all homeowners' insurance policies sold in Minnesota to cover property damage and cleanup costs resulting from a peace officer's use of chemical irritants, smoke screens, or diversionary devices if the homeowner is an innocent third party. It requires the insurance company to allow the homeowner to choose the mitigation contractor and possibly an industrial hygienist to clean up the mess and assess and fix the damage caused by police use of chemicals. It also requires the local government unit whose law enforcement caused the damage to reimburse the insurance company for the cost of remediation if it was made after reasonable investigation and presumed reasonable and necessary.

Analysis: This bill is a regulation that adds yet another item to the list of things an insurance policy must cover. It imposes an arbitrary burden on insurance companies and homeowners, who should be able to negotiate the

insurance contracts they want. Requiring insurance companies to front the money for remediation before being reimbursed by the local government is burdensome and creates a risk that the company might not be repaid if the local government unit, which does not want to pay for the cleanup, finds the homeowner is not an innocent third party. Allowing the homeowner to pick the remediation contractor also limits the insurance company's ability to keep remediation costs under control, while still being liable to ensure remediation is done reasonably to get reimbursed. This bill was a response to the public plight of Colin Hortman, who had to deal with the cleanup of his parents' house after their horrific murder in 2025.

Recommendation: LEA favored a NO vote on this bill. It passed the House 131-3, and the Senate 54-11, and was signed by the governor into law.

9. Toward Suicide-Free Bridges

SF2971. Sen. Dibble. [HF3169. Rep. Olson.]

Summary: This bill requires the Commissioner of Transportation to annually collect data on which bridges in the state had suicide jumping deaths from them each year. Then, work with the Commissioner of Health to create a methodology, used to determine which bridges will be required to have railings constructed specifically to prevent suicide jumping, for when those bridges are being constructed or the railings are being repaired.

Analysis: Requiring the Transportation Commissioner to gather the bridge suicide death data isn't a serious expansion of government. Requiring them to do a bunch of work to determine which bridges need special railings, and then mandating special, more expensive railings for new construction, expands government expense and regulation. It seems doubtful that these measures will stop suicidal persons from simply finding other bridges without high railings from which to jump.

Recommendation: LEA favored a NO vote. It passed 134-0 in the House and 63-4 in the Senate and was signed by the governor.

10. Bar Virtual Currency Kiosks

SF3868. Sen. Hemmingsen-Jaeger. [HF3642. Rep. Koegel.]

Summary: This bill bans the placement of virtual currency kiosks by businesses or anyone and mandates the removal of existing ones. It also requires a payout in cash

of the current value of any virtual currency currently held or owed to anyone that exists from transactions at the kiosk, or the kiosk owners can transfer the virtual currency to a customer's virtual currency wallet if the customer requests it.

Analysis: This bill unnecessarily bans bitcoin and other cryptocurrency kiosks and restricts people's liberty to buy cryptocurrency. It is very unusual to have the state ban a non-dangerous product simply because customers chose to make decisions that legislators consider unwise.

Recommendation: The LEA favored a NO vote. It passed the House 127-7, and 53-13 in the Senate. The governor signed the bill.

11. Require Reports and Regulate Management on Social Media

HF4138. Rep. Scott. [SF4696. Sen. Maye Quade.]

Summary: This bill requires social media platforms with 10,000 users or \$1 billion in annual revenue to verify users' ages and collect data to estimate age with 90% confidence. It also requires the platform to terminate the account of any person it determines is under 16 if the account holder does not have parental consent. It prohibits targeted advertising to children. For enforcement, if a violation occurs, it allows a child's parents to sue the platform for at least \$10k plus legal and court fees, and possibly whatever the court decides the child's actual damages are worth. It even enables the child to sue after they turn 18.

Analysis: This bill demands that media platforms divine the ages of their users and the current wishes of their parents with 90% accuracy. The age estimation requirement framework is extremely egregious and implicitly requires social media platforms to dramatically expand behavioral profiling of users in Minnesota, encouraging broader and more intensive data collection. The bill's enforcement structure invites opportunistic litigation and exposes social media companies to excessive liability. The Minnesota Technology Association even published an open letter asking the legislature not to pass this bill because of the negative downstream effects on companies that build on, integrate with, or depend on large social media platforms. Their pleas fell on deaf ears. Ironically, the bill explicitly states that it does not "create a duty" to "request, collect, or retain any information from or about any account holder."

Recommendation: The LEA favored a NO vote. The bill passed the House 132-2, the Senate 66-0, and was signed into law.

12. Punishing Providers of Nudification Technology

HF1606. Rep. Hanson. [SF1119. Sen. Maye Quade.]

Summary: This bill forbids AI providers from offering services that digitally “remove” the clothing from an image or video of an identifiable individual. The bill places no responsibility on the users of such services; it punishes only the providers. Not only may the providers be sued by the victims of nudification, but they may also be investigated and prosecuted by Minnesota’s attorney general for every instance of access and/or use of their nudification services, whether anyone claims to have been harmed or not. The attorney general is authorized to conduct these investigations under Chapter 8.31 of Minnesota Statutes and may levy fines of up to \$500,000 for each access, download, or use of the services. The money obtained through these penalties must be earmarked in the general fund to give grants to organizations that provide services to crime victims. The bill lists the purposes for which the grants may be used, including such broad terms as “culturally responsive programming” and “other needs of organizations and crime victim survivors.”

Analysis: HF1606 punishes the tool, not the perpetrator. Instead of penalizing the person who nudifies someone else’s photo against that person’s wishes, this bill makes it dangerous for providers to offer nudification services to anyone, at any time, for any reason. This attempt to put the AI genie back in the bottle will not succeed. Even if every photo-editing service in the U.S. stopped offering nudification, overseas providers would readily fill the gap. There is no way to prevent Minnesotans from accessing such services. By inserting the nudification prohibition under the umbrella of Chapter 8.31, this bill empowers the attorney general to harass, through exhaustive investigations, anyone

suspected of having violated or being “about to violate” the law against providing nudification services. Because the bill also authorizes huge fines that will then be distributed to NGOs for vaguely defined purposes, there will be an incentive for unwarranted “fishing expeditions.” AI providers with deep pockets may face endless investigations. Perhaps to forestall such abuse, HF1606 contains wording intended to differentiate innocent providers of general-purpose AI tools from explicit providers of instant nudification. The wording is ambiguous, however, so it’s hard to guess how it would play out in a court of law.

Recommendation: LEA favored a NO vote on this bill. Once widely distributed, technology will be used and cannot be controlled by any agency or police force. The provisions creating yet another earmarked fund are particularly egregious. HF1606 passed the House 132-1 and the Senate 65-0, and was signed by the governor.

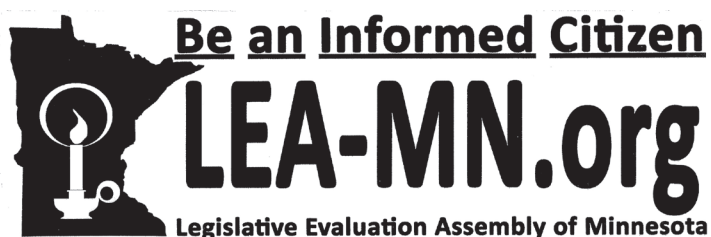
13. Prohibit Males from Playing on Female Sports Teams

HF12. Rep. Scott.

Summary: This bill would have prohibited students who are not female from participating in elementary or secondary school athletic teams or sports designated for women or girls. In cases of a dispute about a student’s sex, the bill requires a signed physician’s statement based on internal and external reproductive anatomy, naturally occurring testosterone levels, and chromosomal analysis. The bill applies to public and private educational institutions at the K-12 level and aims to preserve sex-based categories in girls’ and women’s sports.

Analysis: The bill received significant attention and emotional debate, with rallies from both supporters (emphasizing fairness, safety, and biology in sports) and opponents (arguing it discriminates against transgender girls and violates broader inclusivity protections).

Recommendation: LEA believes that biological differences related to performance in sports are real. Males identifying with the opposite sex for competition does not erase those differences and discriminates against females in sports. The bill was laid on the table in 2025. LEA favored a YES vote to take it from the table in 2026. The 67-66 House vote fell short of the 68 votes needed for majority passage. There was no Senate vote.



14. ICE Accountability and Justice

SF3699. Sen Latz.

Summary: This bill restricted law enforcement (including federal ICE agents) access to sensitive locations (schools, daycares, hospitals, courthouses, shelters) for civil immigration enforcement without a judicial warrant. It prohibited officers from using masks or facial coverings during enforcement (with limited exceptions). It established civil remedies allowing Minnesotans to sue in state court for constitutional violations or damages. It required rendering aid to injured individuals and expanded investigations into use-of-force incidents involving federal agents. It also added protections related to immigration enforcement practices.

Analysis: This bill combined several earlier proposals responding to Operation Metro Surge. These were SF5038, which would provide \$10 million to reimburse cities for ICE-related costs; SF4543, which would provide small-business relief; and SF4643, which would provide social services and mental health grants for “victims” of ICE raids.

Recommendation: LEA believes that this money would mainly serve the cause of sanctuary city policies that incentivize and protect illegals, who should be treated as “visitors” or deported. They are not entitled to any city or state services. Those policies broadly harm legal citizens and taxpayers. Any damage ICE causes should result in standard lawsuits against ICE. LEA favored a NO vote. The bill passed in the Senate 34-33. It did not receive a House vote and did not become law.

15. Rule Modified to Allow Children on Senate Floor.

S.R. 69. Sen. E. Murphy. [vote on SJ pg. 7002.]

Summary: This resolution expanded who could be permitted on the Senate floor, allowing the children of Senators or of Senate staff to be on the Senate floor during proceedings with the approval of a Senate caucus leader or the Secretary of the Senate. Those requesting to have their children present on the floor must remain personally responsible for their supervision. Those children will also be exempt from the rule prohibiting food and beverages other than water in the Senate.

Analysis: The vote for this resolution, quickly advanced from the Rules Committee after a member who tried to bring her infant son onto the floor was denied admission,

overturned a 168-year prohibition on admitting children to the Senate chamber during business. The Minnesota House made this change in 2013. The Senate chamber is much smaller, allows for more substantial debate, and traditionally expects more formality than the House. Proponents of this resolution argued it was time to “get with the times” and have a work environment more supportive of young parents, especially single mothers. Opponents argued it would create distractions, detract from the formality of the Senate chamber, and create a set of work privileges not available to many of the citizens who elected them to office. More modest proposals, such as limiting admission to very young children, or making a temporary change subject to seeing its impact this year, were rejected.

Recommendation: This resolution creates more privileges for the political class not available to the general public. It also moves floor sessions further toward stage productions and away from real deliberations. Some members had their children waiting to be admitted right after this resolution passed, just for the photo ops and progressive posturing, though children have not been there much even after being allowed, because legislative chamber floors are not designed for amusing children. LEA favored a NO vote on the resolution, adopted 41-25 by the Senate.

16. Allow Tow Trucks to Use Modern Signage on Their Trucks

SF3888. Sen. Jasinski. [HF3694. Rep. Koegel.]

Summary: Relevant text: A tow truck or towing vehicle may display a portable variable message sign mounted on the tow truck while performing emergency service on or near the traveled portion of a highway. The portable variable message sign must conform to the standards established in the Minnesota Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

Analysis: This bill enables tow trucks to have and use a variable message sign while performing towing services.

Recommendation: This seems like a small expansion of liberty. Emergency vehicle lighting is designed for safety. The provisions in this bill allow those vehicles to use modern technology to make them highly visible and avoid driver confusion. LEA recommended a YES vote. This bill passed the House 134-0, the Senate 66-0, and was signed by the governor.



This report may be copied or purchased.

Legislative Evaluation Assembly of Minnesota

P.O. Box 25803

Woodbury, MN 55125

Phone: (651) 234-0052

2026 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

17. Withhold Payments with Credible Allegations of Fraud

HF3629. Rep. Bahner. [SF4149. Sen. Hemmingsen-Jaeger.]

Summary: This bill focused on fraud prevention in public payments and grants. It enables state agencies to temporarily withhold payments to participants if there is a credible allegation of fraud. It requires notification within five days, protects nonimplicated recipients, and addresses data handling. It mandates termination upon a criminal conviction related to the grant. It requires program integrity reports from Human Services and the Department of Children, Youth, and Families.

Analysis: LEA supported these actions as far as they went. However, the focus is on stopping payment to recipients. LEA believes that legislators who write bills for grant disbursement without adequate accounting procedures, or grant administrators who sign off on grants without sufficient verification, are largely responsible for

this fraud, and that they have failed to pass any legislation that would make it easier to punish government officials for complicity. While the bill included some common-sense measures to withhold fraudulent payments, it was largely virtue-signaling because it did not include legislative and administrative measures to prevent future fraud.

Recommendation: LEA favored a YES vote on the bill's elements, but notes that the bill was wholly inadequate to fix major incentives for fraud in current law and administrative practices. It passed the House 134-0 and the Senate 67-0 and became law.

