

2024 Legislative Session Update

Week of Feb. 12th

Overview

The Minnesota Legislature kicked off its 2024 legislative session on Monday, Feb. 12th. The state began the legislative session with a budget surplus of \$2.4 billion for the current fiscal biennium as announced as a part of the November Budget and Economic Forecast. The state will release its next budget forecast in the coming weeks at the end of February, which will inform lawmakers how much money they have to spend.

Coming into this year's legislative session, we look back at last year's session where Democratic-Farmer-Labor (DFL) legislators that control the House, Senate, and Governor's office passed most of their progressive leaning agenda priorities. The DFL used their narrow majorities to pass the legalization of recreational cannabis, creation of a paid family and medical leave program, implementation of a \$72 billion two-year budget, and used the state's \$17.6 billion budget surplus.

All 134 seats of the Minnesota House of Representatives will be up for reelection this coming November; however, the Minnesota Senate is not. The Senate has two more years of their current term before they will be up for re-election in 2026.

Even though the Senate doesn't have their re-election campaigns at the front of mind yet, they do have a leadership change from last session. On Feb. 2nd, Senate Majority Leader Kari Dziedzic, DFL-Minneapolis, announced she will step down from being the majority leader due to the news of a recurrence of cancer. Following the announcement, with less than a week before the 2024 session start, the Senate DFL elected Erin Murphy, DFL-St. Paul, as the next majority leader.

Public Safety Committees

On February 13th, the House Committee on Public Safety Finance and Policy met and took written and heard testimony from many stakeholders for and opposed to the student resource officer (SRO) legislation that aims to clarify the role and responsibilities for SROs.

During the committee hearing, the SRO bill was amended with an author's amendment to update the bill language to reflect our request for the National Association of School Resource Officers be included in the organizations listed to evaluate the model policy outlined in the bill. The hearing concluded with the SRO bill being laid over for further consideration and will be taken up this coming week for further discussion.

On February 14th, the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety met for the first time of the new session to discuss various bills pertaining to the committee's jurisdiction. This week the committee will take up the senate version of the SRO bill, this will be the first hearing of the Senate-version of the bill.

Monitoring Legislation

Clarity for SROs

[HF3489](#) (Frazier): Rep. Frazier's bill to clarify the role and responsibilities for SROs started its committee path in Education Policy, then moved on the Public Safety. Once at Public Safety Committee the bill was amended as mentioned above and will be taken up this coming Tuesday for further discussion.

[SF3534](#) (Westlin): The Senate version of the legislation is authored by Sen. Westlin. The bill started this week in the Senate before the Education Policy Committee, where the committee passed the bill and re-referred it to the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee.

Our lobbying team continues to advocate for clarity in the language that allows for SROs to utilize their professional discretion to assess a situation and the completed training date to be December 2025 to accommodate existing workforce shortages.

North STAR Act / Sanctuary State

[SF3516](#) (Fateh) / [HF3459](#) (Feist): Minnesota Sanctuary Status, the "North STAR Act" was introduced in both bodies and referred to their first committee stop. The goal of this legislation is to appropriate the use of state and local resources by limiting government participation in federal civil immigration enforcement efforts. Under the proposal, state and local agencies would be prohibited from cooperating with federal immigration authorities to deport people, including sharing data with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, but it doesn't intend to stop local authorities from investigating crime or working with immigration officials.

Brady-Giglio Designation

[SF3463](#) (Hoffman) / [HF3890](#) (Wolgamott): Both versions of the bill have been introduced and referred to their chamber public safety committees. Brady-Giglio designation provision for peace officers who have had sustained incidents of untruthfulness, criminal convictions, candor issues, or some other type of issue placing their credibility into question.