



2015 WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

March 6, 2015

MUNICIPAL STREET IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

On Wednesday, the Senate State and Local Government Committee heard SF778 (Carlson). This bill would authorize cities to create street improvement districts and impose street improvement fees to pay for street improvements in the district. The MLC wrote a letter of support for the bill, a copy of that letter is attached.

The bill remains contentious. There was a robust discussion on the bill and a number of amendments were introduced, including excluding nonprofits. After a lengthy debate, the bill was laid on the table.

DFL TRANSPORTATION PRESS CONFERENCE

On Thursday, Governor Dayton and Senate Majority Leader Bakk held a joint press conference to discuss transportation funding, pushing forward a 10-year, \$10 billion transportation proposal. This proposal would include a 6.5% gas tax increase, which would be used to pay for road and bridge overhauls, and a metro sales tax increase.

The Governor and Majority Leader criticized the Republican plan, which would include no tax increase. Although the details of this plan have not been unveiled, they are expected in the coming weeks.

DRAZKOWSKI INTRODUCES BILL MOVING PROPERTY TAX STATEMENT TO OCTOBER

Rep. Drazkowski introduced a bill that would require statements of the proposed property taxes be mailed in October (prior to the November election). In doing so, this legislation changes many statutory property tax related dates, including undoing much of the work MLC did last year to push the preliminary levy date out to September 30th. Below is a link to the full language of the bill:

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?b=House&f=HF1459&ssn=0&y=2015>

We will be meeting with Rep Drazkowski and Chair Davids to discuss this legislation.

WATER BILLS

On Tuesday, the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Finance Committee continued their discussion on two water quality bills, HF616 and HF617.

HF616 (Fabian) would require legislative approval of certain water quality standards and rules as well as require cost benefit analysis of certain water quality standards. HF617 (Fabian) would require independent peer review of certain water quality work, including proposals that support or propose a change with an estimated fiscal impact to affected permittees of \$50 million or motion within the first

five years of implementation; support or propose a significant new precedent, model, or methodology; address a significant controversial issue; support or propose a change that would significantly impact another state agency; or has the potential to significantly impact the agency's resources.

Both bills were laid over for possible inclusion in an omnibus bill.

LICENSE PLATE READERS

On Monday, the Senate Transportation and Public Safety Committee once again took up the LPR bill, SF 86 (Latz). After extended discussion and an attempt to amend to 0 day retention, the retention period remains 90 days and the bill was recommended to pass and was re-referred to the Finance Committee. It will likely be taken up by the Finance Committee after the Easter/Passover Break.

The House plans to hear related bills in Civil Law Committee on Tuesday.

BILL INTRODUCTIONS THIS WEEK

HF #	Author	SF #	Author	Short Description
1297	Uglen	1004	Carlson	Metropolitan Council nominating committee membership modified.
1299	Masin	1268	Carlson	Eagan; tax increment financing modified.
1300	Hornstein	1102	Rest	Eagan; tax increment financing modified.
1311	Pugh			Local government purchase exemption modified.
1330	Loonan			Ten-year transit capital improvement program required instead of a three-year program.
1339	Freiberg	853	Dziedzic	Local government unit data practices training and technical assistance through the Information Policy Analysis Division of the Department of Administration funding provided, and money appropriated.
1358	O'Driscoll	1439	Dahle	Energy conservation measure definition addition
1411	Hornstein			Task force to make recommendations on metropolitan governance established.
1449	Schultz	1346	Sieben	Drivers license, instruction permit, and identification card applicants automatic voter registration
1454	Pugh			Metropolitan Council membership modified to include local elected officials.
1459	Drazkowski			Statements of proposed taxes provided to be mailed in October, and deadlines within the property tax system modified.
1474	Davids	1308	Rest	Public finance provisions modifications
1494	Howe	1378	Fischbach	Groundwater appropriation permit requirements modified.
1525	Loon			Transportation Advisory Board of the Metropolitan Council composition modified.
		1242	Dibble	Road-user charge working group establishment and appropriation

		1358	Petersen B	Local government and law enforcement agency military grade weapons acquisition from pentagon prohibition
		1377	Pedersen	Groundwater quality monitoring rulemaking modification; elevated blood lead level concentration level modification
		1380	Reinert	Workforce housing projects use for tax increment financing (TIF) districts