



## **WEEKLY SESSION UPDATE**

*May 13, 2016*

### **SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET UPDATE**

This week, the Supplemental Budget Conference Committee met several times to walk through provisions in the House and Senate proposals. No votes have been taken on any specific provisions yet. The committee is scheduled to meet again on Sunday evening.

As a reminder, the House and Senate conferees for the Supplemental Budget are:

HOUSE: Knoblach, Loon, Garofalo, Dean, M., and McNamara

SENATE: Cohen, Wiger, Lourey, Saxhaug, and Fischbach

### **TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Last week, Senate conferees presented an offer to the conference committee. Their offer showed a little movement towards the House position by backing off a new wholesale fuel tax that would raise the state tax on gasoline by at least 16 cents per gallon. Instead, the Senate offer suggested a 12-cent increase in the state's current per-gallon gas tax, to be phased in over three years.

Following this Senate proposal, the House put together a counter-offer and presented it to the conference committee on Wednesday. The House offer also showed little movement towards a compromise position. The House continues to rely heavily on a shift of motor vehicle-related sales tax revenues from the state's General Fund toward road and bridge projects, as well as using one-time dollars from the state's projected \$900 million budget surplus. It also proposes no new dollars for metro area transit, tying any future funding increases to major changes to Metropolitan Council and transit governance.

Legislative leaders have been meeting privately to work out an agreement on a transportation plan. On Thursday afternoon, Governor Dayton, Senate Majority Leader Bakk, and Speaker Daudt met to discuss a compromise and will continue to be involved in discussions over the weekend.

## **SENATE TAX BILL**

On Monday, May 9th, the Senate Tax Committee released a 2016 Omnibus Tax Bill. The bill was introduced to allow the Senate to establish positions on new proposals heard this session for consideration in a final tax omnibus bill. HF 3931 (Skoe) includes a family leave insurance requirement, several local government tax measures, changes to align state and federal tax codes, as well as a sales tax exemption and property tax exemption for the proposed soccer stadium in St. Paul. On Wednesday, the bill was taken up on the Senate floor, where it passed on a vote of 37-30. Two democrats – Sen. Jensen and Sen. Bonoff – joined all republicans in voting against the bill.

## **TEMPORARY HEALTH CARE DWELLINGS**

On Wednesday, the House took up the temporary health care dwellings bill – HF 2497 (Peterson)/SF 2555 (Hoffman). This bill requires local governments to permit certain types of recreational vehicles as temporary family dwellings. It creates a new type of permit referred to as a temporary dwelling permit that has a six month duration, with an option to extend the permit for an additional six months. The bill also allows cities to pass an ordinance opting out of this new permitting system. The bill passed on a vote of 113-17 and now goes to Governor Dayton for final approval.

## **BODY CAMERAS**

On May 2, 2016, the Senate passed SF 498 (Latz). This bill would establish guidelines for police use of body-worn cameras. It would make much of the data captured by the cameras private data on individuals, which means only the subject, not the general public, could view the data, with exceptions. Some exceptions include situations when deadly or substantial force occurs at the hands of police or if someone in the video seeks its release. Under the bill, law enforcement agencies using the cameras would have to adopt policies governing when they're on or off and the circumstances for eventually destroying data. During the floor debate, a few amendments were successfully added to the bill. These amendments include a notification requirement to the BCA, a requirement for agencies to allow officers to review recordings before completing incident reports, and a requirement for public comment and local government approval. The bill passed on a vote of 47-14.

In the House, companion legislation passed out of a number of committees this week. The House bill is markedly similar to the Senate proposal. It would establish regulations governing portable recording devices. It would also classify body camera recordings as private on individuals with some exceptions. The main difference between the House and Senate versions

is that the Senate bill classifies as public video involving the use of a dangerous weapon by a peace officer or the use of physical coercion that causes substantial bodily harm or death, provided it occurred in a public place. The House bill makes any video public that involves an officer's use of force that causes substantial bodily harm. The House bill is scheduled to be taken up on the House floor on Monday.

### **INTERIM ORDINANCE**

The House took up HF 2585 (Nash) on Wednesday. This bill would require a ten-day notice and a public hearing if an interim notice will regulate, restrict, or prohibit activities related to housing. The bill would be effective for interim ordinances proposed on or after August 1, 2016.

During the floor debate, an amendment was adopted to remove language that would require a two-thirds vote to adopt an interim ordinance. As amended, the bill passed on a vote of 82-47.

### **MET COUNCIL STAGGERED TERMS**

On Tuesday, the Senate took up SF 2385 (Dibble), which would make a number of changes to the Metropolitan Council. The bill relied heavily on recommendations made by the Citizens League, a nonprofit policy group. The changes include staggering terms for council members so that the entire council does not turn over with every gubernatorial election. It also includes an expanded 13-member nominating committee to vet the candidates and make recommendations. However, all 17 members would still be selected by the governor. The nominating committee would include three city representatives, three county representatives and seven others of the governor's choosing.

During a lengthy floor debate, the Senate voted down an amendment that would have made more dramatic changes, including requiring elected city and county officials to serve on the Met Council. Ultimately, the bill passed on a vote of 41-21.

### **LIQUOR BILL**

On Thursday, the House took up HF 3699 (Hoppe), a local government liquor licensing bill. During the floor debate, Rep. Loon presented an amendment that would take a step toward Sunday off-sales by giving municipalities control over whether they should be allowed. After a long debate, the amendment failed on a vote of 70-56.