



## WEEKLY SESSION UPDATE

*May 15, 2015*

### **BUDGET UPDATE**

With less than four days until the Constitutional deadline to adjourn, Legislative leaders have yet to reach an agreement on all budget items. While they did cut a deal on two smaller budget pieces, larger items, including transportation, taxes, health and human services, and k12 education, are still unresolved.

Yesterday, it was announced that leaders agreed to spend an additional \$111 million on public safety and courts. They also agreed to spend \$166 million more on higher education. Those bills are being finalized and should be passed off the floor in the next day or two.

The deadline pressure is getting more intense and some major differences still remain. With only a few days left, the Legislature will need to act fast to finish their work.

As always, we will keep you posted as the negotiations continue.

### **OMNIBUS TAXES BILL**

The tax conference committee continued to meet regularly this week. They adopted a few provisions, including the preliminary levy date change for special taxing districts.

The MLC sent a letter to the conferees to share with them our support for and concerns with specific provisions in the House and Senate versions of the bill. Attached is a copy of that letter.

As a reminder, the conferees for this committee are:

HOUSE: Davids; Drazkowski; Barrett; Swedzinski; Lenczewski

SENATE: Skoe; Rest; Dzeidzic; Koenen; Gazelka

### **GRIDLEY EARNS MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE AWARD**

Congratulations to Woodbury City Administrator, Clint Gridley! Last night, Clint received the 2015 Dr. Robert A. Barrett Award for Management Excellence for the Minnesota City/County Manager Association.

### **LICENSE PLATE READERS/BODY CAMERAS**

On Thursday, the House passed the SF 86 (Cornish). This bill would regulate how long police can retain the data from License Plate Readers. The House voted 126-3 to pass the legislation, which is a law enforcement-backed compromise that would allow cops to store “non-hit” data from automatic license plate readers for 30 days. The bill also includes annual audits of who can access the data.

The Senate version of this bill, which passed last week, would allow law enforcement to store the same data for 90 days. However, their bill also included an amendment that regulates footage gathered from police body cameras. The House bill author, Rep. Cornish, said that the House is not passing a body-camera measure this year and that if the issue is forced, it could sink license-plate-reader regulations as well.

The bills will be headed to conference committee, where members have under four days to work out their differences.

### **CABLE FRANCHISING IN MPLS**

Today, the Minneapolis City Council today will consider final passage of a new franchise agreement allowing CenturyLink to compete with Comcast for cable television services in Minneapolis. If approved, CenturyLink would be the first wire-line company to enter the city as a television provider.