

MINNESOTA

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



THE 2024 SESSION WRAP-UP
WITH SONNIE ELLIOTT

Down to the final hours, legislators pass a flurry of policy and supplemental funding bills.

The even number years of the Minnesota Legislature's two-year biannual session has traditionally focused on passing a Capital Bonding bill and a small amount of supplemental budget spending. However, this year, the legislature failed to pass a capital budget. Although they did pass a bill of over 1,400 pages which included policy and budget changes. [Mega Omnibus -- H.F. 5247](#)

The following bills were included in the mega omnibus bill:

- Transportation Housing and Labor [HF5242A](#)
- Scope of Practice Health Care [H.F. 4247 A](#)
- Higher Education [H.F. 4024](#)
- Firearms [H.F. 2609](#)
- Energy and Ag [S.F. 4942](#)
- Human Services Appropriations [S.F. 5335](#)
- Health and Human Services Appropriations [S.F. 4699](#)
- Paid Family Leave Changes [H.F. 5363](#)

Additionally, some committees had accompanying policy bills and finance bills that also passed into law.

PASSED INTO LAW

- **Human Services Policy Bill.** This bill includes priorities such as changes to Chapter 245D and rental license prohibitions, among other things in the 95-page final bill.
- **Cannabis Policy Updates.** The authors of last year's recreational cannabis bill passed additional updates to the law to try to ensure a smoother roll-out of the market in 2025 and 2026. The bill updates licensing selection to a lottery system, eliminates medical-only business licenses, and strengthens "true party of interest" requirements.
- **Education Finance Bill.** Notably, this bill includes a ban on book bans – a priority for the Department of Education.
- **Transportation Finance and Policy Bill.** This bill included the much-needed funding for truck parking improvements and an allowance for digital drivers' licenses, among other provisions.



Winners:

Tribal Governments – A Ban on Historical Horse Racing games at horse tracks passed this session and land was given back to Tribal Nations.

Kids – Laws were passed this year to ensure that minors cannot be used for profit from online content creation without compensation. Other changes provided important updates to the child protection laws, Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act, and the newly created African American Family Preservation Act.

Rideshare – The legislature passed an acceptable compromise for the drivers and companies. Ride on.



Losers:

Construction Workers & Local Governments – A bonding bill with millions in local projects and asset preservation failed to make it across the Senate finish line in the final minutes of session.

Parliamentarians – A 1,400+ page omnibus bill was created and passed without minority support with less than an hour left in session. Both bodies erupted in shouts and any sense of decorum dissolved as the minutes counted down to adjournment.