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## 2026 Minnesota Legislative Post-session Update

### Winners & Losers

#### Winners:

**Bi-partisanship**—despite a tied house, legislators found a way to successful compromises.

**HCMC**—Immediate and future stabilization funding of over \$700 million.

**School kids**—Funding and requiring anonymous reporting systems to protect kids in school.

#### Losers:

**Gamblers**—Prediction markets were banned and sports betting didn't make it across the starting line.

**Grifters**—Crypto kiosks were banned and won't be an avenue for payment to scammers.

**Transparency**—End-of-session negotiations again disappeared behind closed doors.

Minnesota showed its best and worst during the 2026 legislative session. Legislators were able to find compromise in an evenly divided House and narrowly divided Senate. New security measures were put in place and, despite some growing pains, quickly became the new normal.

At the same time, the session's final stretch reflected the continued challenges of governing in a closely divided Legislature, with public partisan tensions increasing and major negotiations shifting to closed-door leadership discussions.

Legislators entered the session on the heels of Operation Metro Surge, which threatened to overshadow bipartisan work. Despite this, lawmakers were ultimately able to come together on several critical issues and end the session with a bonding bill, a solution for HCMC, school safety legislation, tab fee reductions, and additional steps aimed at preventing fraud in public programs.

#### Fraud

Throughout the session, ensuring proper oversight and payment accountability remained a central focus across committees and policy discussions. In response, legislators advanced significant reforms, including passage of landmark legislation establishing a new independent Office of Inspector General (OIG) and a Human Services budget bill centered heavily on program integrity measures.

What initially appeared poised to become a partisan flashpoint ultimately emerged as one of the session's strongest examples of bipartisan collaboration. The OIG legislation, in particular, earned praise from all four caucuses and became a widely cited example of lawmakers working across party lines to address a shared concern.

**5,162**

House Files  
introduced

**5,310**

Senate Files  
introduced

**146**

Bills presented to the  
Governor for his signature

*\*for the 2025 - 2026 biennial session*

## HR1 & Federal Compliance

Separately, healthcare policy discussions centered heavily on bringing Minnesota's Medicaid program into federal compliance. Legislators focused particular attention on work requirement provisions for able-bodied adults receiving Medical Assistance, along with broader compliance measures tied to HR1 implementation. Addressing these requirements required extensive bipartisan coordination, as failure to comply carried the potential loss of more than \$2 billion annually in federal funding.



## Bonding & Tab Fees

The Minnesota Legislature approved a historic \$1.2 billion bonding and infrastructure package at the end of session. The 2026 bonding bill relied primarily on traditional general obligation (GO) bonding, with approximately \$1.18 billion in GO bonds and roughly \$46 million in cash appropriations from the general fund.

Project requests submitted this biennium totaled more than \$7 billion, highlighting significant statewide needs related to water treatment facilities, lead pipe replacement, and road and bridge improvements.

The legislation also included changes to the motor vehicle registration tax, commonly referred to as "tab fees," which became an important component of final negotiations for Republican lawmakers. The one-year reduction is expected to save Minnesota drivers approximately \$254 million statewide.



## Retiring Members

Of the Legislature's 201 members, 43 have announced they will not be returning to the Legislature or seeking other public office. While that represents roughly 21% of the body, many departing lawmakers are taking decades of institutional knowledge and experience with them. More than 500 combined years of legislative experience could be lost or shifted following this election cycle.

Many of the retiring members currently serve as committee chairs, vice chairs, and ranking minority leads, potentially reshaping how committees operate and how policy work moves through the legislative process in coming years. The largest legislative turnover in tracked Minnesota history occurred in 1972, when turnover reached 39.6%.

This fall, all 201 legislative seats, along with every statewide constitutional office in the executive branch, will be on the ballot.



**Zack Eichten**



**Sonnie Elliott**



**Hanna Zinn**