

MCA Legislative Update # 4 - March 12, 2013

In an effort to keep those interested in legislative somewhat current on what's developing at the Legislature, I'm submitting this follow-up report to you. This is a really hectic time at the Legislature, particularly this week where they are scrambling to get their bills through a first Committee hearing. The first self-imposed deadline in the House takes place on March 15th, Friday evening this week. This means that in order for a bill to receive further consideration in this Session, it must clear at least on Committee. Committee hearings are plum full of bills to be heard, too little time to hear them and hearing rooms full of persons wishing to be heard, plus lots of evening meetings just to try to keep up. The second legislative deadline is the following week, March 21st, for any bills with a fiscal aspect to them. Following March 21st, we'll have a pretty good idea on the prospects for passage of bills. On a positive note, this appears to be a very good year for any bills we are supporting, particularly the juvenile justice proposals. Those bills are moving through several committee hearings and will go to the floor of each Chamber in the future or be included in an Omnibus bill authored by the Committee chair. Here's a summary of some of our bills of interest:

HF 392 (Melin) / SF 286(Latz) This is the Juvenile Records Bill involving 16-17 yr olds with a felony.

This bill has been passed by the Senate Judiciary and sent to the Senate floor for a vote. In the House, it has had one hearing and will be heard in the Judiciary Committee prior to the deadline.

HF 690/SF 523 are the "Ban the Box" bills

These bills are moving smoothly through the Committee process and although receiving some opposition from the Business community, they appear to have strong legislative support and we believe they have an excellent chance to be passed this Session.

SF 490 /HF 947, the Minnesota Commitment and Treatment Act; Sexually Dangerous Persons

This bill was approved in the Senate Judiciary Committee this past week and is still awaiting a hearing on the House side.

HF 633 / SF 760 This is a MACPO drafted bill to add time to the stays of adjudication.

The House bill was referred to the Early Childhood and Youth Development Committee chaired by Rep,

Mullery, who has not provided it a hearing. However, Rep. Mullery has introduced his own version of this bill:

HF 807 which allows for stays of adjudication in six months intervals over a longer period of time.

This bill does not yet have a Senate author, but is scheduled to be heard in the Early Childhood Committee on Thursday this week.

HF 1048 / SF 932 is the Probation Supervision Subsidy Appropriation.

It still has not been scheduled for hearing which has to happen by March 21st.

SF 865/ No House Companion - establishes a Parole Board.

No hearing has been scheduled so far.

HF 739 / SF 460 deals with a multitude of children and family service provisions including contractual agreement provisions changed with tribes, child care programs community action agencies, general assistance and group residential housing, etc...

The House bill was passed as amended in both the Early Childhood and Health and Human Services Committees and is now in the Civil Law Committee. The Senate bill was passed as amended in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and is now in the Senate Judiciary Committee. We expect some action on this provision and will provide a broader look at this legislation in a future report.

HF 1217/SF 982 establishes a sentence of life with release when juveniles commit a heinous crime.

These bills have yet to get a hearing.

HF 1218 /SF 1058 deals with juvenile predatory offender registration, juvenile records access, and provisions governing hearings in juvenile court proceedings.

Neither bill has been heard yet but the authors have indicated that they expect to hold hearings on them yet this Session.

HF 804/SF 643 provides the DOC access to data to track employment of offenders.

We understand these will soon be heard in Committee.

SF 1200/ HF 545 This is Emily's Law...again. The Senate bill was introduced last week.

We are still hopeful that the Committee chairs will not offer a hearing to this bill this Session.

SF 1367 (Cohen) is being introduced this week. It's another Alcohol Fee bill which dedicates it's funding to medical expenses and health care access.

This is the third Alcohol tax bill introduced, **HF 885**, which I testified in favor of two weeks ago, and **SF 430** which would use the increased alcohol tax for CD funding. We'll watch these bills for movement.

There were five more Firearms bills introduced this week and six more bills that would be of interest to us that I'm reviewing now and will report on next time. As of today there have now been 1376 bills introduced in the Senate and 1479 in the House, so you can imagine the volume of work before the Legislature.

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