



MCA Legislative Update and Tracker Report #3 - #4 2014 Session

April 7, 2014

We have now exceeded 6,000 bills having been introduced in the state legislature this biennium. 2014 has been a very unusual Session and has been much more than what Governor Dayton looked for in calling for "an Unsession in 2014". There has been a very positive response to the Governor's request as several bills have moved through Committee hearings that repeal numerous antiquated and meaningless laws on the book. But in addition to that effort, there has been an extremely large number of new proposals this year that resulted in at least 180 bills being referred to the House Public Safety Policy and Finance Committee, and at least 140 bills considered by the House Judiciary Committee. Because of a different Committee structure in the Senate, their Judiciary Division has looked at more than 400 bills and the Senate Transportation and Public Safety Division has had more than 160 bills referred for consideration.

I have waited to file this update to you until the third and final Committee deadline passed, which gives us a much better picture of which bills have a chance to reach the floor of the House and Senate and possible approval for presentation to the Governor, and also what proposals filed to meet those legislative deadlines and will not receive further consideration this year. Committees have been extremely busy in the past three weeks handling a very large number of bills by conducting extended meeting times and often meeting late into the evening. Once the deadline passed, Committee work came to a slow crawl or have totally ceased to meet. In our last report we identified 37 bills for tracking purposes. In this report I intend to report on only those bills that have seen further Committee action.

We were disappointed that none of the voting restoration bills got the necessary hearings before the deadline so we will not see any voting restoration this year. Bill # **HF 2875** , **HF 2984**, **HF 401** and **SF 107** all related to that issue.

Specific to our legislative agenda, we are happy to report that significant progress is being made on the expungement issue and a bill on Synthetic drugs. Both bills are scheduled for floor consideration tomorrow, April 8th and we sense some bipartisan support so we are optimistic that these bills will be passed and forwarded to the Governor. We'll start our tracker with these bills:

HF 2576 (Melin) SF 2214 (Champion)

Rep. Carly Melin has done a tremendous job in shepherding this through several legislative committees. There is always some dissent as usual as it always seems some groups may agree with this philosophically but have their own language, but Rep. Melin and other strong DFL supporters have really kept this together. This is been approved by several House Committees and is scheduled to be heard on the House floor tomorrow, April 8th.

HF 2446 (Simonson) SF 2028 (Reinart and Others)

These two Duluth legislators have really done a great job of pursuing this important legislation through several changes as the bills have progressed through Committees. Several amendments have been approved but the original intent is intact. Rep. Simonson has the House bill scheduled for floor debate tomorrow April 8th, and it appears it has strong support and should be approved by the House.

Other bills receiving consideration include:

HF 2095 (Mullery) SF (Goodwin)

Mental health screening and assessment procedures for children modified.

Rep. Mullery heard this bill in his Early Childhood and Youth Development Committee on 3/10 at which time the Committee approved this as amended and the bill was referred to the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee.

HF 2141 (Rosenthal, Others) SF 2042 (Jensen, Tomassoni)

Probable cause arrests clarified for violations of orders for Protection, restraining and No Contact Orders. We previously reported that the House Judiciary Finance Committee passed this as amended on 3/17/14 and gave the bill its Second reading. The Senate Judiciary Division amended the bill and passed it on 4/01/14 and also gave it its Second reading.

HF 2142 (Yarusso, Others) SF 2043 (Jensen, Tomassoni)

Domestic violence or crimes of violence-victims required to receive an offender release notice.

In the House, both the Public Safety and Civil Law Committees have approved this and given the bill a Second reading. The Senate Judiciary Division amended the bill and passed it on 4/01/14 and it was referred to Finance where it awaits further action.

HF 2255 (Dorholt) SF 2174 (Carlson)

Ignition interlock program limited license issuance authority modifications.

Both the House and the Senate have given Committee approval and the bill awaits floor action or inclusion in one of the Omnibus bills. We still believe this will be approved this Session.

HF 2263 (Halverson, Others) SF 2181 (Jensen, Sheran, Others)

Hospitals required to provide written notice of rights to sexual assault victims.

This bill also got some Committee approval prior to deadline in both the House and the Senate and awaits further action. I assume this will be included in one of the Omnibus bills.

HF 2295 (Johnson,C. and Others) SF 2736 (Kent, Pappas, and Others)

Domestic violence offenders GPS monitoring use and Judicial districts to establish standards.

The House Public Safety and Civil Law Committees have approved this and given the Bill a Second reading. The Senate Judiciary Division heard this on 3/24 and also approved it and gave the Bill a Second reading.

HF 2540 (Mullery) No Senate Companion

This bill deals juveniles who receive a Life sentence and provides for the juvenile's release.

SF 2273 (Latz)

In this bill Senator Latz has encompassed language to deal with a number of Juvenile issues including an Article 4, specific to Juvenile Life Sentences. This bill is described in further detail later in this report..

HF 2574 (Slocum) SF 2546 (Latz)

This Bill modifies predatory offender registration requirements.

The Senate Judiciary Division approved this bill on 3/26 and gave the bill its Second reading. The House Judiciary Committee approved the bill on 3/28 and also provided its Second reading, so we expect to see further action on this.

HF 2770 (Johnson, S.) SF 2348 (Koenen, Limmer, Latz)

This is the Corrections single funding bill.

We hear lots of support for this philosophically, but without the Governor's endorsement this year, it's not likely to be pursued this year.

HF 2953 (Johnson, S.) SF 2592 (Dahms)

County Correctional Services grant qualification modification, eliminates contiguous county requirement.

This has been discussed for a number of years and this year it received an early approval from the House Public Safety Committee with a Second reading on 3/21, and it is now on the House calendar for floor consideration tomorrow, April 8th. The Senate Judiciary Division also gave a positive nod to this proposal on 3/28, and gave the bill a second reading.

SF 2273 (Latz) HF 3061 (Allen)

This Bill addresses Juvenile issues related to Detention, noncustodial supervision, risk assessment, continuances, diversion, life without release sentences, mandatory minimum sentences, predatory offender registration, expungement, and DHS collateral sanctions; and money appropriated.

This is a comprehensive effort to deal with the various juvenile issues we've had on the table for discussion for the past few years. Senator Latz brought this bill up in early March and the Senate Judiciary Division voted to pass this bill as amended and provided for a Second reading. Because it addresses several different juvenile issues, I will submit a supplemental overview of this Bill (SF 2273) to you with further details.

HF 826 (Davnie, Yarusso, Others) SF 783 (Dibble)

This is the Safe and Supportive Schools bill, providing for rules to deal with Bullying.

The Senate File SF 783 is now the only bill under consideration as it was passed by the Senate on April 3rd on a 36-31 vote and awaits further action from the House.

I believe this covers the current legislation impacting our legislative agenda. This will be a busy week in both the Senate and House as the Legislature begins its Easter break on Friday, April 11th and will not return until April 21st. I think you'll see a greater emphasis on the "hot button" items before the Legislature, the supplemental tax and appropriations bills, minimum wage, the new Senate office building and a final Bonding proposal. Adjournment this year must take place on May 19th.

April 8, 2014

In my reported I filed with you yesterday, April 7th, I made reference to **SF 2273 (LATZ) / HF 3061 (ALLEN)**. Again, this bill addresses Juvenile issues related to Detention, Noncustodial Supervision, Risk Assessment, Continuances (stay of Adjudication), Diversion, Life Without Release Sentences, Mandatory minimum Sentences, Predatory Offender Registration, Expungement, and DHS Collateral Sanctions; and money appropriated.

This is a lengthy bill and incorporates language from several juvenile proposals that we have in our Agenda, so I wanted to provide you with a little more in-depth information. Senator Latz has effectively moved this bill through the process in the Senate and it is on the Calendar for the Day in the Senate and scheduled for floor consideration sometime today, April 8th.

SF 2273 contains five Articles:

Article 1 deals with a call for all juvenile justice stakeholders to meet and confer regarding issues related to risk assessment instruments and their use to determine juvenile detention and noncustodial supervision, with the group to provide a written report of their recommendations to the House and Senate by November 15, 2014.

Article 2 addresses Law Enforcement diversion of nonviolent juvenile offenders. This article includes a Section 2 that addresses the **Stay of Adjudication** issue calling for continuances in certain circumstances for a period of 180 days with additional language calling for an extended continuance not to exceed another 180 days, but only with the consent of the prosecutor and only after the court has reviewed the case.

Article 3 deals with **Expungement** and contains a subdivision that has the same language in Rep. Melin's **HF 2576** which is scheduled to be heard on the House floor today as well. This language calls for a business screening service to delete promptly, the expunged record.

Article 4 deals with **Juvenile Life Sentences**. This would allow the Commissioner of Corrections, under certain rules, to give supervised release to an inmate serving a mandatory life sentence under certain conditions spelled out in this provision. This Bill addresses the intent of **HF 2540 (Mullery)**.

Article 5 deals with **Predatory Offender Registration**. It appears to reflect language in **SF 2546 (Latz) / HF 2574**. It requires registration of adults or a child certified under section 260B.125. It also contains language that would require certain children to register who is not certified under this section but meet specified factors.

HF 3172/ the House Supplemental Appropriation Bill is also up for floor action. This bill has an additional \$49.7 million of spending in 2015 in Public Safety and Corrections. Of that \$ 18.95 million is designated for critical operations at the DOC, and an additional \$ 11.1 to deal with shortfalls due to an 8% jump in commitments. Also included in this bill is **HF 2142** providing for \$ 125,000 for enhanced notification to victims of domestic violence, **HF 2478** providing \$ 50,000 for de-escalation training grants for dealing with Veterans, and **HF 1851** which expands felony 5th degree criminal sexual conduct by authorizing up to a 10 year prison sentence with a qualifying prior offense.

The result of this report, assuming legislative approval shows a quite large number of our agenda items being addressed in the current Session. Please refer to these specific bill numbers for more detailed information. Again,

Thanks for your support!

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