



April 4, 2016

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE/TRACKER REPORT #02

The Legislature begins this week leaving about seven weeks to go before mandatory adjournment on May 23rd. Lots of issues, concerns, and goals, but little time to get them through the legislative process. Committees in both Chambers spent a grueling week the last five days as Committee Chairs struggled to meet the first imposed deadline on April 1st. Now this week, the second deadline is looking at them, effective April 8th. In this second deadline Committees must act favorably on bills, or companion bills from the other Chamber, that met the first deadline in the other Chamber. Confusing? That's not all! There is a third deadline looming which deals with all finance matters that requires favorable action in the Committee of origin.

In this biennium as of April 4th, there have been 3794 bills introduced in the House, and another 3448 bills introduced in the Senate. If we narrow these down to our bills of interest (for the most part), we place major time in the House Public Safety and Crime Prevention Policy and Finance Committee, chaired by Republican Rep. Tony Cornish, which currently has 285 bills to be considered. In the Senate, the Judiciary Division, chaired by DFL'er Senator Ron Latz, has 376 bills on their table.

I currently have 78 bills which we are watching that have identified as particular bills of interest to most of our membership. This does not include any of the numerous additional bills that may impact us that are sitting in other Committees, or any of the "hot item" topics related to additional budget appropriations and/or bonding proposals. Remember, this is traditionally the bonding year of the biennium, so expect to see legislative focus suddenly change in the near future to dealing with a bonding package which needs to be agreed upon before the budget adjustments can be made.

In my first tracker report to you, we identified a number of bills that we felt would be considered in Committee work. Since then, that focus has really doubled so it isn't very efficient to comment on everything in the interest of time and space, as I really believe that too much information and a lengthy dialogue here will not hold your attention. Therefore, I'll use this report to comment on those identified bills that are being heard, and alert you to some of the new legislative proposals that have been filed since our last report.

First, commenting on several bills mentioned previously:
(if I don't comment on a bill, it likely has not had a hearing to date)

HF 2399 The Gun Court Establishment (Ward, Norton, Bly and Fischer) Has not received a hearing.

HF 2552 (O'Neil, Hilstrom, Rosenthal, and Slocum) Mandatory hearing requirement for subsequent orders and extensions eliminated. Passed Public Safety on 3/21, and referred to Civil Law, which approved on 4/1 and gave the bill a second reading, so it's available for floor consideration.

SF 2567 (Latz and Limmer) is the companion bill which was heard and passed as amended in Judiciary on 3/17 and given a second reading.

HF 2652 (Cornish, Hilstrom and Newberger) Fourth Degree Assault against a peace officer clarified. This bill was amended to define "peace officer" as a person who is licensed under section 626.845, subd. 1. The bill was adopted in Public Safety on 3/16 and given a second reading.

SF 2227 (Latz, Hall and Hoffman) was passed as amended on 3/17 and also given its second reading.

SF 2310 (Eken, Rosen, Sheran, Hoffman, Hann) Disability waiver reimbursement rate adjustments, ICF/DD rate increases and home and community-based service provider rate and grant increases. The bill was approved in the Health and human Services and Housing Committee on 3/29 and was referred to Finance.

HF 2706 (Hamilton and 34 others) has been referred to Aging and Long-Term Care Policy awaiting action.

HF 2741 (Lesch, Dehn) Nonconsensual dissemination of private sexual images or sexual solicitation creates civil cause for action. The bill was passed as amended by Public Safety on 3/30 and referred to Civil Law where it was adopted as amended on 4/1 and given a second reading.

SF 2713 (Goodwin, Eaton, Dziedzic, Hall and Pratt) sits in Judiciary awaiting hearing.

SF 2753 (Marty, Hayden, Eaton, Sheran and Newman) Mental Health crisis response peace officer training. The bill was approved as amended in Judiciary on 3/30 and sent to Finance.

HF 2756 (Norton) Awaits hearing in Public Safety.

HF 2870 (Lueck) Community Correction subsidy program participation by all Counties authorized. The public Safety Committee adopted this bill on 3/21 and gave the bill a second reading.

SF 2570 (Dahle, Ruud) is the companion bill and was passed by Judiciary on 3/17 and given a second reading.

HF 2888 (Cornish, Newberger, Loonan, Uglem, Gruenhagen and Rarick) REJECTS the Sentencing Guidelines recommendations on controlled substance offenses. Public Safety adopted this on 3/16 and gave the bill a Second reading.

SF 3070 (Ingebrigtsen, Limmer) is the companion bill. It awaits action in the Judiciary Division.

HF 2895 (Hilstrom, Dehn and 23 others) Requires all state and local jail inmates to be housed in publicly owned and operated jails and prisons, and prohibits private prison contracting. No Hearing yet.

SF 2768 (Latz, Goodwin, Bakk, Dziedzic and Lourey) Companion bill now in Judiciary.

HF 3344 (Dehn and 34 others) Restores Right to Vote upon release from incarceration or upon sentencing if no incarceration is imposed. It sits in Public Safety awaiting a hearing, and has no Senate companion.

HF 3546 (B. Johnson, Lueck) Authorizes County Probation Officer to supervise adult felons. Public Safety adopted this as amended on 3/31 and gave the bill a Second reading. There is no Senate bill so far.

SF 2251 (Goodwin) Electronic incapacitation cuffs use prohibition for persons in custody for criminal cases. Judiciary heard this bill on 3/17 and moved to pass, and gave bill a Second reading.

HF 3648 (Lesch, Mariani and 8 others) is the companion bill, sits in Public Safety awaiting a hearing.

SF 3291 (Latz) and HF 3651 (Cornish) Peace Officer body camera use regulated. No hearing yet.

HF 3657 (Smith, Howe, Zerwas, Hertaus, Lohmer) Establishes an Inmate release program and money appropriated.

SF 3209 (Sheran, Rosen, Goodwin, Latz, Newman) Both bills are awaiting hearing.

HF 2690 (Kelly, Cornish and 9 others) Ignition Interlock required for repeat offenders in order to reinstate driving privileges; limits Ignition Interlock program to alcohol-related cases only. This was approved in Public Safety as amended on 4/1 and referred to Transportation Policy and Finance.

SF 3327 (Dibble) This is the senate companion bill and is scheduled for hearing this week in Judiciary.

HF 3223 (Miller, Cornish, and 22 others) Housing offenders in non-publicly owned facilities authorized. Public Safety heard this bill on 3/23, adopted it on a party vote and referred to Ways and Means.

SF 3192 (Koenen, Tomassoni, Dahms and Westrom) is the companion but has different language: Appleton correctional facility lease by Commissioner of Corrections authorization. It has been referred to Judiciary.

HF 3260 (Newberger, Lohmer, Backer, Bennett) Level III sex offender residency regulation by local governmental units allowed. This was heard on 3/29 in Public Safety and we joined Commissioner Roy in opposing this legislation as not in best practice, but it was approved on a partisan vote, 10-7, and referred to Government Operations and Elections Policy.

SF 3126 (Brown) is the companion and sits in Judiciary without a hearing so far.

Some of the bills scheduled to be heard this week include:

Tuesday, April 5th in Public Safety and Crime Prevention - HF 3068 (Metsa) A bonding request for Arrowhead Regional Corrections (Renovation continuation)

HF 3385 (Heintzeman) Enhanced penalties and minimum fine for repeat driving w/o a license.

HF 3370 (Miller) Registered predatory offender written statement for change of information required and access to registration data by child protection workers for determination of child residency with predatory offender.

HF 3590 (Cornish) Earned compliance credit program for persons under correctional supervision.

In Health and Human Services Reform Committee:

HF 2661 (Baker) Children's mental health collaboratives funding provided, and money appropriated.

In the Senate: Judiciary Committee: SF 3327 (Dibble) *Ignition Interlock for repeat offenders required for driving reinstatement.*

On Thursday, April 7th in the House Government Operations Committee:
HF 3423 (B. Johnson) Statewide criminal and juvenile justice information policy and funding issues
advisory group provided.

Feel free to contact me with your questions or comments. Thanks for your support!

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