



April 20, 2017

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE-2017 TRACKER REPORT #5

This Tracker report is a follow-up to my article prepared for the last FORUM. We have indicated that Committee work has suddenly slowed to a crawl as most Committees have prepared Committee Omnibus bills which have been written by Committee chairs and are limited in funding to the amount allocated by the Republican leadership. The Senate bill, SF803, is presented by Judiciary Chair Senator Warren Limmer is set at \$ 2.22 billion.

The House bill, HF 896, prepared by Chair Tony Cornish, includes a number of policy items is set at \$2.28 billion.

The Governor's proposal for Public Safety, as released earlier, makes a fiscal appropriation of \$2.43 billion.

It is significant to note the both the House and Senate Chairs have indicated their displeasure with the spending limits imposed by the leadership. Both of them have been very cordial in recognizing the needs within the Public Safety budget jurisdiction and are frustrated with the imposed limits, hoping that they can gain some additional commitment to some issues during the work of the Conference Committee which will be needed to bring similar language to the spending bill. It is interesting to note that the Speaker of the House requested that no policy provisions be included in the spending bill, yet the House bill of Rep. Cornish contains language of at least 17 bills considered in his Public Safety Committee this Session, and several of them have a definite fiscal impact. Here is a list of those bills I have found in the House Omnibus bill, HF 896:

HF 192 (Heintzeman) enhancing penalties and establishing minimum fines for repeat violations of driving\ without a valid license; 2nd offense, minimum fine of \$750; 3rd offense, \$1500.

HF 251 (Loonan) addresses use of seat belt restraint system for children.

HF 390 (Zerwas) Obstructing traffic on a highway or airport access, with a sentence of up to three years and a possible fine up to \$5,000 if force or violence is used, otherwise, imprisonment up to one year and potential fine up to \$3,000. Several amendments were made on this proposal to minimize it but were all defeated on a straight party line vote in Committee, 6-10.

HF 916 (Hilstrom) Law enforcement required to maintain collection boxes for disposal of uncontrolled substances

HF 1148 (O'Neill) allows any peace officer to serve a harassment restraining order.

HF 1159 (Cornish) Allows peace officers to carry firearms in private establishments.

HF 1179 (Newberger) provides funding to St Cloud, Duluth and Moorhead, for emergency response teams.

HF 1429 (Clark) Expands the contempt of court crime, expands geographic restrictions.

HF 1475 (Clark) Makes it a crime to solicit or support for an act of terrorism.

HF 1510 (Miller) Authorizes the Commissioner of Corrections to house offenders in non-publicly owned facilities, amending M.S. 2D16, section 241.01, Subd. 3a.

HF 1601 (Lucero) criminal penalties defined for Trespass on a school bus.

HF 1654 (O'Neill) adds domestic assault by strangulation to the list of crimes that impact custody, parenting plans and visitation.

HF 1572 (Grossell) eliminates stays of adjudication and stays of imposition in criminal sexual conduct cases, sex offenders required to serve lifetime conditional release or probation, intensive probation for sex offenders established, child pornography penalties increased, mandatory minimum sentences created, and Sentencing Guidelines Commission directed to modify the sex offender grid.

HF 1802 (Christensen) Creates a supplemental nonprofit security grant program under Homeland Security; eligible organizations may receive grants of up to \$ 75,000.

HF 1932 (Theis) provides for a Central Minnesota Sex Offender Trafficking Task Force; \$600,000 appropriated through Public Safety for grant to Stearns County Attorney's Office.

HF 2068 (Daniels) \$250,000 grant in 2018 appropriated to public safety to fund anti-terrorism grants to local LE.

HF 2337 (Becker-Finn) \$100,000 appropriated in each 2018 and 2019 to Commissioner of Corrections to develop and establish screening tools for targeted domestic violence prevention programming.

In my FORUM article, I mentioned surprise that HF 238 (Nash) was not included with the others. This bill is the Defense of Home bill which was vetoed by the Governor last year, and is expanded this year. This bill was heard on 3/28, approved on a straight party vote, 9 -6, and was sent to the Rules Committee prior to being placed on the General Register. This should come up on the floor in the near future. The rest of that hearing was devoted to the Omnibus bill, HF 896. Nineteen amendments were introduced by Democrats at the hearing and all were rejected on a straight party vote, 6 - 10. The only amendment approved was introduced by Rep. Zerwas, regarding the prison segregation reform act which was passed 15 -0, even though it was brought up that it required \$3.7 million additional funding, and no funding is included in this bill. The Omnibus bill passed on a voice vote and was referred to Ways and Means as amended. Next will come the Conference Committee with the Senate version.

The Legislature will be in Session yet this next week and then start an Easter break the following week and not return until April 18th, then we'll see if there's going to be any collaboration this year or not. For the first time this session, I heard some talk this last week about a possible shutdown with no agreement on the two year budget. Let's hope that's not the case, but don't ask me to predict who will blink first. Interesting times ahead!

Thanks for your support!

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