



**MINNESOTA
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**

GROWING MINNESOTA

March 25, 2019

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Governor Walz released his supplemental budget Friday, continuing to recommend massive taxes and spending. The vast majority of tax increases fall on private-sector job-creators, with an additional \$65 million tax increase on businesses, on top of the \$981 million already recommended.

It will be another busy week as the second committee deadline is this Friday. Bills that have passed either a House or Senate committee must pass a committee in the other body for further consideration this year. The House released its budget and tax targets today for the various budget and tax committees, allowing them to put together their omnibus bills. The Senate will likely release its targets a few days after the House.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

The Minnesota Chamber, accompanied by local business leaders, is visiting newspapers across the state to put a local face on our legislative priorities. Lend your voice by writing a letter to the editor. Need help? Contact Jim Pumarlo at jpumarlo@mnchamber.com.



Tax Competitiveness

Tax Competitiveness

- **New bill (as amended) would lower the statewide business property tax, bring relief.** ([SF 548](#), Ruud, R-Breezy Point) **WE SUPPORT.**
- **New bill would align the corporate estimated payment with the federal date to ease compliance and administrative burden.** ([HF 2628](#), Davids, R-Preston/[SF 2601](#), Chamberlain, R-Lino Lakes) **WE SUPPORT.** Minnesota is only one of five states that has not moved to the new federal date, April 15. Next up: Wednesday, House Taxes Committee.
- **Bills to provide alternative calculation for the research-and-development credit, to be heard in House Taxes.** ([HF 1445](#), Robbins, R-Maple Grove) and ([HF 1455](#), Sauke, DFL-Rochester/[SF 996](#), Senjem, R-Rochester) **WE SUPPORT.** Next up: Wednesday, House Taxes Committee.
- **New bill would repeal outdated accelerated sales tax payment for certain retailers.** ([HF 1809](#), Theis, R-St. Cloud) **WE SUPPORT.** Certain retailers are now required to pay the sales tax in June instead of July. This is an accounting shift that was enacted in the 1980s during a budget deficit. Next up: Thursday, House Taxes Committee.
- **In the news:** [“Proposed tax bill raises concerns for businesses; State and local chambers of commerce look for affordable options”](#) (Austin Daily Herald)
- **In the news:** [“Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz trims budget plan following lower surplus prediction”](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune)
- **In the news:** [“State, local chambers lobby for competitive taxes for businesses”](#) (Albert Lea Tribune)



Health Care

Health Care

- **New bill would provide another avenue for employers to help employees with health care benefits.** ([HF 1126](#), Zerwas, R-Elk River/[SF 277](#), Jensen, R-Chaska) **WE SUPPORT**. Direct primary care would allow individuals to pay a monthly fee for unlimited primary care. Next up: Thursday, Senate floor.
- **Bill requiring disclosure of additional fees by clinics associated with hospitals to be heard in House HHS.** ([HF 685](#), Elkins, DFL-Bloomington/[SF 131](#), Draheim, R-Madison Lake) **WE SUPPORT**. Patients would be notified if they may be charged a separate facility fee due to a clinic's association with a hospital. Next up: Wednesday, House Health and Human Services Policy Committee.



Workplace Mandates

Workplace Mandates

- **Employer-tax-funded statewide paid-leave program to be heard in House Jobs.** ([HF 5](#), Halverson, DFL-Eagan/[SF 1060](#), Kent, DFL-Woodbury) **WE OPPOSE**. This bill creates an expansive, state-administered, 24-week paid leave insurance program on all employers and employees. Next up: Tuesday, House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Division.
- **Bill penalizing employers for unintentional errors on paychecks to be heard in House Jobs.** ([HF 6](#), Mahoney, DFL-St. Paul/[SF 1933](#), Champion, DFL-Minneapolis) **WE OPPOSE**. This bill overreaches in its application and enforcement, and does not include reasonable good-faith employer protections or due-process provisions. Next up: Tuesday, House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Division.

- **‘One size fits all’ paid sick and safe time to be heard in House Jobs.** ([HF 11](#), Lesch, DFL-St. Paul/[SF 1597](#), Pappas, DFL-St. Paul) **WE OPPOSE.** This bill creates a statewide mandate on employers, but carves out collective bargaining agreements and the construction industry. Next up: Tuesday, House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Division.
- **ICYMI:** HF 10, the bill eliminating the legal standard for sexual harassment claims in the workplace, [passed the House on a 113-10 vote.](#)
- **In the news:** [A look at the dynamics surrounding the employer-tax-funded paid-leave program](#) via Minnesota Public Radio.
- **In the news:** [“Attorney General Keith Ellison, Minnesota lawmakers look to crack down on wage theft”](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune)



Transportation

- **ICYMI:** [Watch the Chamber’s Bentley Graves oppose the governor’s proposed 20-cent gas tax increase](#) in the House Transportation and Finance Policy Division. For more facts on his proposal, [read and download the fact sheet.](#)



Workforce Development

- **ICYMI:** [Watch the Chamber’s Stacey Stout support scholarships to help students pursue careers in areas of high workforce demand](#) before the Senate Higher Education Finance and Policy Committee.



Energy



Environment



Elections



Telecom

Other priorities: Energy, Environment, Elections, Telecom

- **Bill to reinstate Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Citizens Board, creating additional red tape in agency decision-making to be heard in the House.** ([HF 973](#), Persell, DFL-Bemidji/[SF 627](#), Marty, DFL-Roseville) **WE OPPOSE**. Next up: Awaiting hearing, House Ways and Means Committee.
 - **In the news:** [“Editorial, License immigrants before they get behind the wheel”](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune)
 - **In the news:** [“DEED seeks \\$70 million for rural broadband”](#) (Finance and Commerce)
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