



Conservation Connection



A Minnesota Legislative Outdoor Newsletter: Created by Kim Scott and Alexandra David

**Sponsored by: Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Fergus Falls Fish and Game Club,
Fish Lake Conservation Club, Izaak Walton League, MN Musky and Pike Alliance,
MN Sharptail Grouse Society, Outdoor News, Pheasants Forever, Sportsmen for the BWCA***

January 24, 2025

Important Dates:

- January 28: A special election to fill a legislative vacancy for Senate District 60. The special election previously scheduled on this day for House District 40B has been canceled and a new writ of special election has not yet been issued by the Governor.
- May 9-10: 77th Minnesota Governor's Fishing Opener in Crosslake
- May 19: Constitutional deadline for adjournment for the 2025 Legislative Session

Legislative News Highlights

Supreme Court sides with DFL, Simon, says 68 House members needed for floor action: The Minnesota Supreme Court determined Friday that 68 members must be present to conduct business in the state House of Representatives, likely forcing Republicans back into power-sharing discussions with Democrats who have boycotted the state Capitol for two weeks. The unsigned order was the unanimous decision of the six justices who heard [oral argument](#) on the dispute Thursday . . . The disagreement over quorum, the number of House members who must be present to conduct business, has been brewing since before the opening day of the Legislature on Jan. 14. Initially after the November election, the DFL and GOP were evenly split with 67 members each in the House and they were negotiating a power-sharing agreement. But in late December, a Ramsey County judge voided the election of DFLer Curtis Johnson, finding the candidate lived in Little Canada and not the Roseville and Shoreview district he sought to represent. With a 67-66 advantage, the GOP ended power-sharing discussions and claimed a majority. [Read more.](#)

But even a court ruling won't resolve everything . . . [The Court decided that] the House needs 68 people present to be a legal quorum to begin the session, [but] the House can't get to that number unless the House DFL ends its boycott. And that boycott won't end until the GOP agrees it won't try to unseat Rep. Brad Tabke of Shakopee, House DFL leaders have repeatedly said . . . Without an agreement between House GOP leader Lisa Demuth — speaker of the House in the eyes of the GOP members — and former DFL House Speaker Melissa Hortman, the boycott likely will not end, despite a DFL victory in court or at the ballot in Roseville . . . Both the House and Senate leadership have said they will follow the court's interpretation of the constitution . . . Tuesday, Hortman said she didn't know if the House boycott of the chambers will last until the Roseville

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election is settled. A DFL win at the Supreme Court [will] change the bargaining positions of the two parties — Demuth, for example, would not yet be speaker and her chamber no longer open for business. But Hortman said she thinks a negotiated agreement is a better path to a solution than the courts. [Read more](#).

Outdoors-related bills already in play during early stages of Minnesota Legislative session: Budget priorities are on protecting and managing groundwater, managing and preventing the spread of AIS, and continuing to support the state's parks and recreation areas with fee proposals tied to them...The few policy items the DNR may try to tackle will be small technical matters, such as allowing commercial Lake Superior fishermen to keep eelpout by-catch rather than discarding it. [Read more](#).

Walz presents \$887 million infrastructure spending plan: The governor's proposal is an early step in the process and comes after the 2024 legislative session adjourned without a bonding bill, leaving some local and statewide projects without public funding. Walz announced his bonding bill proposal at the Rapidan Dam, which made national headlines last year after flooding caused the dam to partially fail. [Read more](#) and [more](#). Walz's plan includes:

- \$144 million in water and transportation infrastructure, including more than \$107 million to support grants and low-interest loans to keep Minnesota's water clean. The infrastructure plan also includes \$5 million for flood mitigation and prevention, and \$10 million for work on the Rapidan Dam.
- \$395 million for maintenance of state facilities
- \$238 million for public safety projects, such as a laboratory for the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and a headquarters building for the Minnesota State Patrol.
- \$44 million for housing and environmental projects

State needs more efficient environmental permitting to be competitive, bill proponents say: [Rep. Josh Heintzeman](#) (R-Nisswa) sponsors [HF8](#) to modernize existing regulatory systems and make them more efficient while still protecting the environment. [He] said businesses needing environmental reviews and permits to operate in Minnesota are hampered by unnecessarily lengthy and burdensome permitting processes by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency . . . The bill would limit extensions from a 60-day time limit that a local unit of government must make certain determinations under the Wetland Conservation Act to one extension that could not exceed 60 days. To be more efficient, the PCA would be required to issue separate permits for construction and operation of certain facilities and be required to issue these permits in a manner that minimizes the time required to construct and begin operation. Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy submitted a [letter](#) outlining objections to several aspects of the bill. [Read more](#).

House DFL Leader Melissa Hortman said March 11 is the “most likely” date for a rescheduled special election in House District 40B, with Gov. Tim Walz expected to issue a writ on Feb. 5. The special election in Senate District 60 will still proceed on Jan. 28 as originally planned: [via Star Tribune's Briana Bierschbach, on X](#).

Environmentalists rally to protect BWCA: The Boundary Waters Canoe Area, and a big effort to protect it, took center stage at the State Capitol on Thursday afternoon. Supporters of the Boundary Waters are concerned President Trump's energy policy reopens the path for mining and at a rally called this a crisis moment. President Trump has long been on the record to undo the Biden administration's ban on mining and there are several ways Trump can do that – administratively and through Congress. But the environmentalists at the Capitol promised a fight in court to further protect the unique area. [Read more.](#)

Wolves more likely to be delisted under Trump, but whether deer numbers increase is uncertain: With the help of the Republican-controlled Congress, such a change is possible, if not probable. Whether deer numbers in northern Minnesota increase as a result, addressing the frustrations of whitetail hunters in that part of the state, is another question. Either way, the Trump administration is likely to accelerate removal of Minnesota's (and Wisconsin's and Michigan's) wolves from protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), where they are listed as threatened, and return them to state management . . . wolves have gained a lot of friends in recent decades, making politics, not biology or policy integrity, the major force driving their management. [Read more.](#)

Ice fishing is hot in Minnesota this winter, thanks to the cold: For the six-week period between Nov. 28 and Jan. 13, anglers purchased 56,500 licenses from the Department of Natural Resources. That's the highest post-Thanksgiving sales number at least since the 2015-2016 ice fishing season. The data, gathered by the DNR at the request of the Minnesota Star Tribune, showed a 152% increase from last year's paltry sale of 22,387 licenses. [Read more.](#)

Pittman-Robertson dollars dip for Minnesota; State audit of DNR use of federal dollars on WMAs expected in coming months: Federal dollars from the Wildlife Restoration Fund are key to much of the DNR's on-the-ground field work. As another round of funding is announced, state officials await the results of a legislative audit review of timber harvest on WMAs. [Read more.](#)

Anderson: Pheasants, ducks, butterflies: Their chances — and yours — improve 80 acres at a time: Ducks Unlimited and other groups help the Minnesota DNR acquire conservation lands with Legacy Act money. Since the Legacy Act's inception, DU has purchased about 75 parcels of wildlife habitat totaling 8,000 acres using the Outdoor Heritage Fund. Each property, which by law must be open to hunting, is subsequently donated back to the DNR for establishment as a state wildlife management area. [Read more.](#)

Select DNR News releases

- [Northeast Minnesota elk restoration planning underway](#): Public input period starts in January, two public meetings scheduled for February.
- [3M PFAS settlement grant program RFP coming soon](#): \$20 million available for restoration and recreation projects.

- [Preliminary 2024 season report shows higher deer harvest](#): 2023-2024 mild winter conditions helped deer populations begin to recover.

Last Week at the Legislature:

Legislative offices were closed on Monday, January 20 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

On Tuesday at 8:30, Senate [Taxes](#) met to hear a number of bills, including, [S.F. 11](#) (Rest) Exemption modification for firearm storage units and [S.F. 0049 \(Weber\)](#): Exemption permission for certain leased land (see also: [SF 49 Summary](#), [Leased Conservation Land Exemption](#), [Legislative Handout](#), and [Conservation Grazing Photo Examples](#).)

On Tuesday at 1:00 PM, the House committee on [Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy](#) met for member and staff introductions, to go over a review of [committee rules](#), and for a walk-through of committee budget and policy areas by nonpartisan staff. See also: [Environment Finance Accounts](#) and [Environment Committee Issue Areas](#).

At 3:00 PM, Senate [Capital Investment](#) convened. The committee heard a number of overviews: The committee heard from Leah Corey, Enterprise Director, MMB regarding the [Federal Funds Implementation Team](#); Jennifer Hassemer, Assistant Commissioner of Management & Budget (see also: [November 2024 Debt Capacity](#), [MMB 2025 Cancellation Report](#), and [MMB Debt Capacity Presentation](#)); American Society of Civil Engineers-MN regarding the [State infrastructure report card](#), and committee overviews by Senate Counsel and Senate Fiscal staff (see also: [State Bonding Basics](#) and [Budget Presentation](#)).

Also at 3:00 PM, Senate [Environment, Climate, and Legacy](#) met for Committee Member & Staff introductions, an overview of [Committee Jurisdiction](#) & [Budget](#), MN Dept. of Natural Resources [Overview](#), MN Pollution Control Agency [Overview](#), and MN Board of Soil & Water Resources [Overview](#).

On Wednesday at 10:15 AM, the House [Legacy Finance](#) committee convened for member and staff introductions; non-partisan [staff update on Legacy reserves](#); non-partisan [overview of Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund](#), Parks and Trails Fund, Clean Water Fund; Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council staff presentation on Outdoor Heritage Fund/Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. See: [Legacy Natural](#) and [LSOHC Presentation](#).

At 1:00 PM, House [Agriculture Finance and Policy](#) met for member and staff introductions and [presentations on University of Minnesota, Agriculture Research, Education, Extension and Technology Transfer \(AGREETT\)](#); U of M Extension Farm Safety Initiatives; opportunities and challenges regarding broadband deployment in Minnesota.

At 3:00 PM, Senate [Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband and Rural Development](#) convened to hear an overview on [Minnesota Department of Agriculture Program Updates](#) and to discuss the Board of Animal Health [update on H5N1 & emerging threats](#).

On Thursday at 9:00 AM, Senate [Finance](#) convened to hear a presentation and approve the 2025 Budget Rules. See: [2025 Budget Rules](#) and [2025 Budget Presentation](#).

On Thursday at 1:00 PM, House [Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy](#) met to hear a presentation on the [Minnesota Chamber Foundation Report](#), "Streamlining Minnesota's Environmental Permitting Process: Essential for Economic Growth", and discuss [HF8](#) (Heintzeman and others) – Efficiency of Wetland Conservation Act determinations improved, efficiency of environmental and resource management permit application process improved, Pollution Control Agency permit process modified, reports required, and money appropriated. See: [House Research Bill Summary](#) and testimony from the following: [Minnesota Biofuels Association](#), [The Nature Conservancy](#), [APEX](#), [Range Association of Municipalities and Schools](#), [Jobs for Minnesotans](#), [MCEA](#), [Mining Minnesota](#), [Minnesota Trades](#), [MN Pork Producers](#), [AgriGrowth](#), and [Red River Watershed Management Board](#).

At 3:00 PM, Senate [Environment, Climate, and Legacy](#) convened to hear a presentation on the Office of Legislative Auditor's [Report on Aggregate Resources](#) (see OLA Report [Summary](#)) and to hear the following bills: [S.F. 0090 \(Hoffman\)](#): Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities appropriation; [S.F. 0106 \(Drazkowski\)](#) Outdoor heritage fund or clean water fund appropriation recipient additional requirements required (see written testimony from: [Audubon](#), [Conservation Groups](#), and [Ducks Unlimited](#)); and [S.F. 0107 \(Drazkowski\)](#): Shotgun zone for taking deer elimination and firearm and ammunition type used for taking deer regulated by the county provision (see written testimony with concerns regarding the bill from [Olmsted County](#) and in support of the bill from [Marshal Fitch](#), member and chapter officer of Minnesota Deer Hunters Association).

Next Week at the Legislature:

The House of Representatives has canceled scheduled hearings for the following week due to the Supreme Court decision on quorum. Committee hearings may be rescheduled if and when the House GOP and DFL agree on a power-sharing agreement.

On Tuesday at 3:00 PM, Senate [Capital Investment](#) will hear overviews from Senate Counsel and Senate Fiscal staff. The committee will also hear overviews from the following agencies regarding the Governor's Capital Investment recommendations: Metropolitan Council, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources, and Minnesota Department of Human Resources.

On Wednesday at 3:00 PM, Senate [Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband and Rural Development](#) will convene for presentations from the Office of Broadband Development and from broadband providers on changes to

broadband statutes enacted last session. The Committee will also hear [S.F. XXXX Wesenberg](#) (regarding farmed cervidae fencing) and [S.F. 0553 \(Wesenberg\)](#): Farmed Cervidae fencing requirements provisions modifications.

On Thursday at 8:30 AM, Senate [Taxes](#) will convene to discuss a number of bills including [S.F. 0345 \(Klein\)](#): Nonprofit bird preservation organizations sales and use tax exemption authorization.

Bills Introductions of Interest:

Environment and Natural Resources:

Bipartisan Legislation:

Senators Hoffman, Anderson, Rarick, Gruenhagen, and Lucero introduced-- [S.F. No. 514](#): A bill for an act relating to environment; defining animal feedlots; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 116.06, by adding a subdivision. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Senators Hauschild, Eichorn, Farnsworth, Frentz, and Kupec introduced-- [S.F. No. 570](#): A bill for an act relating to environment; improving efficiency of Wetland Conservation Act determinations; modifying permitting efficiency reporting requirements; improving the efficiency of the environmental and resource management permit application process; requiring the Pollution Control Agency to issue separate permits for the construction and operation of certain facilities; modifying the expedited permitting process of the Pollution Control Agency; requiring petitioners for environmental assessment worksheets to reside in the affected or adjoining counties; eliminating scoping environmental assessment worksheet requirements for projects requiring an environmental impact statement; requiring modification of the state implementation plan; requiring reports; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 15.99, subdivision 3; 116.03, subdivision 2b; 116.07, subdivisions 4a, 4d; 116D.04, subdivision 2a; 116J.035, by adding a subdivision. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Senators Eichorn, Hauschild, Farnsworth, and Mathews introduced-- [S.F. No. 577](#): A bill for an act relating to environment; improving efficiency of Wetland Conservation Act determinations; modifying permitting efficiency reporting requirements; improving the efficiency of the environmental and resource management permit application process; requiring the Pollution Control Agency to issue separate permits for the construction and operation of certain facilities; modifying the expedited permitting process of the Pollution Control Agency; requiring petitioners for environmental assessment worksheets to reside in the affected or adjoining counties; eliminating scoping environmental assessment worksheet requirements for projects requiring an environmental impact statement; requiring modification of the state implementation plan; requiring reports; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 15.99, subdivision 3; 116.03, subdivision 2b; 116.07, subdivisions 4a, 4d; 116D.04, subdivision 2a; 116J.035, by adding a subdivision. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

DFL Legislation:

Senators Putnam, McEwen, Howe, Hawj, and Carlson introduced--[S.F. No. 492](#): A bill for an act relating to environment; establishing certified salt applicator program; limiting liability; requiring a report; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 116. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Senator Hawj introduced--[S.F. No. 506](#): A bill for an act relating to environment; appropriating money from the environment and natural resources trust fund; modifying prior appropriations; amending Laws 2024, chapter 83, section 2, subdivisions 3, 8. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Republican Legislation:

Senator Lang introduced--[S.F. No. 279](#): A bill for an act relating to water; modifying public water inventory revision process; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 103G.201. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Senators Lang and Green introduced--[S.F. No. 283](#): A bill for an act relating to water; temporarily prohibiting modifications to the public water inventory; requiring a report. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Senator Lang introduced--[S.F. No. 303](#): A bill for an act relating to agriculture; establishing the Minnesota-made fertilizer grant program; appropriating money. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development.

Senators Lang and Pratt introduced--[S.F. No. 304](#): A bill for an act relating to economic development; appropriating money for Minnesota Made Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Alternative grants. Referred to the Committee on Jobs and Economic Development.

Senators Klein, Weber, Rest, and Bahr introduced--[S.F. No. 345](#): A bill for an act relating to taxation; sales and use; providing an exemption for sales to nonprofit bird preservation organizations; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 297A.70, by adding a subdivision. Referred to the Committee on Taxes.

Senators Eichorn and Bahr introduced--[S.F. No. 427](#): A bill for an act relating to environment; requiring certain recipients of money appropriated from the environment and natural resources trust fund to perform criminal background checks on employees, volunteers, and contractors that work with children; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 116P. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Senator Green introduced--[S.F. No. 436](#): A bill for an act relating to state lands; proposing an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution, article IV, by adding a section; requiring supermajority vote of the legislature to convey certain state land for less than market value. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Torkelson and Swedzinski introduced: [H. F. 32](#), A bill for an act relating to natural resources; appropriating money for floodplain management. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Bliss introduced: [H. F. 77](#), A bill for an act relating to state lands; proposing an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution, article IV, by adding a section; requiring supermajority vote of the legislature to convey certain state land for less than market value. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Schomacker introduced: [H. F. 106](#), A bill for an act relating to taxation; property; allowing an exemption for certain leased land; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 272.01, subdivision 2. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Taxes.

McDonald; Gillman; Hudson; Anderson, P. H.; Davids; Novotny; Scott and Baker introduced: [H. F. 115](#), A bill for an act relating to environment; defining animal feedlots; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 116.06, by adding a subdivision. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Anderson, P. H.; Jacob; Burkel and Harder introduced: [H. F. 159](#), A bill for an act relating to economic development; appropriating money for Minnesota Made Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Alternative grants. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy.

Anderson, P. H.; Burkel; Harder and Jacob introduced: [H. F. 160](#), A bill for an act relating to agriculture; establishing the Minnesota-made fertilizer grant program; appropriating money. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture Finance and Policy.

Senator Dornink introduced--[S.F. No. 498](#): A bill for an act relating to taxation; sales and use; providing an exemption for certain conservation clubs; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 297A.70, by adding a subdivision. Referred to the Committee on Taxes.

Senator Wesenberg introduced--[S.F. No. 540](#): A bill for an act relating to natural resources; requiring a study and report of the impact of eagles on loons. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Senators Farnsworth and Wesenberg introduced--[S.F. No. 552](#): A bill for an act relating to state lands; authorizing private sale of certain tax-forfeited land in Aitkin County. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Murphy, Sexton, Koznick, Joy, Allen, Stier, Olson and Wiener introduced: [H. F. 257](#), A bill for an act relating to environment; repealing clean car rules; repealing Minnesota Rules, parts 7023.0150; 7023.0200; 7023.0250; 7023.0300. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Transportation Finance and Policy.

Scott, Schultz, Niska, Jacob and Igo introduced: [H. F. 298](#), A bill for an act relating to solid waste; requiring product stewardship program for wind and solar infrastructure; providing for fee on retail sales of wind and solar infrastructure; establishing moratorium on disposal of wind and solar energy infrastructure in landfills; requiring a report; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 13.7411, subdivision 4; 115A.142; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 115A. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Game and Fish:

Republican Legislation:

Senator Lang introduced--[S.F. No. 277](#): A bill for an act relating to game and fish; modifying trapping provisions; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 97B.931; 97B.945; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 97B; repealing Minnesota Rules, part 6234.2400, subpart 10. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Senators Eichorn and Farnsworth introduced--[S.F. No. 428](#): A bill for an act relating to game and fish; reducing fishing license fees for persons 65 years of age and older; transferring money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 97A.055, subdivision 2, by adding a subdivision; 97A.475, subdivision 6. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Senator Johnson introduced--[S.F. No. 469](#): A bill for an act relating to agriculture; appropriating money for wolf and elk depredation payments. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development.

Swedzinski introduced: [H. F. 185](#), A bill for an act relating to game and fish; eliminating shotgun zone for taking deer and allowing counties to regulate the type of firearms and ammunition used for taking deer; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97B.031, by adding a subdivision; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97B.318. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Swedzinski introduced: [H. F. 186](#), A bill for an act relating to game and fish; eliminating shotgun zone for taking deer; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97B.031, by adding a subdivision; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97B.318. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Senator Wesenberg introduced--[S.F. No. 541](#): A bill for an act relating to game and fish; authorizing taking feral swine causing damage; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 97A.56, subdivision 2; 97B.655, subdivision 1. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Senators Wesenberg, Westrom, Anderson, and Eichorn introduced--[S.F. No. 553](#): A bill for an act relating to agriculture; modifying fencing requirements for farmed Cervidae; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 35.155, subdivision 4. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development.

Outdoor Recreation:

Bipartisan Legislation:

Senators Farnsworth and Hauschild introduced--[S.F. No. 522](#): A bill for an act relating to capital investment; appropriating money for a Sportsman's and Sportswoman's Outdoor Development Learning Center in the city of Hibbing. Referred to the Committee on Capital Investment.

Republican Legislation:

Zeleznikar, Heintzeman, Knudsen, Repinski, Sexton, Duran, Dotseth, Backer, Rymer, Gillman, Igo, Skraba, Davis and Warwas introduced: [H. F. 303](#), A bill for an act relating to environment; allowing the presence of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances in safety-related items and clothing used by juveniles operating all-terrain vehicles or dirt bikes; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 116.943, subdivision 5. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Firearms:

Republican Legislation:

Senators Lang, Howe, Mathews, Pratt, and Kreun introduced--[S.F. No. 278](#): A bill for an act relating to public safety; expanding the information collected and scope of background check conducted for noncitizen permit to carry applicants; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 624.714, subdivisions 3, 4. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.

Senators Lang, Howe, Eichorn, Mathews, and Green introduced--[S.F. No. 280](#): A bill for an act relating to public safety; providing for the right to carry without a permit; providing for an optional permit to carry; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 624.714, subdivisions 2, 3, 7, 15, 20, 23, by adding subdivisions; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 624.714, subdivisions 1a, 1b, 16; 624.7181. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.

Senators Koran and Eichorn introduced--[S.F. No. 311](#): A bill for an act relating to firearms; clarifying law on use of force in defense of home and person; codifying and extending Minnesota's self-defense and defense of home laws; eliminating the common law duty to retreat in cases of self-defense outside the home; expanding the boundaries of dwelling for purposes of self-defense; creating a presumption in the case of a person entering a dwelling or occupied vehicle by stealth or force; extending the rights available to a person in that person's dwelling to a person defending against entry of that person's occupied vehicle; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 609.065. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.

Senator Koran introduced--[S.F. No. 313](#): A bill for an act relating to public safety; providing that a person may not be denied the right to purchase, own, possess, or carry a firearm solely on the basis that the person is enrolled as a patient in the medical cannabis registry; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 624.712, by adding subdivisions; 624.713, subdivision 1; 624.714, subdivision 6; 624.7142, subdivision 1; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 624. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.

Senators Koran, Lang, and Bahr introduced--[S.F. No. 327](#): A bill for an act relating to public safety; authorizing lawful carry and possession of firearms at State Fairgrounds; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 37.16; 624.714, subdivision 17. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development.

Senators Lieske, Wesenberg, Bahr, Green, and Drazkowski introduced--[S.F. No. 352](#): A bill for an act relating to public safety; recognizing the Constitutional right to carry a firearm; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 624.714, subdivisions 2, 3, 7, 15, 20, 23, by adding subdivisions; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 624.714, subdivisions 1a, 1b, 16; 624.7181. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.

Senators Koran, Wesenberg, Lieske, and Lucero introduced--[S.F. No. 399](#): A bill for an act relating to public safety; allowing permitted and trained school staff to carry firearms; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 609.66, subdivision 1d; 624.714, subdivision 18, by adding a subdivision; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 299C. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.

Senators Eichorn, Farnsworth, and Bahr introduced--[S.F. No. 409](#): A bill for an act relating to firearms; clarifying law on use of force in defense of home and person; codifying and extending Minnesota's self-defense and defense of home laws; eliminating the common law duty to retreat in cases of self-defense outside the home; expanding the boundaries of dwelling for purposes of self-defense; creating a presumption in the case of a person entering a dwelling or occupied vehicle by stealth or force; extending the rights

available to a person in that person's dwelling to a person defending against entry of that person's occupied vehicle; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 609.065. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.

Senator Eichorn introduced--[S.F. No. 422](#): A bill for an act relating to taxation; sales and use; providing annual tax holiday periods for sales and purchases of certain firearms and certain fishing equipment; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 297A.68, by adding subdivisions. Referred to the Committee on Taxes.

Senator Green introduced--[S.F. No. 438](#): A bill for an act relating to public safety; amending the Minnesota Personal Protection Act; creating lifetime permits to carry handguns; reducing the application fee for permits to carry; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 624.714, subdivisions 2a, 3, 7, 14. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.

Senator Green introduced--[S.F. No. 439](#): A bill for an act relating to public safety; expanding the permissible methods of submitting an application for a permit to carry a handgun; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 624.714, subdivision 3. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.

Senator Utke introduced--[S.F. No. 458](#): A bill for an act relating to firearms; clarifying law on use of force in defense of home and person; codifying and extending Minnesota's self-defense and defense of home laws; eliminating the common law duty to retreat in cases of self-defense outside the home; expanding the boundaries of dwelling for purposes of self-defense; creating a presumption in the case of a person entering a dwelling or occupied vehicle by stealth or force; extending the rights available to a person in that person's dwelling to a person defending against entry of that person's occupied vehicle; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 609.065. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.

Senator Utke introduced--[S.F. No. 462](#): A bill for an act relating to public safety; permitting certain retired law enforcement officers to carry firearms in schools; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 609.66, subdivision 1d. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.

Bliss introduced: [H. F. 17](#), A bill for an act relating to public safety; amending the Minnesota Personal Protection Act; creating lifetime permits to carry handguns; reducing the application fee for permits to carry; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 624.714, subdivisions 2a, 3, 7, 14. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Public Safety Finance and Policy.

Quam and Repinski introduced: [H. F. 101](#), A bill for an act relating to public safety; appropriating money for teacher and school staff training in dangerous situations in schools and to provide teachers and school staff with firearms. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Public Safety Finance and Policy.

Senators Eichorn and Mathews introduced--[S.F. No. 576](#): A bill for an act relating to public safety; authorizing firearm permits to carry without expiration; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 624.714, subdivisions 2a, 3, 7, 14. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.

Knudsen; Nash; Novotny; Witte; Nelson; Rymer; Davis; Sexton; Zeleznikar; Dippel; Stier; Johnson, W.; Backer; Gander; Harder and Schultz introduced: [H. F. 258](#), A bill for an act relating to firearms; clarifying law on use of force in defense of home and person; codifying and extending Minnesota's self-defense and defense of home laws; eliminating the common law duty to retreat in cases of self-defense outside the home; expanding the boundaries of dwelling for purposes of self-defense; creating a presumption in the case of a person entering a dwelling or occupied vehicle by stealth or force; extending the rights available to a person in that person's dwelling to a person defending against entry of that person's occupied vehicle; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 609.065. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Public Safety Finance and Policy.

Knudsen, Novotny, Witte, Rymer, Davis, Sexton, Repinski, Duran, Zeleznikar, Dippel, Stier, Backer and Gander introduced: [H. F. 261](#), A bill for an act relating to public safety; permitting certain retired law enforcement officers to carry firearms in schools; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 609.66, subdivision 1d. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Education Policy.

Roach, Gordon, Dippel, Murphy, Bliss, Fogelman, Wiener, Rymer, Allen and Gander introduced: [H. F. 287](#), A bill for an act relating to public safety; recognizing the Constitutional right to carry a firearm; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 624.714, subdivisions 2, 3, 7, 15, 20, 23, by adding subdivisions; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 624.714, subdivisions 1a, 1b, 16; 624.7181. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Public Safety Finance and Policy.

Scott, Rarick, Gillman, Nash and Gander introduced: [H. F. 295](#), A bill for an act relating to public safety; providing for enforcement of judicially ordered firearms restrictions for abusing parties; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 260C.201, subdivision 3; 518B.01, subdivision 6; 609.2242, subdivision 3; 609.749, subdivision 8. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Judiciary Finance and Civil Law.

DFL Legislation:

Senators Mann and Gustafson introduced--[S.F. No. 511](#): A bill for an act relating to public safety; requiring that persons purchasing a firearm be trained in firearm safety; requiring the retention of records relating to firearm sales; providing criminal penalties; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 624. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.