



Minnesota House of Representatives

ETHICS COMPLAINT AGAINST REPRESENTATIVES WALTER HUDSON AND ELLIOTT ENGEN FOR VIOLATION OF MINNESOTA HOUSE RULE 6.10

COMPLAINT

The Minnesota State Constitution, Article IV, Section 7, provides that each house may determine the rules of its proceedings and for punishment of its members. The House adopted on February 6, 2025 the Temporary Rules of the House 2025 – 2026, including Rule 6.10 which reads in relevant part:

“A complaint may be brought about conduct by a member that violates a rule or administrative policy of the House, that violates accepted norms of House behavior, that betrays the public trust, or that tends to bring the House into dishonor or disrepute.”

Representatives Hudson and Engen violated the public trust and accepted norms of the House, and have brought the House into dishonor and disrepute by their conduct in leaving in the middle of their appointed committees to go drinking instead.

Both Representatives Hudson and Engen were appointed by Speaker Demuth to serve on the Education Finance Committee, the prestigious and sought-after committee with jurisdiction over state funding for our schools. The Committee met on Thursday, March 26th at 1 p.m. in its regularly scheduled time, with the consideration of four bills on its agenda. It was the Committee’s third to last meeting before the important finance deadline, after which point consideration of bills could not advance directly to the general register.

From the review of the committee video, Representative Engen left committee about 50 minutes before it adjourned at approximately 1:50 p.m. (see Exhibit 1) and Representative Hudson left committee about 38 minutes before it adjourned at approximately 2:01 p.m. (see Exhibit 2). Both left during consideration of H.F. 3930 regarding funding to support teacher retention. At that point, there was still an entire bill that the committee had not taken up for consideration: H.F. 3585, establishing an Interagency Council on Student Attendance.

Both members were later seen consuming alcohol at the bar Burger Moe’s at 2:30 p.m. – before committee had even adjourned (see Exhibit 3). Representative Hudson likely followed Representative Engen there directly after leaving in the middle of the Education Finance Committee hearing.

Members of the public expect us to do our jobs. They expect that when we are appointed to committees, that we will attend those committees and do the critical work of considering

legislation. They expect that we will not leave committee in the middle of considering bills to go to a local bar. These actions by Representative Hudson and Engen violate the public trust and bring the House dishonor and disrepute.

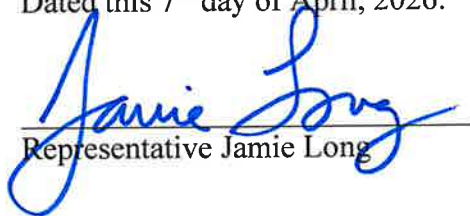
The actions are also not consistent with accepted norms of House behavior. We expect our colleagues to be present for committee. It is required under our rules to have a minimum number present to maintain a quorum, for example. All members of committees are given opportunities to ask questions, to offer amendments, and to vote on amendments and bills. Committees are where the bulk of our legislative work happens, and it is the expectation that our colleagues be present for this important work.

At 3:30 p.m., an hour after Representatives Hudson and Engen were seen at Burger Moe's, the House convened in session. Votes were taken on critical matters including gun violence prevention and ICE presence in Minnesota schools. Were Representatives Hudson or Engen intoxicated when we were in session taking important votes? Was Representative Hudson carrying the firearm that he is permitted to carry while on the House floor, and if so was his blood alcohol content above the legal limit of 0.04%? Affirmative answers to these questions could further betray the public trust and bring the House into dishonor.

We therefore respectfully request that the House Committee on Ethics consider this matter and find that probable cause exists for the violation of Rule 6.10. We further respectfully request that the Committee on Ethics recommend an appropriate sanction for the violation of our rules.

We swear that the statements in this complaint are true, to the best of our knowledge.

Dated this 7th day of April, 2026.


Representative Jamie Long


Representative Sam Sencer-Mura

ATTACHMENTS

Exhibit 1: At approximately 1:50 p.m., Rep. Engen steps out midway through the Education Finance hearing and does not return.



Exhibit 2: At approximately 2:01 p.m., Rep. Hudson is seen sitting at the committee table just before the camera cuts to a solo shot of Rep. Pérez-Vega. When the camera cuts back to the wide shot at approximately 2:03 p.m., Rep. Hudson has left the room, and he does not return.

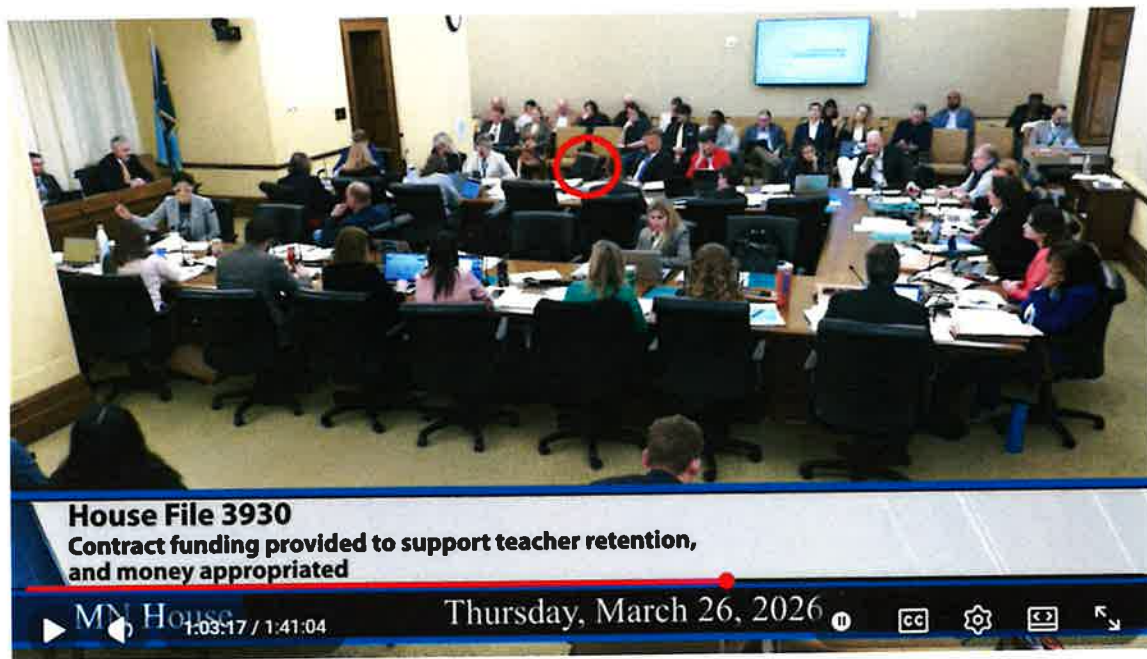


Exhibit 3: Rep. Engen and Rep. Hudson are photographed drinking at Burger Moe's shortly after they left committee early. ([Link](#))



Brian Basham

March 26 at 4:09 PM · 🌐

Taxpayer money at work! GOP Reps Walter Hudson and Elliott Engen boozing at Burger Moes in St Paul Thursday at 230pm while the rest of us are out trying to scratch out a living. They had both sucked down an old fashioned and were working on tall beers by the time i left with my delivery. Glad to see they take their jobs so seriously. Thanks for caring about the average citizen, GOP!



👍👏👍 44

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