



# Joint House/Senate Subcommittee on Claims

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To: Sen. Doron Clark, Rep. Duane Quam, and Rep. Luke Frederick

From: Jason F. Kuenle, Subcommittee Legal Co-Counsel

Date: April 30, 2026

Re: Summary of 2026 claims amendment

The annual claims bill for 2026 was introduced in the Senate as S.F. 5202, and in the House as H.F. 5074. After the subcommittee meeting on April 30, 2026, identical author's amendments have been prepared for each body.

The 2026 claims bill, as amended, appropriates a total of \$5,104,570.40. The subcommittee approved three claims under the Imprisonment and Exoneration Remedies Act (Minnesota Statutes sections 611.362 to 611.368).

- \$250,000 to **James Lamar Davis**. Mr. Davis was convicted of two counts of attempted murder and was sentenced to 339 months in prison. The Great North Innocence Project filed post-conviction petitions and requested a hearing for violations of Mr. Davis's constitutional rights due to ineffective assistance of counsel. At the hearing, evidence was presented that Mr. Davis's counsel had not objected to material that the trial judge noted on the record as creating unfair prejudice, failed to move to strike testimony linking Mr. Davis to an unrelated incident, and failed to call two witnesses who could have provided testimony to attack the credibility of the state's primary witness. Mr. Davis's conviction was vacated. The county attorney chose not to retry Mr. Davis, and he was released. Mr. Davis spent about three years in prison on the exonerated convictions.
- \$350,000 to **Clayton Douglas Groves**. Mr. Groves was convicted of one count of first-degree criminal sexual conduct and three counts of second-degree criminal sexual conduct. In the initial trial, Mr. Groves's motion to allow evidence of his accuser's prior false accusations was denied. Mr. Groves appealed his convictions based on the denial of that motion. The Minnesota Court of Appeals reversed the motion ruling. Mr. Groves's conviction was vacated and a new trial ordered. On retrial, Mr. Groves was found not guilty on all charges. Mr. Groves spent nearly 52 months in prison on the convictions.
- \$4,500,000 to **Marvin Haynes**. Mr. Haynes was convicted of one count of first-degree murder and one count of second-degree assault. Mr. Haynes was 16 years old at the time of the conviction and was sentenced to life in prison. The Great North Innocence Project filed post-conviction petitions and requested an evidentiary hearing. At the hearing, new evidence was presented that the conviction had been procured based on false evidence and unduly suggestive eyewitness identification. After the evidentiary hearing, the State agreed that the conviction should be vacated and all charges dismissed with prejudice. The county court vacated his convictions. Mr. Haynes spent 19 years, 6 months, and 23 days in prison on the convictions.

The remaining claims in the bill relate to a personal injury claim against the Minnesota Department of Corrections.

- \$4,570.40 to **Mark Carroll** for permanent injuries to his right ankle while performing assigned duties at MCF – Stillwater. Mr. Carroll was working with a crew clearing trees and brush when he fell and injured his ankle. Mr. Carroll was transported to the hospital for emergency care. X-rays revealed that claimant had suffered a closed trimalleolar ankle fracture. A trimalleolar fracture is rated at four percent of the whole body. Because the total disability is less than 5.5%, compensation is calculated as 4% multiplied by \$114,260, resulting in \$4,570.40.

Under Minnesota Statutes 270A.03, Subd. 7, payments made in the annual claims bill are subject to revenue recapture (e.g. for debts to the state and other governmental entities, and for restitution).