

WORKFORCE, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AND POLICY  
COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Representative Baker, Chair of the Workforce, Labor and Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee, called the meeting to order at 8:16 AM on Tuesday, March 11th, 2025, in Room G3 of the Capitol.

Representative Mekeland moved the minutes for Thursday, March 6th, 2025, to be approved.

**THE MOTION PREVAILED.**

A Quorum was present.

Members present:

BAKER, Dave Chair  
MEKELAND, Shane Vice-Chair  
BAKEBERG, Ben  
BERG, Kaela  
FRAZIER, Cedrick  
GREENMAN, Emma  
HUSSEIN, Samakab  
JOHNSON, Pete  
JOHNSON, Wayne  
KOZLOWSKI, Liish  
MUELLER, Patricia  
SCHULTZ, Isaac  
ZELZNIKAR, Natalie

Non-voting member present:

PINTO, Dave, Minority Lead

The committee heard testimony from bill author, Representative Harry Niska, on **H.F. 1768** – additional circumstances under which a covenant not to compete is valid and enforceable provided.

Additional testifiers were:

Lauryn Schothorst, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce  
Kurt Zellers, CEO, Minnesota Business Partnership  
Ryan Mick, Minnesota Employment Law Counsel  
Hannah Garden-Monheit, American Economic Liberties Project, via zoom  
Hunter Cantrell  
Brian Callaci, Open Markets Institute  
Dr. Shannon Neale, MN Academy of Physicians

Chairman Baker moved the bill to be referred to the General Register. Representative Greenman requested a roll call.

On a vote of 7 AYES and 6 NAYES **THE MOTION PREVAILED.**

Those who voted in the affirmative were:

Baker  
Mekeland

Bakeberg  
Johnson, W.  
Mueller  
Schultz  
Zeleznikar

Those who voted against were:

Berg  
Frazier  
Greenman  
Hussein  
Johnson, P.  
Kozlowski

The committee heard testimony from bill author, Chairman Dave Baker, on H.F. 1355 – Holders of permits to harvest and destroy aquatic plants required to safely use scuba diving equipment, and commercial diving operations requirements established.

Rep. Baker moved the A2 amendment be adopted to H.F. 1355. THE MOTION PREVAILED.

Additional testifiers were:

David and Laurie Anderson  
Bill and Dine Aune  
Dan Gruber, via zoom  
Ryan Mueller, St. Paul firefighter, via zoom  
Tom Suerth, Waterfront Restoration

Chairman Dave Baker moved to refer the bill, as amended, to Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee. THE MOTION PREVAILED.

The committee heard testimony from bill author, Representative Sencer-Mura, on H.F. 1469 – Job skills training for recently released inmates funding provided.

Additional testifiers were:


Jason Allen, Director of Enterprise Services  
Tino Jones, Participant

H.F. 1469 was laid over for future consideration.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 A.M.



Representative Dave Baker, Chair



Ann C. Tepporten, Committee Legislative Assistant