

Health Finance and Policy Committee

**MINUTES**

Representative Backer, Chair of the Health Finance and Policy Committee, called the meeting to order at 1:36 PM, on February 25th, 2026, in Room 120 of the State Capitol Building. A quorum was present.

The Committee Legislative Assistant noted the roll.

Members present:

BACKER, Jeff, GOP Chair  
BIERMAN, Robert, DFL Chair  
NADEAU, Danny, GOP Vice-Chair  
REYER, Liz, DFL Vice-Chair  
BAHNER, Kristin  
CARROLL, Ned  
DIPPEL, Tom  
ELKINS, Steve  
FRANSON, Mary  
GILLMAN, Dawn  
HUOT, John  
KEELER, Heather  
KNUDSEN, Krista  
LEE, Xp  
LIEBLING, Tina  
MAHAMOUD, Anquam  
PERRYMAN, Bernie  
PURSELL, Kristi  
REPINSKI, Aaron  
SCHOMACKER, Joe  
VAN BINSBERGEN, Scott  
ZELEZNIKAR, Natalie

Representative Van Binsbergen moved the minutes of February 23rd, 2026, be approved. **THE MOTION PREVAILED.**

**HF 3521 (Backer) Exception to the hospital construction moratorium provided.**

Chair Backer moved HF 3521 before the committee.

Vice Chair Nadeau assumed the gavel at 1:38 PM.

Chair Backer moved the H3521A1 amendment before the committee. **THE AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED.**

**Testifiers:**

Emily Blomberg, President of Regions Hospital.

Rochelle Johnson, Vice President of Patient Care Services.

Lisa Thimjon, Government Relations Director, Minnesota Department of Health.

Vice Chair Nadeau laid over HF 3521, as amended, for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.

Chair Backer re-assumed the gavel at 2:00 PM.

**HF 1807 (Gillman) Nonopioid drugs coverage required for treatment or management of pain.**

Representative Gillman moved HF 1807 before the committee.

Representative Gillman moved that HF 1807 be recommended to be re-referred to the Commerce Finance and Policy Committee.

Representative Backer moved that HF 1807 be recommended to be placed on the General Register.

**Testifiers:**

Claire Onyechi, Vice President of Outreach and Engagement, Voices for Nonopioid Choices.

Abby Parta, State Government Affairs Executive Director, Vertex Pharmaceuticals.

Kristy Graume, State Government Relations Executive Director, Department of Human Services.

Chair Backer laid HF 1807 over for possible consideration at a later date.

**HF 1270 (Gillman) Licensing for practice of acupuncture and herbal medicine modified.**

Representative Gillman moved HF 1270 before the committee.

Representative Gillman moved that HF 1270 be recommended to be placed on the General Register.

Representative Gilman moved the H1270A1 amendment. **THE AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED.**

**Testifiers:**

Dr. Nick Dougherty, member of the Minnesota Acupuncture Association.

Chuck Sawyer, Chiropractic Doctor, Northwestern Health Science University.

Representative Gillman renewed the motion that HF 1270, as amended, be recommended to be placed on the general register.

Representative Liebling requested a roll call vote. The result is as follows:

**AYES**

BACKER, Jeff  
BIERMAN, Robert  
NADEAU, Danny  
REYER, Liz  
DIPPEL, Tom  
ELKINS, Steve  
FRANSON, Mary  
GILLMAN, Dawn  
HUOT, John  
KNUDSEN, Krista  
PERRYMAN, Bernie  
REPINSKI, Aaron  
SCHOMACKER, Joe  
VAN BINSBERGEN, Scott  
ZELEZNIKAR, Natalie

**NAYS**

BAHNER, Kristin  
CARROLL, Ned  
KEELER, Heather  
LEE, Xp  
LIEBLING, Tina

MAHAMOUD, Anquam  
PURSELL, Kristi

On a vote of 15 Ayes to 7 Nays. **THE MOTION PREVAILED.**

The committee went into recess at 2:46 PM

The Health Finance and Policy Committee reconvened at 7:00 PM. A quorum was present.

**HF 2070 (Dippel) Provisions for the cost of health records changed.**

Representative Dippel moved HF 2070 before the committee.

Representative Dippel moved that HF 2070 be recommended to be placed on the general register.

Representative Dippel moved the H2070A1 Amendment before the committee. **THE AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED.**

Representative Dippel moved the following oral amendment:

Page 2, line 21, delete “not” and reinstate the stricken “a \$10 retrieval fee, but must not”

Page 2, line 22, reinstate the stricken language and delete the new language

Page 2, line 23, delete the new language

Page 2, line 24, reinstate the stricken language. **THE AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED.**

**Testifiers:**

Cody Holliday, Fredrikson Government Relations Specialist, Alliance of Health Information Operations and Standards.

Joel Carlson, Minnesota Association for Justice.

Chuck Slane, Minnesota Association for Justice.

Sue Nathe, Executive Director for MN Health Information Management Association.

Liz McElhiney, Alliance for Health Information Operations and Standards.

Chair Backer laid over HF 2070, as amended, for possible consideration at a later date.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

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Representative Backer, Chair

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Liam Edgar, Committee Legislative Assistant