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**Minnesota
House of
Representatives**
Lisa Demuth, Speaker

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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New Laws Effective Aug. 1, 2026

The following is a list of select new laws passed during the 2026 legislative session that take effect Aug. 1, 2026. The asterisk following the bill number denotes language that became law. Summaries of laws passed by the 2026 Legislature are available online from nonpartisan House Public Information Services at house.mn.gov/newlaws/search/2026.

AGRICULTURE

Food banks can accept donated eggs past quality assurance date

A new law aims to reduce food waste while supplying a valuable commodity to food banks.

Taking effect Aug. 1, 2026, it will allow eggs to be donated past their quality assurance date — a point after which eggs are still safe to eat but may begin to lose flavor or quality.

Retailers are prohibited from selling Grade A eggs more than 46 days past their coded pack date.

Eggs can be donated if they remain in their original packaging, have been kept under continuous refrigeration, and reach the end consumer no more than 30 days after their quality assurance date.

The egg carton must also be marked with the name of the charitable food assistance program distributing the egg, a distribution date no more than 30 days after the quality assurance date and with the statement: "Donated Eggs – Not for Resale."

Rep. Andrew Myers (R-Tonka Bay) and Sen. Erin Maye Quade (DFL-Apple Valley) are the sponsors.
HF3579/SF3891*/CH110

Modifying statutes on the practice of veterinary medicine

Technical and clarifying changes will be made in state statutes for the practice of veterinary medicine.

Among provisions of a new law taking effect Aug. 1, 2026, are new definitions of "telemedicine" and "teletriage," allowing a licensed veterinarian to dispense veterinary prescription drugs without a veterinarian-client-patient relationship under certain conditions, and permitting the donation of unused veterinary drugs under certain circumstances if the accepting veterinary medical facility does not resell the drugs and instead reissues the drugs at no charge to a veterinary medical facility in need, an animal shelter or a pound.

Rep. Paul Anderson (R-Starbuck) and Sen. Robert Kupec (DFL-Moorhead) are the sponsors.
HF3718*/SF4069/CH53

BUSINESS AND COMMERCE

New commerce laws affect consumer protections and businesses

Beginning Aug. 1, 2026, paddlewheel prize maximums are going up to \$200; the maximum ticket price will increase to \$5.

That is part of a new law that, additionally, will change distributions from the Consumer Protection Restitution Account and direct the Department of Commerce to study home care nursing services.

The maximum that can be deposited annually into the Consumer Protection Restitution Account will increase to \$10 million. A formula will be implemented for account distributions to eligible consumers: the full amount up to \$50,000, and then 50% of the amount over \$50,000 or \$50,000, whichever is less.

The new law requires the Department of Commerce to evaluate home care nursing services and, by Jan. 15, 2027, report to the Legislature on the evaluation and proposals for legislative action to support the needs of medically complex individuals and their families using home care nursing services.

Additionally, the law makes technical changes to the state's reinsurance program, repeals the Prescription Drug Affordability Advisory Council and adds hasenpfeffer to the list of social skill games for tournaments and contests.

When it comes to securities, the new law will establish regulations for federal crowdfunding offerings; require broker-dealers to establish written supervisory procedures, business continuity and succession plans, and physical security and cybersecurity policies and procedures; and require broker-dealers to observe high standards. The law will outline conduct considered contrary to those standards.

Rep. Erin Koegel (DFL-Spring Lake Park) and Sen. Matt Klein (DFL-Mendota Heights) sponsor the law.
HF4188*/SF4365/CH124

Banks and credit unions can offer virtual currency custody services

Beginning Aug. 1, 2026, banks and credit unions will be able to provide virtual currency custody services in a nonfiduciary capacity.

Any institution offering the services must do so in a safe and sound manner and will be required to maintain written policies and procedures governing risk management, internal controls, cybersecurity, business continuity and compliance.

Rep. Bernie Perryman (R-St. Augusta) and Sen. Judy Seeberger (DFL-Afton) sponsor the law.
HF3790*/SF3794/CH93

'Payment Transparency Act' aims to help subcontractors get paid

Helping small businesses get paid on time and creating better working relationships is the crux of the so-called "Payment Transparency Act."

Sponsored by Rep. Peggy Scott (R-Andover) and Sen. Ann Johnson Stewart (DFL-Wayzata), the new law aims to increase payment transparency on state agency and political subdivision construction projects, and give subcontractors not being paid the information necessary to enforce the Prompt Payment Act.

Taking effect Aug. 1, 2026, the law will require, upon written request from the contractor or subcontractor, state and local governments to provide within seven calendar days, and without charge, specified information regarding any project payment made by the public contracting agency, including date of payment and the amount. Public contracting agencies will also be required to make contact information available to subcontractors and provide that information on their website.

A contracting agency can request contractors and subcontractors use an automated internet-based system for requests if the agency has such a system.

HF1234/SF1714*/CH90

Customers can designate 'trusted contact' with financial services

As part of a law taking effect Aug. 1, 2026, customers will be able to designate a trusted contact their financial services provider can contact if there's suspected fraud in an account.

A customer will be permitted to terminate a person's designation as a trusted contact at any time and a trusted contact can withdraw their status at any time.

Rep. Bernie Perryman (R-St. Augusta) and Sen. Zach Duckworth (R-Lakeville) are the sponsors.
HF4502*/SF4652/CH86

Access to nudification technology banned

Effective Aug. 1, 2026, “a person who owns or controls a website, application, software, program or other service must not allow a user to access, download or use the website, application, software, program or other service to nudity an image or video, or nudity an image or video on behalf of a user.”

Advertising or promoting any website, application, software, program or other service that nudifies a video or image will also be prohibited.

A person depicted in a nudified image or video will be permitted to bring a civil action in district court for compensatory damages, including mental anguish or suffering, in an amount up to three times the actual damages sustained; punitive damages; injunctive relief; reasonable attorney fees, costs and disbursements; and other relief the court deems just and equitable.

Additionally, a violator is subject to a civil penalty up to \$500,000 for each unlawful access, download or use. Those funds will be used by the Office of Justice Programs for grants to organizations to provide direct services and advocacy for victims of sexual assault, general crime, domestic violence and child abuse.

Rep. Jessica Hanson (DFL-Burnsville) and Sen. Erin Maye Quade (DFL-Apple Valley) sponsor the law.
HF1606*/SF1119/CH72

Virtual currency kiosks to be banned in the state

Beginning Aug. 1, 2026, virtual currency kiosks will be banned in Minnesota.

Operators have until Dec. 31, 2026, to remove kiosks from any location where they are visible or accessible to the public.

With one exception, operators who conduct virtual currency transactions exclusively through a kiosk must pay out any money or virtual currency held for or owed to a new or existing customer by Dec. 31, 2026. The payouts can be in U.S. dollars equal to the market value of the customer’s virtual currency plus any fiat currency or to a virtual currency wallet designated by the customer. If the payout is to a virtual currency wallet, the operator must transfer the full amount within 30 days of customer’s payout request. The payout must be recorded on the applicable blockchain, and the operator must retain proof that a transfer was made.

A virtual currency kiosk operator is not required to make a payout if customers can still access and sell the money or virtual currency in their wallet through some other means.

Rep. Erin Koegel (DFL-Spring Lake Park) and Sen. Amanda Hemmingsen-Jaeger (DFL-Woodbury) sponsor the law.

HF3642/SF3868*/CH65

CIVIL LAW

Strengthening disability rights in Minnesota Human Rights Act

The Minnesota Human Rights Act requires an employer to engage in an interactive process to provide accommodation for someone with a disability.

A new law that takes effect Aug. 1, 2026, will add language to the public policy statement of the act specifying that failure to engage in a process to determine if a reasonable accommodation exists could be classified as an unfair discriminatory practice and therefore subject to a civil remedy.

Rep. Kim Hicks (DFL-Rochester) and Sen. Erin Maye Quade (DFL-Apple Valley) are the sponsors.

HF2380/SF3210*/CH99

New judicial branch policy laws

A new law makes changes to some judicial branch operations.

Once the law takes effect Aug. 1, 2026, district courts will be permitted to publish a notice, summons, order or process in judicial proceedings on the official website of the Minnesota Judicial Branch if the judicial branch determines there is no qualified local newspaper for such notices.

A person petitioning for a dissolution or legal separation must notify the applicable county child support enforcement agency if either party is receiving public benefits. That requirement will apply only in cases where the dissolution or separation involves children.

Further, when an order for restitution is docketed as a civil judgment, the filing will not expire until it is satisfied or pursuant to a court order. Currently, civil judgments expire after 10 years.

Rep. Tina Liebling (DFL-Rochester) and Sen. Bonnie Westlin (DFL-Plymouth) are the sponsors.
HF3875*/SF4064/CH71

Uniform Electronic Estate Planning Documents Act established

The Uniform Electronic Estate Planning Documents Act developed by the Uniform Law Commission allows estate planning documents like trusts, power of attorney, health care directives, and documents for guardianship and probate to be electronic.

The law, effective Aug. 1, 2026, is like the 2023 Uniform Electronic Wills Act that allows electronic wills.

House Republican Floor Leader Harry Niska (R-Ramsey) and Sen. Bonnie Westlin (DFL-Plymouth) are the sponsors.

HF3560/SF3602*/CH45

EDUCATION

READ Act changes, diplomas for Korea, Vietnam veterans

Better late than never is one aspect of a new law taking effect Aug. 1, 2026.

It requires school districts and charter schools to issue, upon request, high school diplomas to veterans who served during the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War and did not finish their secondary education.

Rep. Patricia Mueller (R-Austin) and Sen. Steve Cwodziński (DFL-Eden Prairie) sponsor the law that will also make changes to the state's READ Act that aims to ensure every Minnesota child, beginning in kindergarten, annually reads at or above grade level, and supports multilingual learners and students receiving special education services in achieving their individualized reading goals to meet grade-level benchmarks.

Per the law, any teacher candidate enrolled in a Minnesota-approved elementary, special education, or early childhood education teacher preparation program on or after June 1, 2026, will not have to take READ Act training because they receive that education in their teacher preparation program.

Among other changes, the law will direct a district to administer an approved reading screener to grade 4-12 students not reading at grade level at least once per year until the student reaches grade-level proficiency, require local literacy plans to include a description of how schools will use the school library media center to complement students' foundational reading skills, and allow an English language learner's screening for the characteristics of dyslexia to be done according to vendor assessment guidelines.

HF4492*/SF4560/CH125

Constitutional amendment could increase aid from permanent school fund

State voters will be asked to allow the annual distribution from the permanent school fund endowment to be increased up to 4.5% of the fund's three-year average.

The law, effective Aug. 1, 2026, requires that the proposed amendment be submitted to the people at the 2026 state general election: "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to increase the funding going to all school districts from the permanent school fund, which is a fund that supports school districts without raising individual income or property taxes, effective July 1, 2027?"

If approved by voters, statutes will be updated to reflect the change for aid payable in Fiscal Year 2028.

Additionally, the director of the permanent school fund endowment will need to report by Aug. 15 the distributable amount to the Legislative Permanent School Fund Commission and the Department of Education.

Rep. Spencer Igo (R-Wabana Township) and Sen. Mary Kunesch (DFL-New Brighton) are the sponsors.

HF3900/SF3593*/CH114

Grooming a minor established as a felony and other education provisions

Beginning Aug. 1, 2026, grooming a minor will be a felony offense.

Grooming occurs when a person 18 years of age or older “expresses the desire or intent to engage in sexual conduct with a child; and engages in a deliberate pattern of conduct to methodically develop a false trusting relationship with the child that is intended to strategically manipulate the child to engage in sexual conduct with the person at a future time, regardless of whether any sexual conduct occurs.”

By Aug. 1, 2027, the Department of Children, Youth, and Families, in consultation with the Department of Education, must update the mandated reporter training for education professionals or professionals’ delegates engaged in education. The update must include, but not be limited to, “the requirement to report allegations of maltreatment of students, including students receiving special education services; and addressing grooming and threatened sexual abuse, including the duty to report grooming as maltreatment ... how to identify the signs of grooming, and recognizing environments and circumstances that present an increased risk of grooming.”

Rep. Peggy Bennett (R-Albert Lea) and Sen. Erin Maye Quade (DFL-Apple Valley) are the sponsors.
HF3489/SF3969*/CH108

ENERGY

Reimbursement fund established to replace outdated piping

The Petroleum Tank Release Cleanup Fund (commonly known as the “Petrofund”) is used to reimburse eligible applicants for up to 90% of costs they incur in responding to a petroleum tank leak.

A new law taking effect Aug. 1, 2026, will establish that a portion of the fund can be used to reimburse owners of underground petroleum storage tanks for 50% of the cost of replacing single-walled steel piping and related equipment with piping and equipment that meets all current state and federal standards.

Sponsored by Rep. Shane Mekeland (R-Clear Lake) and Sen. Bill Weber (R-Luverne), it will allow up to \$4 million of the “Petrofund” to be used annually for such reimbursements, for replacement projects beginning after Jan. 1, 2027.

The program expires June 30, 2037.

HF3298*/SF3477/CH113

Dig this: Gopher State One Call must employ electronic notice to excavators

Gopher State One Call is a central notification center that contacts operators of underground utility facilities in an area and requests that, within a certain period, they mark the location of their facilities in the area of a proposed excavation or planned survey with paint or flags or determine the work area is clear.

Sponsored by Rep. Larry Kraft (DFL-St. Louis Park) and Sen. John Hoffman (DFL-Champlin), part of a new law taking effect Aug. 1, 2026, will require underground utility facility operators to provide an electronic notice to the notification center regarding the status of its marking of utilities in the excavation area. It will also require the notification center to provide that electronic notice to the excavator or land surveyor.

HF4233/SF4339*/CH112

ENVIRONMENT

Tribal governments added to wastewater pollutant discharge notification

The Pollution Control Agency must be notified of all discharges, accidental or otherwise, of any substance or material under its control that, if not recovered, may cause pollution of state waters.

If the discharge comes from a publicly owned treatment works or a publicly or privately owned domestic sewer system, the owner must notify the potentially affected public and any downstream drinking water facility that may be affected by the discharge.

Effective Aug. 1, 2026, downstream tribal governments will be added to the list of those notified.

Rep. Peter Fischer (DFL-Maplewood) and Sen. Mary Kunesch (DFL-New Brighton) sponsor the law.
HF4224*/SF4525/CH79

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Licensure, scope of practice for some health occupations modified

A new law contains a dozen provisions to modify licensing and scope of practice for some health-related occupations.

Those affected include acupuncture and herbal medicine practice, athletic training, mortuary science, social work, dentistry practice, marriage and family therapy, pharmacy practice, physical therapists and advanced practice registered nurses. The law also establishes registration for massage therapists and Asian bodywork therapists and establishes licensure for music therapists.

Sponsored by Rep. Aaron Repinski (R-Winona) and Sen. Melissa Wiklund (DFL-Bloomington), the law mostly takes effect Aug. 1, 2026.

HF3825*/SF3875/CH115

Regions Hospital gets exception to moratorium on hospital construction projects

Regions Hospital, a Level I trauma center in St. Paul, can complete a project that adds 85 beds.

Sponsored by Rep. Jeff Backer (R-Browns Valley) and Sen. Sandra Pappas (DFL-St. Paul), a new law that takes effect Aug. 1, 2026, will provide an exception to the state's hospital construction moratorium.

HF3521*/SF3587/CH91

HIGHER EDUCATION

Fighting fraud, other policy changes

The higher education finance and policy law will give the Office of Higher Education additional tools to determine and then act if a school has committed fraud. It also provides technical updates to higher education administrative procedures.

Policy provisions taking effect Aug. 1, 2026, will:

- authorize the office to deny student aid to applicants who provide false information, refuse inspections, or have been legally found to have committed fraud regarding government funding;
- mandate that postsecondary institutions clearly inform students in writing when courses — often called developmental or remedial courses — do not earn credits toward a degree or certification;
- strengthen anti-discrimination protections for pregnant and parenting students, including priority registration;
- prohibit Minnesota State, and request the University of Minnesota, from imposing fees or extra tuition to maintain facilities primarily designated for student-athletes, such as training centers or athlete housing;
- allow Minnesota State employees to take paid time off for off-site blood donations, consistent with other state employees;
- authorize Rochester Community and Technical College to enter into a lease agreement with the City of Rochester to build a recreation center; and
- require a report on medical school curriculum, in part, to monitor curriculum designed by for-profit companies.

Rep. Dan Wolgamott (DFL-St. Cloud) and Sen. Omar Fateh (DFL-Mpls) sponsor the law.

HF4252*/SF3943/CH116

HOUSING

New law targets gaps in renter, landlord rules

A new law that takes effect Aug. 1, 2026, aims to solve problems vexing both renters and landlords when it comes to utility billing, online payment platforms and eviction procedures.

Tenants' move-out dates and utility billing periods sometimes don't coincide, so a landlord might not know what tenants owe on their utilities until after they've left. The new law allows landlords to estimate a tenant's final utility bill based on the previous billing cycle.

Other provisions will require landlords to offer a free alternative payment method if an online payment platform malfunctions, prohibit landlords from listing a minor child as a defendant in an eviction action unless the minor is the sole renter, and include assaults on landlords or their employees as grounds for an expedited eviction action.

Rep. Spencer Igo (R-Wabana Township) and Sen. Lindsey Port (DFL-Burnsville) are the sponsors.

HF3951/SF4171*/CH81

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Towns, watershed districts can self-insure

Towns, watershed districts and watershed management organizations that have at least 100 employees either individually or jointly will be permitted to self-insure for certain employee health benefits, excluding employee life insurance.

Rep. Ben Bakeberg (R-Jordan) and Sen. Eric Pratt (R-Prior Lake) sponsor the law taking effect Aug. 1, 2026.

HF3571/SF3887*/CH66

MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

Special guerilla unit recognition updates, other changes in veterans' law

A single topic turned into a multi-part new law that focuses on veterans.

Parts of the law that take effect Aug. 1, 2026, provide veteran designation for Special Guerrilla and Irregular Forces veterans who served under CIA direction in the 1961-1975 Secret War in Laos.

A 2025 law recognized veterans of the Secret War in Laos who served honorably with special guerrilla units or other irregular forces and made them eligible for specific state benefits. It also created a working group on benefits for veterans of the Secret War in Laos.

The 2026 law includes working group recommendations, including clarifying technical changes and modifications, including a burial fee reference, and civil service recruitment preference. It also establishes a comprehensive eligibility process for special guerilla unit veterans to access many of the same benefits as other Minnesota veterans and modifies the benefits these veterans are entitled to receive.

The law will also:

- allow honorably discharged members of the National Guard or another reserve component of the armed forces and their eligible dependents to be interred in a state veterans cemetery;
- meet federal requirements by eliminating the need for legislative approval and permitting the Department of Veterans Affairs to close a veterans home in the unlikely event the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services issue an involuntary termination notice for a state veterans home;
- set the base pay for E-1 (Private) through E-4 (Specialist) National Guard members called to state service under emergency executive order at the rate set by the federal government's Defense Finance and Accounting Service pay tables for an E-5 (Sergeant) service member;
- enact into statute the Commanders Task Force that has advised the Legislature, governor, Department of Veterans Affairs and others on veterans-related issues since 1988; and

- establish requirements for the Department of Veterans Affairs when administering legislatively directed competitive and direct grants, including creation of a grant application scoring system to evaluate applicants based on their demonstrated history of serving veterans; establishing grantee eligibility; and placing limitations on the use of grant money to fund services for veterans and active service members and their immediate family, and immediate family members of a veteran who died in the line of duty.

Rep. Bidal Duran (R-Bemidji) and Sen. Aric Putnam (DFL-St. Cloud) are the sponsors.

HF3522*/SF3955/CH96

Clarification made for state department resources to aid groups helping veterans

Sponsored by Rep. Kari Rehrauer (DFL-Coon Rapids) and Sen. Heather Gustafson (DFL-Vadnais Heights), a new law taking effect Aug. 1, 2026, provides clear statutory authority that Department of Veterans Affairs' staff time and non-monetary resources can, if available, be used to "support initiatives relating to veterans' food insecurity, homelessness, suicide prevention, and other critical issues."

Examples would be collaborating with a local, nonprofit organization that can more quickly connect with veterans when an issue arises.

HF3467*/SF3956/CH52

Forfeiture of veteran benefits, title change at Department of Veterans Affairs

Organizational structure change at the Veterans Affairs Department and conformity with federal veterans' benefits policy are among the components of a new law that takes effect Aug. 1, 2026.

Sponsored by Rep. Aaron Repinski (R-Winona) and Sen. Robert Kupec (DFL-Moorhead), the law will reclassify the chief of staff to deputy commissioner of administration to align the department with similar-sized agencies and ensure parity among division leaders, strengthening organizational clarity and authority.

The law also provides that a veteran who has forfeited federal veteran benefits is also ineligible for state benefits.

HF3544*/SF4072/CH50

Veterans' education program consolidation

Statutory references to veterans' higher education programs will be modified or repealed that should result in a simplified benefit application and administration process for veterans and their families.

The law, effective Aug. 1, 2026, includes closure of a rarely used \$750 educational benefit that is currently available to veterans, but preserves that benefit for the surviving spouse and dependents of a prisoner of war (POW), a servicemember missing in action (MIA), or a deceased veteran. Veterans rarely used the benefit in recent years due to increased benefits from the Minnesota GI Bill and changes to a federal post-9/11 GI Bill.

Rep. Josiah Hill (DFL-Stillwater) and Sen. Judy Seeberger (DFL-Afton) are the sponsors.

HF3741*/SF3957/CH49

PUBLIC SAFETY

Public safety policy provisions

Rep. Kelly Moller (DFL-Shoreview) and Sen. Ron Latz (DFL-St. Louis Park) sponsor the public safety and judiciary safety and security finance law. Among policy provisions that take effect Aug. 1, 2026, are those that:

- require the Department of Public Safety to maintain a database containing emergency contact information for elected officials;
- establish a legislative services unit within Capitol Security to assess and respond to threats;
- give the attorney general administrative subpoena power in cases of suspected fraud;
- establish a task force on improving responses to domestic violence crimes;

- establish the Minnesota Clearance Grant Program to award grants to law enforcement agencies to reduce violent crime by increasing the solve rate of crimes that involve a nonfatal shooting;
- make the assault of a hospital or clinic worker a gross misdemeanor;
- increase criminal penalties for assaulting a vulnerable adult; and
- ban prediction market wagering.

HF3230/SF3432*/CH118

Penalties for impersonating a peace officer increase

Effective Aug. 1, 2026, the charge for impersonating a peace officer will increase from a misdemeanor to a felony with a maximum penalty of two years imprisonment if an offender does so intending to mislead another person but taking no further action.

Increasing to a felony with up to five years imprisonment are instances where the impersonator also uses the deception to gain access to a public building or government facility that is not open to the public; directs someone to take a certain action or refrain from acting; violates statutes related to vehicle lights and sirens; and operates a vehicle marked with “police” or a similar marking falsely indicating it is a law enforcement vehicle.

For repeat offenders, the penalty for impersonating a peace officer within five years of a previous felony conviction will increase from a maximum of two years imprisonment to 10 years.

A person who possesses a firearm while impersonating an officer could also face a felony charge with a maximum prison sentence of 10 years, again up from two years.

The new law will also require someone working as a peace officer to identify their employer, and provide their name and identification number when performing acts regularly performed by peace officers, such as stopping, detaining, or arresting individuals. An officer in uniform that displays the information will satisfy the requirement. Failure to do so does not make an arrest unlawful and cannot be used as the basis to suppress any evidence identified or seized following an arrest.

Rep. Ginny Klevorn (DFL-Plymouth) and Sen. John Hoffman (DFL-Champlin) are the sponsors.

HF3404*/SF3735/CH98

Omnibus public safety policy law

Rep. Paul Novotny (R-Elk River) and Sen. Ron Latz (DFL-St. Louis Park) sponsor the omnibus public safety policy law that contains numerous policy provisions impacting public safety, officers, corrections, crime victims, and criminal investigations and offenses, ranging from ensuring that a crime victim has the right to object to a plea agreement to banning prediction market wagering.

Provisions effective Aug. 1, 2026, include:

- requiring a prosecutor to make a good faith effort to inform a crime victim of an impending plea agreement and informing the victim of the eligibility for automatic expungement of any offense pleaded to or dismissed as part of the plea agreement;
- clarifying that crime victims have the right to object to a plea agreement at a plea hearing and requiring judges to ask if a victim has an objection;
- adding “forged digital likeness” to crimes prosecutable under identity theft statutes;
- extending the statute of limitations to seven years for several financial crimes and crimes involving fraud, including theft by swindle, failure to pay state funds, fraudulent certificate of title and receiving stolen property;
- specifying licensing actions the Department of Corrections can take to correct deficiencies at juvenile and adult community-based residential correctional facilities;
- requiring a law enforcement officer to make reasonable efforts to notify a petitioner before or immediately after service of a restraining order that the respondent will be or has been served;

- modifying procedures a domestic violence victim can use to be released from a shared wireless plan and obtain a new telephone number;
- allowing peace officers 14 days to make a warrantless arrest of a person accused of committing domestic assault who flees the scene of an assault; and
- making it a felony to create a prediction market, operate a platform where users can make wagers in a prediction market or advertise or market financial or technological products that promote prediction market wagering.

HF3990/SF4760*/CH97

Criminal penalties increased for extortion using private sexual images

Minnesota laws on coercion penalize anyone who causes another to pay money for committing, or refrain from committing, an act.

A new law that takes effect Aug. 1, 2026, will enhance penalties when the threat to disseminate private sexual images is a substantial contributing factor in the victim sustaining great bodily harm or death.

Per the law, a perpetrator may be sentenced up to 10 years in prison if the threat is a substantial factor in the victim sustaining great bodily harm, 15 years if the violation is a substantial factor in the victim's death.

Rep. Scott Van Binsbergen (R-Montevideo) and Sen. Andrew Lang (R-Olivia) are the sponsors.

HF2358*/SF281/CH76

Standardizing firearm surrender in domestic violence cases

A standard firearm transfer process will be created for cases where domestic violence offenders are ordered to surrender their firearms.

Taking effect Aug. 1, 2026, a new law will require firearm transfers be completed as soon as reasonably practical and made to the subject's local law enforcement agency, a federally licensed firearms dealer or a third party who does not reside with the subject. Third-party transfers must be completed at a law enforcement agency.

Offenders must file proof of their firearms transfer or a declaration of non-possession of firearms and any required third-party affidavit with a district court. Courts must hold compliance hearings within 10 business days of issuing a transfer order.

Rep. Peggy Scott (R-Andover) and Sen. Bonnie Westlin (DFL-Plymouth) are the sponsors.

HF4075*/SF4294/CH75

Organized retail theft statute expanded to include theft of gift cards

The organized retail theft statute enacted in 2023 will expand to include theft involving gift cards.

Per the law, that crime applies when a person is part of a group of two or more individuals who steal merchandise from a retailer, has committed previous theft-related offenses and resells or tries to return the stolen merchandise for credit.

Effective Aug. 1, 2026, the law will include theft involving gift cards. Theft of gift cards includes stealing codes and PINs before a retailer sells the card so thieves can take the money when a retailer sells and activates a card. Penalties will be based on the amount that could be taken from a gift card, not necessarily the amount a thief steals. The law also includes situations where someone tampers with stolen merchandise for the purpose of obtaining something of value from the retailer or a retail customer.

Rep. Brad Tabke (DFL-Shakopee) and Sen. Zach Duckworth (R-Lakeville) are the sponsors.

HF3155*/SF3338/CH74

Peace officers must disclose their use of chemical irritants within a building

Notice and disclosure will need to be given to building owners and occupants when peace officers deploy chemical irritants in a building.

Tear gas and pepper spray are often used to force a person to leave a room or building. Peace officers may also use smoke screens and diversionary devices (such as “flash bang” devices) when entering a building or room. Those products may leave residue requiring specialized cleaning or treatment.

Effective Aug. 1, 2026, law enforcement agencies and local government units will be required to share specific information about the products used when asked by the building owner, a tenant, insurance company or someone hired to clean or treat the building or room.

Rep. Kelly Moller (DFL-Shoreview) and Sen. Melissa Wiklund (DFL-Bloomington) are the sponsors.
HF3782*/SF4144/CH69

Changes made to the Safe at Home address confidentiality program

Safe at Home is an address confidentiality program administered by the Secretary of State’s Office that is available to Minnesota residents who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, harassment, or stalking or who otherwise fear for their personal safety.

A new law taking effect Aug. 1, 2026, makes various changes to program statutes. They include:

- prohibiting discrimination against people based on their status as Safe at Home participants;
- adding emancipated minors to the list of possible Safe at Home program participants;
- imposing a gross misdemeanor penalty for statutory violation that results in bodily harm;
- specifying steps to be accomplished before a court can direct a program participant to disclose their address, including issuance of a written order with specified content, and giving the secretary of state standing to request reconsideration of the order or to intervene in a proceeding; and
- amending a section of statute regarding mandated training for judges to require the training program to include information on the Safe at Home program.

Rep. Jim Nash (R-Waconia) and Sen. Doron Clark (DFL-Mpls) are the sponsors.
HF3676*/SF3959/CH67

Age to purchase and possess kratom raised from 18 to 21

The age for sale or possession of kratom is increasing by three years. Per the Department of Health, “its leaves contain compounds that have psychoactive, or mind-altering, effects.”

Effective Aug. 1, 2026, it will be a gross misdemeanor to sell kratom to a person under age 21 and a misdemeanor for a person under age 21 to possess kratom. The current age is 18 for both.

Rep. Jessica Hanson (DFL-Burnsville) and Sen. Alice Mann (DFL-Edina) sponsor the law.
HF3453*/SF3704/CH63

STATE GOVERNMENT

Strengthening prevention by withholding payments to suspected fraudsters

The ability of state agencies to stop payment to program participants suspected of fraud will be strengthened.

A 2025 law lets state agencies withhold payments to a participant for up to 60 days if there is a preponderance of evidence the participant has committed fraud to obtain payments. The provision is set to expire July 1, 2027.

Taking effect Aug. 1, 2026, a new law removes the 60-day cap and expiration date, and will lower the evidentiary standard to a credible allegation of fraud that is verified by the agency. An agency’s decision can no longer be appealed to the state court of administrative hearings, rather, the participant can request administrative reconsideration by the agency.

Agencies will be permitted to notify each other and can withhold payment if a potential fraudster collects payments from more than one agency and if doing so will not compromise an active investigation. And the definition of “program participant” will expand to include individuals and legal entities.

To improve state grantmaking, the law will also make statutory changes by:

- adding to the definition of a grant recipient to clarify grants will be terminated for both individuals and any related parties if convicted of fraud;
- refining Department of Administration authority to approve agency-requested exceptions to policy requirements on a more granular level;
- removing Department of Administration authority to share the name of a whistleblower with the agency; and
- making technical changes to cross references.

Rep. Kristin Bahner (DFL-Maple Grove) and Sen. Amanda Hemmingsen-Jaeger (DFL-Woodbury) are the sponsors.

HF3629*/SF4149/CH122

TRANSPORTATION

Tow trucks permitted to use variable message signs

A tow truck will be permitted to display a variable message sign — for example, reading “Keep Left” or “Stalled Vehicle on Shoulder” — while performing emergency services, provided the sign conforms to any standards established in the Minnesota Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

Sponsored by Rep. Erin Koegel (DFL-Spring Lake Park) and Sen. John Jasinski (R-Faribault), the law takes effect Aug. 1, 2026.

HF3694/SF3888*/CH78

Highway in Zumbrota renamed for officer and firefighter

The section of Trunk Highway 58 in Zumbrota will be designated as “Officer / Firefighter Gary L. Schroeder, Jr. Memorial Highway.”

Schroeder served as a peace officer and firefighter in Zumbrota before dying in April 2023. Funds for the memorial signs must come from non-state sources.

Sponsored by Rep. Steven Jacob (R-Altura) and Sen. Steve Drazkowski (R-Mazeppa), the law takes effect Aug. 1, 2026.

HF3593*/SF3640/CH62