

2026

# Legislative Summary

2026

Office on the Economic Status of Women



Photo by Michele Jokinen, Session Daily

The **2026 Legislative Session** was the second year of the biennium and saw **3,579** bills introduced and **91** passed through the Governor's desk and into law. Opening day of this year's session was filled with tributes for Speaker Emerita Hortman and her family, and Senator Hoffman returned to his seat in the chamber to a standing ovation.

Fraud prevention was a major motivation for legislators this session, and although many of the new measures don't directly impact the topics we cover, bills like Chapter 92 which establish a new Office of the Inspector General will have far reaching impacts on a variety of other policies and programs in the future.

Public safety was another prominent issue this session, and several new laws create new or expand upon existing public safety measures, including oversight of firearm restrictions for respondents accused of domestic abuse (Chapter 75), modifications to the Safe at Home program (Chapter 67), and prohibiting access to nudification technology (Chapter 72).

This session also featured several commemorations and memorials for women who have impacted our state, such as a memorial

garden in honor of Speaker Emerita Melissa Hortman, and a portion of Ramsey County State-Aid Highway 96 dedicated to Master Sergeant Nicole Amor.

Several women-dominated occupations saw changes or additions to licensing and regulations, such as paraprofessionals, a variety of health occupations, and childcare providers, whose licensure standards recieved a full modernization in Chapter 127.

In this summary, bills are organized loosely into categories. Alongside each bill is a link to its Chapter page, as well as the House and Senate versions of it's original bill, and a quick overview of the most relevant sections.



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## Judiciary policy & safety

### Safe at Home Program modifications

**Law:** [Chapter 67](#)

**Bill:** [HF3676](#) / [SF3959](#)

**Overview:**

- Adds emancipated minors to definition of applicant
- Defines “guardian acting on behalf of an eligible minor”
- Adds legal proceedings regarding disclosure of participant addresses
- Adds gross misdemeanor penalty for performance of an act prohibited by the chapter causes bodily harm
- Prohibits discrimination from the program
- Establishes remedies in the case of discrimination
- Requires agency heads to designate a Safe at Home coordinator to serve as initial contact for staff of the Safe at Home program
- Adds unexpired Safe at Home cards to list of satisfactory evidence of residence
- Requires information on the Safe at Home program and legal proceedings to be included in the supreme court’s judicial education program training for district court judges.

### Nudification technology access prohibited

**Law:** [Chapter 72](#)

**Bill:** [HF1606](#) / [SF1119](#)

**Overview:** Individuals who own or control websites, applications, software or programs must not allow users to access, download, or use nudification technology or nudify images and video.

- Prohibits advertising and promotion of nudification technology
- Allows for pursuit of civil action and damages as well as civil penalties not to exceed \$500,000 for each unlawful use.
- Directs all civil penalties to be appropriated to provide grants to organizations that provide direct services to and advocacy for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and child abuse.

### Oversight of firearm restrictions resulting from certain criminal convictions and judicial orders

**Law:** [Chapter 75](#)

**Bill:** [HF4075](#) / [SF4294](#)

**Overview:** Petitions for relief for order for protections in cases of domestic abuse must include the types and locations of firearms believed to be possessed by the respondent.

### Extinguish joint interest in a contract for a deed of a perpetrator of domestic abuse

**Law:** [Chapter 80](#)

**Bill:** [HF3970](#) / [SF3907](#)

**Overview:** Establishes a remedy to extinguish a joint interest in a contract for a deed (a.k.a. rent to own) of a perpetrator of domestic abuse or sexual assault.

### Omnibus Public Safety

**Law:** [Chapter 97](#)

**Bill:** [SF4760](#) / [HF3990](#)

**Overview:**

- Requires annual reporting from superintendent on law enforcement responses to domestic abuse
- Requires annual report from the commissioner of public safety to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over public safety
- Extends time limit for probable cause establishment for a peace officer to make an arrest in a nonfelony domestic abuse case
- Expands definitions of domestic abuse and specifies that warrants should be sought for arrest without undue delay
- Requires officers to make police reports of alleged domestic violence related incidents regardless of whether arrests are made
- Requires law enforcement to consider histories of domestic violence regarding petitions for orders of protection or restraining orders when determining if a person poses a threat
- Prosecutors must describe violations of orders for protections and no contact orders in underlying petitions and criminal cases

## Criminal offense of grooming

**Law:** [Chapter 108](#)

**Bill:** [HF 3489](#) / [SF 3969](#)

**Overview:**

- Requires the establishment of a grooming module for the education-related mandated reporter training
- Defines grooming as “a deliberate pattern of conduct to methodically develop a false trusting relationship with a child that is intended to strategically manipulate the child to engage in sexual conduct with the person at a future time, regardless of whether sexual conduct occurs”
- Establishes a felony offense for grooming

- Provides appropriations to the Department of Education for increasing the capacity of the student maltreatment program starting in 2027

## Safety and security measures appropriations

**Law:** [Chapter 118](#)

**Bill:** [HF3230](#) / [SF3432](#)

**Overview:**

- Appropriates \$159,000 for the Task Force on Improving Responses to Domestic Violence Crimes
- Appropriates \$125,000 as a grant to a nonprofit organization to address youth trafficking and sexual exploitation in the Twin Cities metro area.

## Memorials and commemorations

### Melissa Hortman memorial solar garden

**Law:** [Chapter 44](#)

**Bill:** [HF3556](#) / [SF3800](#)

**Overview:** Renames the community solar garden program after Speaker Emerita Melissa Horman, titled the “Melissa Hortman Community Solar Garden Program”.

### Designates Master Sargeant Nicole Amor Memorial Highway

**Law:** [Chapter 94](#)

**Bill:** [HF4987](#) / [SF5149](#)

**Overview:** Designates a portion of Ramsey County State-Aid Highway 96, from marked U.S. Highway 61 to marked Interstate Highway 35E, as “Master Sargeant Nicole Amor Memorial Highway”. Master Sargeant Nicole Amor lost her life in service to our country in Kuwait in March.

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## Cesar Chavez Day eliminated

**Law:** [Chapter 42](#)

**Bill:** [HF4541](#) / [SF4759](#)

**Overview:** Repeals Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10.555.

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## Relevant to women-dominated occupations

### Paraprofessional qualifications clarified

**Law:** [Chapter 107](#)

**Bill:** [HF3067](#) / [SF3368](#)

**Overview:** Requires employing districts or charter schools to validate paraprofessionals demonstrations of competencies deemed to have satisfied the Code of Federal Regulations. Districts and charter schools must maintain documentation of completion of required competencies and make records available to department and federal reviewers upon request.

## Modifications to licensing and scope of practice for health occupations

**Law:** [Chapter 115](#)

**Bill:** [HF3825](#) / [SF 3871](#)

### Overview:

- Defines “**acupuncture**”, “acupuncture needle”, “low-level cold laser”, and “herbal medicine practice”, updates language to reflect new name of the National Certification Board for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine, and defines scope of practice
- Defines “**athletic trainer**” and defines scope of practice
- Defines “**Asian bodywork therapy**” and “**massage therapy**”, defines scope of practice, outlines registration, education and training requirements, establishes grounds for disciplinary action and scope of disciplinary action, reporting obligations and establishes a Massage Therapy Advisory Council
- Clarifies application procedure and documentation **for mortuary science** licensure
- Defines “**licensed professional music therapist**” (LMPT), “music based interventions”, establishes the scope of the practice of music therapy and licensure requirements, and establishes a Music Therapy Advisory Council
- Prohibits a county agency **social worker** who does not meet certain criteria from being presented to the public by any title using the words “social work” or “social worker”
- Language changes to **dentistry practice** regulations
- Establishes reciprocity with other states **for marriage and family therapist** licenses
- Adds the initiation, prescription, dispensation and administration of drugs for the treatment of opioid use disorder to the **scope of practice for pharmacists**
- Establishes **physical therapists** supervision requirements and scope of practice for physical therapist assistants

# Omnibus bills

## State government policy and finance

**Law:** [Chapter 119](#)

**Bill:** [HF4591](#) / [SF4889](#)

### Overview:

- Establishes funds for a working group on the Melissa and Mark Hortman Memorial State Park
- Changes to language regarding Board of Cosmetologist Examiners

## Omnibus Human Services supplemental appropriations

**Law:** [Chapter 121](#)

**Bill:** [HF4338](#) / [SF4476](#)

**Overview:** Directs the commissioner of human services and children, youth and families to develop a study in consultation with Minnesota's Tribal Nations and counties to assess and recommend improvements to the roles and responsibilities of DHS and DCYF, the counties, and Minnesota's Tribal Nations, in administering human services programs. The study must include a comprehensive review of programs administered by the departments, including child support, childcare and early learning.

## Commerce policy bill

**Law:** [Chapter 124](#)

**Bill:** [HF4188](#) / [SF4365](#)

**Overview:** Change of language to transfer of student loan protections, requiring the loan servicer to protect the borrower from negative consequences resulting from the transfer, including negative credit reporting, late fees not required by promissory notes, or eligibility loss or denial for benefits or protections established under federal law or included in the loan contract.

## Omnibus Health and Human Services supplemental appropriations

**Law:** [Chapter 127](#)

**Bill:** [HF466](#) / [SF4612](#)

### Overview:

- Article 12: Child Care Center Licensing Modernization
- Article 23: Family Child Care Licensing Modernization

## Bonding bill

**Law:** [Chapter 129](#)

**Bill:** [HF2484](#) / [SF2827](#)

### Overview:

- Designated Marked Trunk Highway 610 as "Hortman Memorial Highway" and provides appropriations for proper signage
- Provides appropriations for a memorial garden for Melissa Hortman on the State Office Building site
- Requires the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board to obtain the approval of the Hortman family throughout the artist selection and design process

# Miscellaneous

## **Omnibus Liquor Bill:** [Chapter 48](#) / [HF2027](#) / [SF2511](#)

- Allows nursing homes, boarding care homes, and assisted living facilities to serve alcohol under certain conditions.

## **Kayla's HOPE Act:** [Chapter 77](#) / [HF3169](#) / [SF2871](#)

- Requires data collection on suicide deaths from bridges and the creation of a methodology for suicide prevention and reduction to be incorporated into future bridge development projects. Named in honor of Kayla Brooke Lehmann.

## **Trusted contract program established:** [Chapter 86](#) / [HF4502](#) / [SF4652](#)

- Allows financial services providers to offer trusted contracts to customers, to be contacted in the event of emergency, loss of contact with the customer, or if fraud or exploitation is suspected.

## **Office of Inspector General:** [Chapter 48](#) / [HF2027](#) / [SF2511](#)

- Establishes the Office of Inspector General to serve as an independent entity in the executive branch responsible for ensuring accountability, transparency, and integrity in the operations of state executive branch agencies and programs.

## **Criminal penalty for impersonating law enforcement:** [Chapter 98](#) / [HF3404](#) / [SF3735](#)

- Increases criminal penalty for impersonation of a peace officer, enhances penalties, and creates the duty for peace officers to identify.

## **Disability accommodations as protection from discrimination:** [Chapter 99](#) / [HF2380](#) / [SF3210](#)

- Classifies failure to provide reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities as unfair discriminatory practice

## **Housing package:** [Chapter 100](#) / [HF1141](#) / [SF203](#)

- Designates \$165 million total for housing, including workforce housing development, supportive housing programs, family homeless prevention and assistance, capacity-building grants, homeownership education and training, and more.

## **Social media regulations:** [Chapter 111](#) / [HF4138](#) / [SF4696](#)

- Regulates social media use for children and minors including restrictions on addictive features, targeted advertising, guidelines on privacy, parental limitations, and age estimation.

## **Constitutional amendment for school funding on ballot:** [Chapter 114](#) / [HF3900](#) / [SF3593](#)

- Poses an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution to be voted on by the people to increase the funding going to all school districts from the permanent school fund.