



Conservation Connection



A Minnesota Legislative Outdoor Newsletter: Created by Kim Scott and Alexandra David

**Sponsored by: Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Fergus Falls Fish and Game Club,
Fish Lake Conservation Club, Izaak Walton League, MN Musky and Pike Alliance,
MN Sharptail Grouse Society, Outdoor News, Pheasants Forever, Sportsmen for the BWCA***

March 14, 2025

Important Dates:

- Monday, March 31, 2025: Legislative break for Eid
- April 4, 2025: first and second legislative deadlines: committees must act favorably on bills in the house of origin and act favorably on bills, or companions of bills, that met the first deadline in the other house
- April 11, 2025 at 12:00 PM: third legislative deadline: committees must act favorably on major appropriation and finance bills
- April 11, 2025 at 12:00 PM - April 21, 2025 at 12:00 PM: Legislative break for Easter and Passover
- May 9-10: 77th Minnesota Governor's Fishing Opener in Crosslake
- May 19: Constitutional deadline for adjournment for the 2025 Legislative Session

Minnesota House is tied after DFL wins special election: Democrat David Gottfried defeated GOP opponent Paul Wikstrom in a Tuesday special election to fill a vacant House seat representing Roseville and Shoreview. The unofficial results will require certification before Gottfried joins the House. Gottfried received [70.15 percent support with a total of 9,352 votes](#). Wikstrom received [nearly 4,000 votes](#). But the result brings the House into a tie – with 67 Republicans and 67 Democrats – and prompts a reset at the Capitol under [a bipartisan power-sharing agreement](#) reached earlier this year. Under that deal, Republican House Speaker Lisa Demuth will retain that role and the GOP will also keep a majority on a new committee focused on proposals to fight fraud and abuse in government-funded programs. In her role, Demuth gets to rule on motions and amendments as members debate bills and resolutions. But other committees will come under joint leadership with even numbers of Republicans and Democrats represented. Those committees will have co-chairs. That rule applies to conference committees formed to iron out differences between Senate and House bills. Beginning Tuesday, Democrats and Republicans leading the panels will switch off setting agendas and running the committees. [Read more](#). Gottfried is expected to be sworn in on Monday.

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Federal uncertainty and inflation lead to a gloomy Minnesota budget forecast: In the remaining 10 weeks or so of the legislative session, lawmakers will work in earnest to craft a two-year budget that will likely top \$60 billion, funding everything from roads and schools to parks and social services. It will be a difficult feat with swiftly changing federal policies, Minnesota's split Legislature and entrenched partisanship . . . Budget analysts project that state lawmakers will have a \$456 million budget surplus to craft their two-year budget — \$160 million less than [November estimates](#). Minnesota's increasing costs are expected to outpace revenue, potentially causing a nearly \$6 billion budget deficit during the two years beginning in July 2027 — \$852 million worse than November estimates, largely due to higher-than-expected inflation. This is all quite a contrast from two years ago, the last time the Legislature gathered to craft a budget. Then, the Democratic-Farmer-Labor trifecta approved a \$72 billion budget fueled by a \$17 billion surplus, a large increase in state spending that included lots of one-time expenses. Minnesota Management and Budget now says lawmakers won't enjoy a large cash heap like they did two years ago, and lawmakers need to be careful about ongoing spending, otherwise Minnesota could end up nearly \$6 billion in the red . . . Minnesota lawmakers will have to draft a budget without knowing the full impact of Trump's policies . . . About one-third of Minnesota's budget comes from the feds, and in fiscal years 2026-2027 MMB projects the state will receive \$45 billion in federal funds — over half of which includes Medicaid. [Read more](#).

Minnesota lawmakers consider allowing heavier ATVs: Under current Minnesota law, ATVs must weigh less than 2,000 pounds. The bill, authored by state Rep. John Burkel, R-Badger, would raise the maximum to 3,000 pounds — roughly the same as a Honda Civic. On Thursday, Burkel told a House committee the higher limit is needed to keep up with the changing ATV industry and consumer preferences toward larger side-by-side vehicles . . . Environmental groups worry heavier ATVs will increase erosion and damage to public trails . . . “[We] are not able to adequately maintain the trails that we have already built,” wrote John Siekmeier, president of the Minnesota chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America. “And we do not have the financial resources required to repair the damage caused by heavier ATVs.” [Read more](#).

Proposed sale of school trust lands inside Boundary Waters Canoe Area faces pushback in House: [“School Trust Lands”](#) . . . support Minnesota's public schools, through generating interest and dividends. But 80,000 acres of that land set aside more than 150 years ago is now within the boundaries of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, established in 1978, and it essentially is unable to generate income. [Should the state]sell the land to the U.S. Forest Service and invest the proceeds? [That] would have the best return on investment, says Aaron Vande Linde, director of the School Trust Lands. [Rep. Roger Skraba](#) (R-Ely) sponsors [HF1425](#) that would prohibit such a sale . . . Skraba prefers that ongoing discussions continue among the Department of Natural Resources, the school trust office and the U.S. Forest Service to swap the 80,000 acres in Cook, Lake and St. Louis counties with an equivalent acreage outside the BWCAW, [noting] that the exchange would open up the acreage in the swap for economic development . . . from timber harvesting, and potential mineral rights . . . The current deal being considered would sell the acres to the U.S. Forest Service at a rate of just \$375 per acre . . . but Vande Linde says an October 2024 [analysis](#) by his office reveals that even at the low sale price, the \$30 million purchase price would grow into nearly \$850 million in 50 years . . . The sale of land being discussed between the state and the U.S. Forest Service is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2026 . . . If a sale occurs, the U.S. Forest Service would manage the lands in accordance with the

BWCAW Act and the Superior National Forest [Land and Resource Management Plan](#). Lands would remain open to the public for recreational activities and the public would not expect any change in their access to recreation within the BWCAW. [Read more](#).

New legislation introduced in effort to keep lakes free of trash during ice fishing season: As another ice fishing season comes to an end in Minnesota, a grassroots effort is taking another step toward keeping trash out of our lakes. Keep it Clean MN helped pass legislation that makes it illegal to throw garbage on the ice, but now that group says more can be done to address the problem . . . [The] coalition, which represents more than 1,200 lakes across the state, helped pass the Keep it Clean law, making it illegal to place any garbage or waste on the ice . . . The new litter law went into effect on July 1, 2023. Since then, the DNR has issued 75 citations and 220 warnings. Now Keep it Clean MN is taking it one step further. A new bill would bring in the DNR or Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to help run their group. [Read more](#).

Agriculture committee unveils budget bill that proposes \$17 million funding boost: [HF1704](#), [sponsored by] [Rep. Paul Anderson](#) (R-Starbuck), appropriates \$168.9 million from the General Fund for the Department of Agriculture, plus several other agencies and programs under the purview of the committee . . . The funding request is \$17.1 million above the current amount budgeted in 2024-25, or a 10.1% increase. It is also above the budget amount proposed by [Gov. Tim Walz](#) on Jan. 16, which was \$151 million for the 2026-27 biennium . . . Thom Petersen, Department of Agriculture commissioner, said he saw some promising elements in the bill, such as \$660,000 to replenish the funds the department uses to reimburse farmers for damage caused by elk and wolf populations. But because the total appropriations requested would exceed the governor's budget proposal, he said [could not support it.] He also said the bill was premature, and it would be best not to set out specific funding commitments at the state level until more is known about which agricultural programs will be negatively affected by cuts at the federal level. [Read more](#).

"Accounting error" means a 4% decline in available dollars for habitat work in Minnesota: Over the years, \$2 million annually that should have entered the state General Fund actually went into the different Legacy accounts - parks and trails, clean water, arts and cultural heritage, and the Outdoor Heritage Fund . . . its share of that \$32M comes out to \$10,475,000. Those dollars must be paid back to the General Fund this biennium. [Read more](#).

Minnesota foragers want some control over harvesting rules on state lands: Mistrustful of the Department of Natural Resources' oversight of mushroom hunting and berry picking, a group of Minnesota foragers has turned to the Legislature for creation of a new task force . . . DNR officials say the state's smattering of existing rules isn't adequate to address rising interest and participation in foraging. The agency has launched its own overhaul of foraging regulations with no timeline. The rebuilding effort is being tackled by an "internal working team," and the agency says it will seek plenty of public input before making new rules . . . As proposed, the bill for a Minnesota Sustainable Foraging Task Force calls for heavy citizen involvement including botanists, food safety experts, researchers, tribal representatives and foraging advocacy groups. The proposed lineup also includes legislators and a single DNR representative "involved with managing public lands." [Read more](#).

House lawmakers consider making giant beaver Minnesota's state fossil: Sponsored by [Rep. Andrew Myers](#) (R-Tonka Bay), [HF791](#) would designate *Castoroides ohioensis*, better known as the giant beaver, as the official state fossil. Minnesota is one of four states without a state fossil. [Read more](#). According to the [Science Museum of Minnesota's 2025 fossil campaign](#):

- a distant relative of the modern beaver, the giant beaver was the size of a small bear;
- it inhabited waterways and the developing glacial lakes as the ice receded across the state;
- it roamed the metro area and southern Minnesota during the last ice age;
- nearly complete skeletons have been found in Minneapolis and St. Paul; and
- the last-known *Castoroides ohioensis* lived in North America about 10,150 years ago.

Select DNR News releases

- [Red Flag Warning issued for extreme fire risk](#): The National Weather Service has issued a Red Flag Warning for several counties in parts of northwest, west central, and southwestern Minnesota due to extreme fire risk conditions on Monday, March 10.
- [Regulation adjustment coming for yellow perch fishing on Mille Lacs Lake](#): Starting March 11, the daily and possession limit for yellow perch on Mille Lacs Lake will be reduced from 20 to five. This regulation will be in place through Nov. 30.
- [DNR postpones elk research project in northwest Minnesota](#): The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is postponing the elk research project in northwest Minnesota due to scheduling delays and unfavorable conditions to safely and successfully capture and collar elk.

Last Week at the Legislature:

At 1:00 PM, House [Agriculture Finance and Policy](#) began discussion on [HF1704](#) (Anderson): Board of Animal Health funding provided, and money appropriated. (This is the vehicle for Chair Anderson's agriculture omnibus bill.) See: [DE3 Author's Delete-all Amendment](#), [Spreadsheet](#), [DE3 Bill Summary](#). See also [testimony](#) to the committee in support of the bill from: Feikema and Circle K Farms, and in opposition from: [Bioeconomy Coalition](#), Second Harvest Heartland, and Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy.

At 3:00 PM, Senate [Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development](#) discussed a number of bills: [S.F. 0621 \(Dahms\)](#): Gasoline specifications modification ([Bill Summary](#)); [S.F. 0881 \(Kupec\)](#): Biofuel financial assistance appropriation (see: letters of support from [Minnesota Farm Bureau](#), [Minnesota Farmers Union](#), and [Fueling Minnesota](#)); [S.F. 1507 \(Dornink\)](#): Biofuel infrastructure grants appropriation (see: letters of support from: [Minnesota Farm Bureau](#), [Minnesota Farmers Union](#), and [Fueling Minnesota](#), and [Unleaded 88 Factsheet](#)); [S.F. 1515 Westrom](#) Definition of sustainable aviation fuel modification ([Bill Summary](#)); and [S.F.](#)

[1359 Rest](#) Advanced biofuel production incentive modification provision (letter of support from [Bioeconomy Coalition of Minnesota](#)).

On Tuesday at 8:15 AM, House [Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy](#) discussed, among other bills, H.F. 1355 (Baker) - Holders of permits to harvest or destroy aquatic plants required to safely use scuba diving equipment, and commercial diving operations requirements established. See: [A Call for Legislative Action from the Anderson and Aune Families](#).

Also at 1:00 PM, House [Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy](#) heard discussion the following bills: [HF1531](#) (Heintzeman) - Expiration of crossbow hunting and fishing allowance removed (see: [House Research Summary](#) and letter of support from [Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation](#), and concerns from [Midwest Big Game Hunters](#)); [HF1331](#) (Schultz) - Statewide wolf population survey required ([House Research Summary](#) and [Fiscal Note](#)); [HF1425](#) (Skraba) - Sale of state-owned land in Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness prohibited (see: [House Research Summary](#), [BWCAW School Trust Land FAQ \(Office of School Trust Lands\)](#), [ROI Analysis - Office of School Trust Lands](#), and testimony on the bill from [Office of School Trust Lands](#), [CURE](#), [Range Association of Municipalities and Schools](#)); and [HF1570](#) (Skraba) - Sale or lease of boathouse sites at Soudan Underground Mine State Park authorized ([House Research Summary](#)).

Also at 3:00 PM, Senate [Environment, Climate, and Legacy](#) heard a number of arts and heritage bills, and an agency update from Parks & Trails Legacy Partners.

At 5:00 PM, House [Ways and Means](#) convened to hear [HF1218](#) (Heintzeman) Funding from the environment and natural resources trust fund, prior appropriations modified, and money appropriated. See also: [Bill Summary](#), [Spreadsheet](#), [LCCMR Pie Chart](#), [LCCMR Acquisition Map](#), [HF1218 Author's Amendment](#) (adopted), and [ENRTF Coalition Support Letter](#).

On Wednesday at 8:15 AM, House [Veterans and Military Affairs Division](#) discussed a number of bills, including: [HF1225](#) (Skraba) All-terrain vehicle registration fee eliminated for veterans with a total service-connected disability ([ATV-MN support letter](#)), and [HF1997](#) (Warwas) Fishing with Vets grant funding provided, reports required, and money appropriated ([Fishing with Vets factsheet](#)).

At 10:15 AM, House [Legacy Finance](#) convened for the following agenda items: Department of Revenue [presentation](#) on Legacy Funds distribution calculation errors, Minnesota State Arts Board overview, and Minnesota Humanities Center overview. See also: [Department of Revenue Legacy Distribution Letter](#).

At 12:30 PM, Senate [Jobs and Economic Development](#) discussed a number of bills, including: [S.F. 2057 \(Putnam\)](#): Continuous Living Cover Crops appropriation. See also: [CLC value chains support letter](#), [CLC value chain grants factsheet](#), and [New Value Chain Development Grant-Case Study](#).

At 1:00 PM, House [Agriculture Finance and Policy](#) heard discussion on [HF1704](#) (Anderson): Board of Animal Health funding provided, and money appropriated, Chair Anderson's [agriculture omnibus bill](#).

[Spreadsheet](#), [Bill Summary](#), and testimony to the committee [here](#).

On Thursday at 1:00 PM, House [Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy](#) discussed, among other bills: [HF253](#) (Schultz) - Public water inventory temporary modifications prohibited, and report required (see: [House Research Summary](#) and concerns from: [Conservation MN](#) and [MEP](#)).

At 3:00 PM, Senate [Environment, Climate, and Legacy](#) heard a presentation on the impacts of federal actions on the United States Forest Service (USFS) and National Park Service (NPS). The committee also heard the following bills: [S.F. 1751](#) ([Johnson Stewart](#)): Recommendations of Aggregate Resources Task Force implementation ([Bill Summary](#)); [S.F. 1635](#) ([Hauschild](#)): Carley State Park addition provision ([Carley State Park Wabasha Map DNR](#)); [S.F. 1464](#) ([Pha](#)): Minnesota Sustainable Foraging Task Force establishment.

Next Week at the Legislature:

Monday at 11:00 AM, House [Ways and Means](#) will discuss, among other bills, [HF1704](#) (Anderson, P.H.) Board of Animal Health funding provided, the omnibus agricultural finance bill.

At 1:00 PM, House [Agriculture Finance and Policy](#) will hear a number of bills, including: [HF1524](#) (Harder): Agriculture grant program established to promote certain nutrient management practices, and money appropriated; [HF821](#) (Jacob): Nitrate private well mitigation funding provided, and money appropriated; [HF363](#) (Jacob): Property tax credit established for certain acres certified under the Minnesota agricultural water quality certification program, and money appropriated; [HF1677](#) (Nelson): Funding provided for the developing markets for continuous-living cover crops program, reports required, and money appropriated; and [HF1292](#) (Huot): Beginning farmer tax credits eligibility expanded.

At 1:00 PM, House [Transportation Finance and Policy](#) will discuss, among other bills: [HF566](#) (Skraba) Provisions for operating all-terrain vehicles on public roads modified.

On Tuesday at 8:30 AM, Senate [Taxes](#) will hear a number of bills including: [S.F. 0960](#) ([Putnam](#)): Agricultural riparian buffer property tax exemption establishment, taxing jurisdictions reimbursement requirement, and appropriation; and [S.F. 2199](#) ([Dibble](#)): Valuation reductions permission on certain property with conservation restriction or easements.

At 10:15 AM, House [Capital Investment](#) will hear an update on Federal Infrastructure Funds (IIJA/IRA/CHIPS), and presentations on the Impact of Potential Elimination of Tax-Exempt Status for Municipal Bonds and the March 6, 2025, Debt Capacity Forecast,

At 1:00 PM, House [Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy](#) will hear the following bills: [HF1355](#) (Baker) - Holders of permits to harvest or destroy aquatic plants required to safely use scuba diving equipment, and commercial diving operations requirements established; [HF78](#) (Davis) - Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area Citizens Advisory Council membership modified; [HF1846](#) (Burkel) - Feedlots; county feedlot

program funding provided, and money appropriated; and [HF1225](#) (Skraba) - All-terrain vehicle registration fee eliminated for veterans with a total service-connected disability.

At 3:00 PM, Senate [Environment, Climate, and Legacy](#) will convene to hear a number of arts and cultural heritage fund appropriation bills, including, [SF1708](#) (Howe): City of Little Falls Minnesota Fishing Museum and Hall of Fame appropriation.

On Wednesday at 8:30 AM, Senate [Taxes](#) will hear discussion on [S.F. 2374 \(Rest\)](#) Tax provisions modifications. This bill contains a decrease in funding to counties for AIS prevention.

At 10:15 AM, House [Legacy Finance](#) will discuss a number of bills regarding public television.

At 1:00 PM, House [Agriculture Finance and Policy](#) will discuss a number of bills, including: [HF44](#) (Curran) Food manufacturers and brand owners required to report ortho-phthalate testing results of packaged food products to the commissioner of agriculture; [HF2280](#) (Hansen) Beginning farmer program provisions modified, grain buyer provisions modified, commissioner of agriculture permissions granted to protect public health against fertilizer and fertilizer by-products, and biodiesel fuel mandate reporting provision repealed; and [HF2281](#) (Hansen) Livestock market agency and dealer licensing provisions modified, farmers' market or community event food sampling and demonstration provisions modified, food certificate payment provisions modified.

At 10:15 AM, House [Capital Investment](#) will hear a number of bills related to water quality. The committee will also hear presentations on Red River Basin Flood Hazard Mitigation and Minnesota River Basin Flood Hazard Mitigation, and discuss: [HF692](#) (Burkel) Red River Basin flood hazard mitigation projects funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated; and [HF1455](#) (Torkelson) Minnesota River Basin Area II flood hazard mitigation funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

At 1:00 PM, House [Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy](#) will discuss; [HF2034](#) (Bierman) Minnesota Zoological Garden funding provided, and money appropriated; [HF1843](#) (Rehm) Lawns to legumes program funding provided, and money appropriated; [HF1611](#) (Hansen) Lawns to lunch pilot program funding provided, and money appropriated; [HF1012](#) (Pursell) Commissioner of natural resources required to consider decommissioning a road or trail designated for off-highway vehicle use; land, water quality, aquatic life, and wildlife protected from effects of using motorized recreational trails; environmental assessment worksheet required to construct or expand off-highway vehicle trails; rulemaking required; and money appropriated; and [HF1527](#) (Fischer) Fishing in the neighborhood program funding provided, and money appropriated.

At 3:00 PM, Senate [Environment, Climate, and Legacy](#) will convene. Agenda: To be announced.

Bills Introductions of Interest:

Environment and Natural Resources:

Bipartisan Legislation:

Senators Hauschild and Eichorn introduced--[S.F. No. 2381](#): A bill for an act relating to state lands; authorizing the sale of tax-forfeited lands in Itasca County. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Senators Eichorn, Wesenberg, Lang, Farnsworth, and Hoffman introduced--[S.F. No. 2382](#): A bill for an act relating to natural resources; allowing dogs to accompany conservation officers on patrol under certain circumstances; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 84.0286. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Falconer and Myers introduced: [H. F. 2218](#), A bill for an act relating to environment; appropriating money to the Metropolitan Council for grants to implementing agencies to manage aquatic invasive species. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Senators Weber, Johnson Stewart, Mann, McEwen, and Hoffman introduced--[S.F. No. 2442](#): A bill for an act relating to environment; providing for outdoor use of rainwater and stormwater; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 115. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Senators McEwen, Abeler, Pappas, Housley, and Duckworth introduced--[S.F. No. 2514](#): A bill for an act relating to capital investment; appropriating money for lead service line replacement grants. Referred to the Committee on Capital Investment.

Myers; Falconer; Anderson, P. H., and Norris introduced: [H. F. 2297](#), A bill for an act relating to utilities; establishing a special license plate for solar pollinator programs; providing agrivoltaic solar sites may be eligible for solar site management practices; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 216B.1642, by adding a subdivision; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 168. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Energy Finance and Policy.

DFL Legislation:

Senator Kunesh introduced--[S.F. No. 2359](#): A bill for an act relating to natural resources; requiring advance Tribal review of proposed mining projects; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 93. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Senator Johnson Stewart introduced--[S.F. No. 2365](#): A bill for an act relating to clean water; appropriating money for a grant for shoreline restoration along Lake Minnetonka. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Senators McEwen, Hauschild, Johnson Stewart, and Kunesh introduced--[S.F. No. 2395](#): A bill for an act relating to natural resources; appropriating money for the lawns to legumes program. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Falconer introduced: [H. F. 2134](#), A bill for an act relating to environment; modifying pesticide provisions to protect wild rice waters; protecting wild rice by requiring a wild rice risk justification before issuing certain permits; prohibiting operation of watercraft in a manner that threatens uncultivated wild rice beds; requiring maintenance of wild rice waters maps; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 1.148; 18B.01, by adding a subdivision; 18B.03, by adding a subdivision; 18B.04; 18B.045; 18B.063; 18B.305; 86B.311, subdivision 4; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 84. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Senators Kupec and Putnam introduced--[S.F. No. 2431](#): A bill for an act relating to agriculture; requiring a report on agricultural land trends; appropriating money. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development.

Senators Putnam and Kupec introduced--[S.F. No. 2458](#): A bill for an act relating to state government; establishing a budget for the Department of Agriculture, the Board of Animal Health, and the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute; making policy and technical changes to agriculture provisions; modifying and establishing fees; requiring reports; providing civil penalties; transferring money; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 17.1017; 17.1018; 17.117, subdivisions 1, 3; 17.118, subdivisions 1, 2, 3; 17.133, subdivision 1; 18B.26, subdivision 8; 18J.01; 18J.02; 18J.03; 18J.04, subdivisions 1, 2, 3, 4; 18J.05, subdivisions 1, 2, 6; 18J.06; 18J.07, subdivisions 3, 4, 5; 18J.09; 21.111; 21.112, by adding a subdivision; 21.113; 21.115; 21.117; 21.119; 21.1195; 21.1196, subdivision 2; 21.891, subdivision 2; 28A.03, subdivision 7, by adding subdivisions; 28A.04; 28A.05; 28A.06; 28A.07; 28A.0753, subdivision 3; 28A.08; 28A.085, subdivision 1; 28A.14; 28A.17; 32D.01, by adding a subdivision; 41B.039, subdivision 2; 41B.04, subdivision 8; 41B.042, subdivision 4; 41B.043, subdivision 1b; 41B.045, subdivision 2; 41B.047, subdivision 3; 41B.056, subdivision 1; 41B.057, subdivisions 1, 3; 223.17, subdivision 3; 232.22, subdivision 3; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 21; 28A; 32D; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 21.116; 21.118; 21.1196, subdivision 3; 21.121; 21.122; Minnesota Rules, parts 1510.2300; 1510.2305; 1510.2310; 1510.2315; 1510.2320; 1510.2325; 1510.2330; 1510.2335; 1510.2340; 1510.2345; 1510.2350; 1510.2355, subparts 1, 2, 3a, 4, 5, 6, 7. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development.

Senator Hauschild introduced--[S.F. No. 2530](#): A bill for an act relating to natural resources; facilitating the orderly and environmentally responsible development of the state's gas resources; requiring rulemaking; appropriating money; providing criminal penalties; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 11A.236; 86A.05, subdivision 6; 93.513, subdivision 1; 93.514; 93.516, subdivision 3, by adding a subdivision; 93.55, subdivision 1a; 103I.001; 103I.005, subdivisions 9, 21, by adding subdivisions; 103I.601, subdivision 1, by adding subdivisions; 272.02, subdivision 97; 272.03, subdivision 1; 273.12; 289A.02, subdivision 6; 289A.12, by adding a subdivision; 289A.19, subdivision 2; 290.0134, subdivision 9; 290.0135; 290.05, subdivision 1;

290.923, subdivision 1; 297A.68, subdivision 5; 297A.71, subdivision 14; 298.001, subdivision 3a, by adding subdivisions; 298.01, subdivisions 3, 3a, 3b, 4a, 4b, 5, 6; 298.015, subdivision 1; 298.016, subdivisions 1, 2, 3, 4, by adding a subdivision; 298.018, subdivisions 1, 1a, 2, by adding a subdivision; 298.17; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 93; 103I; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 93.513, subdivision 2. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Senators Hawj and Hauschild introduced--[S.F. No. 2547](#): A bill for an act relating to natural resources; appropriating money to the commissioner of natural resources for grants under the environment and natural resources trust fund community grant program. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Senators McEwen, Hauschild, and Johnson Stewart introduced--[S.F. No. 2566](#): A bill for an act relating to natural resources; appropriating money for the lawns to legumes program. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Hansen, R. introduced: [H. F. 2280](#). A bill for an act relating to agriculture; modifying beginning farmer program provisions; modifying grain buyer provisions; allowing the commissioner of agriculture to coordinate with other state agencies and local governments to protect public health against fertilizers and fertilizer by-products; repealing a provision requiring the commissioner of agriculture to report on implementing the biodiesel fuel mandate; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 18C.111, by adding a subdivision; 41B.0391, subdivisions 1, 4; 223.17, subdivision 6; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 239.77, subdivision 5. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture Finance and Policy.

Hollins, Lillie, Acomb and Jordan introduced: [H. F. 2293](#). A bill for an act relating to natural resources; appropriating money to the commissioner of natural resources for grants under the environment and natural resources trust fund community grant program. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Kraft and Acomb introduced: [H. F. 2317](#). A bill for an act relating to environment; appropriating money for a pilot program for wastewater treatment facility heat capture. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Jordan, Myers, Hollins, Schultz and Lee, F. introduced: [H. F. 2340](#). A bill for an act relating to capital investment; appropriating money for lead service line replacement grants. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Capital Investment.

Republican Legislation:

Senators Dornink, Dahms, and Anderson introduced--[S.F. No. 2315](#): A bill for an act relating to agriculture; requiring excess money in the grain indemnity account to be transferred to the agricultural emergency

account; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 223.25, subdivision 3. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development.

Igo introduced: [H. F. 2030](#), A bill for an act relating to state lands; authorizing the sale of tax-forfeited lands in Itasca County. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Warwas introduced: [H. F. 2109](#), A bill for an act relating to taxation; property; clarifying eligibility for class 2c managed forest lands classification; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 273.13, subdivision 23. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Taxes.

Jacob, Allen, Repinski, Altendorf and Davids introduced: [H. F. 2190](#), A bill for an act relating to legacy; appropriating money to clean and reestablish earthen dams in certain counties; requiring reports. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Legacy Finance.

Senators Pratt, Eichorn, and Mathews introduced--[S.F. No. 2456](#): A bill for an act relating to natural resources; appropriating money for the disposal of emerald ash borer-infested trees. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Senators Lucero, Lieske, Gruenhagen, Anderson, and Wesenberg introduced--[S.F. No. 2462](#): A bill for an act relating to environment; reenacting prior law prohibiting weather modification; providing criminal penalties; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 42. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Senators Weber and Dahms introduced--[S.F. No. 2487](#): A bill for an act relating to legacy; appropriating money from the clean water fund to acquire land in Cottonwood County. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Senator Rasmusson introduced--[S.F. No. 2536](#): A bill for an act relating to natural resources; appropriating money to improve Lake Alice water quality. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Schomacker introduced: [H. F. 2307](#), A bill for an act relating to legacy; appropriating money from the clean water fund to acquire land in Cottonwood County. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Legacy Finance.

Altendorf, Mekeland, Jacob, Murphy, Backer, Fogelman, Knudsen, Gander, McDonald, Hudson, Joy, Allen, Wiener and Davis introduced: [H. F. 2310](#), A bill for an act relating to environment; reenacting prior law prohibiting weather modification; providing criminal penalties; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 42. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Backer introduced: [H. F. 2314](#), A bill for an act relating to natural resources; appropriating money to improve Lake Alice water quality. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Game and Fish:

Bipartisan Legislation:

Senators Hawj and Wesenberg introduced--[S.F. No. 2345](#): A bill for an act relating to natural resources; modifying reporting requirements; modifying state trail pass provisions for off-road vehicles; modifying invasive species provisions; providing for burbot commercial fishing on Lake Superior; modifying provisions of public waters inventory; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 84.03; 84.8035, subdivision 1; 84D.01, by adding a subdivision; 84D.05, subdivision 1; 97C.835, subdivision 2; 103G.201. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

DFL Legislation:

Senator Hoffman introduced--[S.F. No. 2474](#): A bill for an act relating to agriculture; modifying the Board of Animal Health; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 35.02, subdivision 1. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development.

Republican Legislation:

Senators Dahms, Weber, and Westrom introduced--[S.F. No. 2302](#): A bill for an act relating to agriculture; modifying farmed Cervidae provisions; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 35.155, subdivision 11. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development.

Anderson, P. H. introduced: [H. F. 2051](#), A bill for an act relating to government data practices; classifying farmed Cervidae premises location data as private; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 13.643, subdivision 6. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Judiciary Finance and Civil Law.

Swedzinski introduced: [H. F. 2244](#), A bill for an act relating to game and fish; eliminating shotgun zone for taking deer; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97B.031, by adding a subdivision; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97B.318. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Swedzinski introduced: [H. F. 2245](#), A bill for an act relating to game and fish; eliminating shotgun zone for taking deer and allowing counties to regulate the type of firearms and ammunition used for taking deer; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97B.031, by adding a subdivision; repealing Minnesota Statutes

2024, section 97B.318. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Senator Drazkowski introduced--[S.F. No. 2524](#): A bill for an act relating to game and fish; eliminating shotgun zone for taking deer; requiring a report; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97B.031, by adding a subdivision; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97B.318. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Senator Drazkowski introduced--[S.F. No. 2525](#): A bill for an act relating to game and fish; eliminating shotgun zone for taking deer; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97B.031, by adding a subdivision; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97B.318. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Outdoor Recreation

Bipartisan Legislation:

Senators Wesenberg, Hoffman, Lieske, Hauschild, and Green introduced--[S.F. No. 2348](#): A bill for an act relating to natural resources; appropriating money to promote youth shooting sports. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Senators Wesenberg, Lang, Lieske, Mathews, and Hawj introduced--[S.F. No. 2519](#): A bill for an act relating to natural resources; appropriating money to promote shooting sports for persons with a disability. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Republican Legislation:

Senator Rarick introduced--[S.F. No. 2526](#): A bill for an act relating to natural resources; creating Outdoor School for All grant program; appropriating money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 84. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Senators Wesenberg, Lieske, and Eichorn introduced--[S.F. No. 2397](#): A bill for an act relating to natural resources; appropriating money for a grant to Forgotten Heroes Ranges and Retreat. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

McDonald introduced:[H. F. 2026](#). A bill for an act relating to natural resources; appropriating money from the parks and trails fund. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Legacy Finance.

Davis introduced: [H. F. 2356](#). A bill for an act relating to capital investment; appropriating money for capital improvements to all-terrain vehicle trail systems in Cass County; authorizing the sale and issuance of state bonds. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Capital Investment.

Firearms:

DFL Legislation:

Senators Pappas, Murphy, Westlin, Oumou Verbeten, and Clark introduced--[S.F. No. 2320](#): A bill for an act relating to public safety; authorizing local governmental units to prohibit or restrict the possession of dangerous weapons, ammunition, or explosives in local government-owned or leased buildings and land; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 609.66, by adding a subdivision. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.