



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 28, 2025

Important Dates:

- Monday, March 31, 2025: Legislative break for Eid
- April 4, 2025 at 5:00 PM: 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
- April 23, 2025 at 7:00 PM: State of the State
- April 29, 2025: Special Election, Senate District 6
- May 9-10: 77th Minnesota Governor's Fishing Opener in Crosslake
- May 19: Constitutional deadline for adjournment for the 2025 Legislative Session

Minnesota Senate DFLers propose nearly \$2.5 billion in spending cuts, inflationary pullbacks: The Senate DFL plan would cut health and human services spending by about \$1.3 billion over the next four years. It also calls for nearly \$700 million in education spending cuts in the 2028-2029 budget cycle, among other reductions. The newly released spending targets set the parameters for Senate committee chairs to craft budget bills. Gov. Tim Walz has proposed [his own budget plan](#) . . . Senate Majority Leader Erin Murphy, DFL-St. Paul, said the spending cuts proposed by her caucus would allow the state to preserve its new child tax credit, free school meals program and other things “that we passed in 2023 that are most important to us”. . . The Senate DFL plan takes a more gradual approach to the upcoming two-year budget, cutting spending by \$754 million. Senate Democrats are proposing a larger \$1.7 billion reduction in the 2028-2029 cycle. Walz’s budget proposal is similar in that regard, cutting general fund spending by \$720 million in 2026-2027 and nearly \$2 billion in the following cycle. There are differences between the governor’s and Senate DFL’s plans. Walz is proposing a deeper cut to health and human services spending: about \$1.9 billion over four years. Meanwhile, the Senate DFL is proposing a \$100 million funding increase for higher education

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in the next two-year budget cycle. Murphy noted the state grant program is facing [a major shortfall](#) that needs funding. Senate Democrats' budget framework also accounts for a bonding bill of "up to \$1.3 billion." [Read more.](#)

Research on controlling invasive species among projects in \$103 million environmental trust fund bill: What projects get funded and by how much is the annual task of the [Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources](#). Its 2026 recommendations are in [HF1482](#), sponsored by [Rep. Rick Hansen](#) (DFL-South St. Paul). The bill would appropriate \$103.3 million from the fund in fiscal year 2026 for more than 100 projects ranging from promoting pollinators on corporate campuses to developing a portable device to detect arsenic and nitrate in well water. The House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee laid the bill over Thursday after adopting an oral technical amendment. No testifiers spoke on the bill, nor was there any member discussion. Hansen said laying the bill over would allow the committee to reconcile his bill with [HF1218](#), a Republican-sponsored bill that was tabled on the House Floor March 13. Some of the large-ticket items in [HF1482](#) include:

- \$5.8 million for projects aimed at solving Minnesota's aquatic invasive species problems;
- \$5.2 million to produce renewable energy from food waste;
- \$4.8 million for local parks, trail connections, and natural and scenic areas;
- \$4 million to the Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center and four other K-12 partner schools;
- \$3.2 million to install a green hydrogen production, storage and fueling station in St. Cloud; and
- \$2.7 million for Cannon River preservation and access.

Since 1991, the fund has provided approximately \$1.1 billion to more than 1,700 projects around the state. [Read more.](#)

Deer farmers, DNR clash over fence rules intended to curb spread of chronic wasting disease: The words "rubbing noses" do not appear anywhere in the text of [HF40](#), but they were evoked a lot when the bill was debated by the House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee Monday. At issue was chronic wasting disease and whether captive, farmed white-tailed deer need to be kept at a distance from their free-range cousins to keep the disease from spreading. [Rep. John Burkel](#) (R-Badger) is on the side of letting the wild and the farmed deer bop noses. He sponsors the bill that would eliminate a provision in a 2023 [law](#) requiring deer farmers to put up specially configured fencing to nix the nose nudging. The Department of Natural Resources is charged with curbing the spread of [CWD](#) and has outlined several [fencing options](#) for deer farmers to comply with the law, including double fencing with 48 inches of separation, and electrified fences. Deer farmers have struggled to meet these elaborate fencing requirements, Burkel said, and the financial burdens threaten their ability to stay in business. . . . To curb the spread of CWD, current law requires farmed deer to be confined with perimeter fences at least 96 inches tall constructed and maintained to prevent:

- escape of farmed deer;

- entry of free-roaming deer; and
- physical contact between farmed and free-roaming deer.

The bill would remove the requirement that perimeter fences be constructed and maintained to prevent physical contact between farmed and free-roaming deer.

The DNR administers and enforces statutes and rules governing the more than 100 registered white-tailed deer farms in the state, and it strongly opposes the bill . . . the DNR also objects to a provision that would remove the Board of Animal Health’s authority to revoke a farm’s registration to possess live deer and to remove or destroy the animals if a farm experiences more than one escape in a six-month period or fails to correct a deficiency found during an inspection. [Read more](#).

Crowded field emerges to replace former state Sen. Justin Eichorn: The departure of Eichorn, of Grand Rapids, didn’t upset the balance of power in the Senate, but it did leave Republicans with just 32 members while the DFL has 34. Gov. Tim Walz on Tuesday set an April 29 special election to fill the vacancy in the district, which includes the cities of Grand Rapids, Brainerd and Baxter. A special primary election was set for April 15. Read more about the candidates [here](#).

Gov. Walz touts "unified front" in Minnesota's bird flu fight: Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz says there is a ‘unified front’ in the state's fight against bird flu, which was recently detected in a Stearns County dairy herd. Walz is seeking \$4 million from the state budget to go to response efforts, while the University of Minnesota announced it has received a \$1.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to fight H5N1. [Read more](#).

Foragers want a seat at the rulemaking table as DNR mulls mushroom, berry bag limits: Mushroom hunters and berry pickers are worried that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources could curtail their foraging on state lands. The DNR is considering bag limits on how much food people can take from state-managed lands. Right now, that proposal is a one-gallon maximum for foraging in state parks . . . There is a pair of state [legislature] bills to establish a task force so that everyone can get a seat at the table. [Read more](#).

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.
- [Private woodland owners help grow Minnesota’s forest inventory](#): The Minnesota DNR has reached nearly 1,000 participants but there is still room for more.

- [Minnesota DNR FalconCam pair preparing for eggs](#): A pair of peregrine falcons have returned to the nest box featured on the popular Minnesota Department of Natural Resources FalconCam.
- [Zebra mussels confirmed in Lake Bronson in Kittson County](#): The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed the presence of zebra mussels in Lake Bronson, near the city of Lake Bronson in Kittson County.
- [Prevent conflicts with bears this spring by being BearWise](#): The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is encouraging homeowners to remove birdfeeders now and check their property for food sources that could attract bears.
- [Spring burning restrictions begin on Monday in Minnesota](#): The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is restricting the open burning of vegetative debris due to increased wildfire risk resulting from dry conditions in central Minnesota beginning Monday, March 24 at 6 a.m.

Last Week at the Legislature:

On Monday morning, the Senate [Rules and Administration - Subcommittee on Committee](#) convened and nominated Senator John Hoffman to the Clean Water Council.

At 10:15 AM, House [Ways and Means](#) met to hear a [presentation](#) from Minnesota Management and Budget on Federal Interactions with State Budget and a presentation from NCSL on Federal Interactions with State Budget.

At 12:30 PM, Senate [Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate](#) discussed a number of bills, including: [S.F. 2456 \(Pratt\)](#): Emerald ash borer-infested trees disposal appropriation.

Also at 12:30 PM, Senate [Judiciary and Public Safety](#) heard, among other bills: [S.F. 1575 \(Kupec\)](#): Biofertilizer water preservation program establishment and appropriation; [S.F. 1840 \(Kupec\)](#): Grant program appropriation to promote certain nutrient management practices; and [S.F. 2530 \(Hauschild\)](#) Orderly and environmentally responsible development of the states gas resources facilitation provision and appropriation.

At 1:00 PM, House [Agriculture Finance and Policy](#) discussed a number of bills, including: [HF1701 \(Nelson\)](#): Minnesota-made fertilizer grant program established, and money appropriated ([Bill Summary](#)); [HF1676 \(Burkel\)](#): Farmed Cervidae provisions modified ([Bill Summary](#) and [Fiscal Note](#)); [HF40 \(Burkel\)](#): Requirement that fencing prevent physical contact between farmed Cervidae and free-roaming Cervidae removed, and authority to revoke registrations under certain conditions removed ([Bill Summary](#), [Fiscal Note](#), [Handout](#): Fencing Options Regarding New Legislative Requirement to Prevent Physical Contact Between Farmed White-Tailed Deer and Wild Cervidae, and [testimony](#) to the committee from Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation); and [HF1428 \(Harder\)](#): Excess money in the grain indemnity account required to be transferred to the agricultural emergency account ([Bill Summary](#)).

At 3:00 PM, Senate [Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development](#) heard the following relevant proposed bills: [S.F. 2458 \(Putnam\)](#): Department of Agriculture, the Board of Animal Health, and the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute budget establishment ([Bill Summary](#)); and [S.F. 0739 \(Westrom\)](#): Importation of live Cervidae permission to certain accredited facilities ([Bill Summary](#) and [Hemker Park & Zoo](#) letter of support).

On Tuesday at 8:30 AM, Senate [Taxes](#) convened for discussion on [S.F. 2374 \(Rest\)](#): Tax provisions modifications, the [2025 Governor's Tax Bill](#). See also: [Governor's Bill Summary](#) and [Revised Revenue Estimate](#), and testimony to the committee with concerns regarding the reduction in county aid for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) prevention from [Association of Minnesota Counties \(AMC\)](#), [Minnesota Inter-County Association \(MICA\)](#), and [Minnesota Rural Counties \(MRC\)](#) and the [Statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Advisory Committee](#), and concerns regarding the Governor's proposals to reduce the payments to landowners enrolled in the Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA) and a 34% reduction to PILT from [The Nature Conservancy](#) and [Itasca Woodland Services, Inc.](#)

At 10:15 AM, House [Taxes](#) discussed, among other bills: [HF1698](#) (Anderson, P.H.) - Property tax exemption allowed for certain leased land (see: [Revenue Estimate](#), [Handout](#) and [Photo Examples](#)), and [HF632](#) (Nadeau) - Property with conservation restrictions or easements allowed valuation reductions, and technical corrections made ([Research Summary](#), [Revenue Estimate](#), [House Research Summary](#), and [testimony](#)).

At 1:00 PM, House [Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy](#) met for a [DNR Budget Overview](#) and to hear [HF737](#) (Olson) Lead and cadmium in consumer products prohibitions modified. See: [House Research Summary](#) and [testimony](#) to the committee from Minnesota Retailers, National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA), the Marine Retailers of the Americas Association (MRAA), the Watersports Industry Association (WSIA), and other stakeholders.

At 3:00 PM, Senate [Capital Investment](#) met for various overviews: the committee heard from Minnesota Management & Budget regarding the [Revised Debt Capacity Report](#). The committee also heard from the [Department of Health & Minnesota Public Facilities Authority](#) for an [update](#) on lead service lines replacement program, and from Senate Counsel regarding [State-Issued Appropriation Bonds](#).

Also at 3:00 PM, Senate [Environment, Climate, and Legacy](#) convened to discuss a number Legacy appropriation bills and formally move [S.F. 2865 \(Hawi\)](#): Dedicated funding website maintenance appropriation, which will be the vehicle for the Legacy omnibus bill.

On Wednesday at 9:00 AM, Senate [Taxes](#) discussed a number of bills, including: [S.F. 1969 \(Hauschild\)](#): Exemption expansion for purchases by nonprofit snowmobile clubs. See: [Bill Summary](#) and [Fiscal Note](#).

At 10:15 AM, House [Legacy Finance](#) heard a number of arts and heritage bills.

At 12:30 PM, Senate [Judiciary and Public Safety](#) met to hear a number of bills, including: [S.F. 2530 \(Hauschild\)](#): Orderly and environmentally responsible development of the states gas resources facilitation provision and appropriation.

On Thursday at 1:00 PM, House [Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy](#) met for a [budget overview](#) for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (see: [MPCA Budget Fact Sheet](#)), and to discuss: [HF1587](#) (Stephenson) Cass County; funding provided to condemn certain land, land transfer for no consideration authorized, and money appropriated ([House Research Summary](#) and [Written Testimony](#) to the committee from MN Office of School Trust Lands); [HF2293](#) (Hollins) Commissioner of natural resources funding provided for grants under the environment and natural resources trust fund community grant program, and money appropriated ([House Research Summary](#) and [Written Testimony](#) from ENTRF Environment Coalition, Minnesota Environmental Partnership, and Environmental Initiative); [HF2218](#) (Falconer) Metropolitan Council funding provided for grants to implementing agencies to manage aquatic invasive species, and money appropriated ([Written Testimony](#) from Metropolitan Regional Parks and Trails System); [HF1208](#) (Fischer) Permitting efficiency provisions modified ([House Research Summary](#) and [Governor's Recommendations on Permitting Reform - Handout](#)); and [HF1482](#) (Hansen) Money appropriated from the environment and natural resources trust fund, and prior appropriations modified ([House Research Summary](#) and [Written Testimony](#) from ENRTF Environmental Groups Coalition).

At 3:00 PM, Senate [Environment, Climate, and Legacy](#) convened to discuss the [Legacy omnibus bill](#). See: [Spreadsheet](#), Clean Water Land & Legacy: Minnesota's Dedicated Conservation Funds [Handout](#), and testimony to the committee from: [OHF Coalition](#), [Environment Groups Coalition](#), [Minnesota Environmental Partnership](#), [Friends of the Mississippi River](#), Metropolitan Regional Parks and Trails [Handout](#), [Metropolitan Council](#), [Metropolitan Regional Parks and Trails](#), [White Earth](#), [Minnesota Association of Community Telecommunications Administrators](#), [Community Television Funding](#), [Minnesota Corn Growers Association](#), and [Metro Cities](#).

At 5:30 PM, Senate [State and Local Government](#) heard a number of bills, including: [S.F. 2530 \(Hauschild\)](#): Orderly and environmentally responsible development of the states gas resources facilitation provision and appropriation ([Bill Summary](#), [Iron Range Exploration Handout](#), and [Iron Range Exploration](#) letter of support); and [S.F. 1464 \(Pha\)](#): Minnesota Sustainable Foraging Task Force establishment (see testimony from: [Morels & Memories](#), [Minnesota Mycological Society](#), [Forager Chef](#), [Ironwood Foraging](#), [NATIFS](#), [The Sioux Chef](#), [Owamni](#), and [Four Season Foraging](#)).

Next Week at the Legislature:

The Legislature will not meet on Monday due to the Legislative break for Eid.

On Tuesday at 1:00 PM, House [Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy](#) will hear the following bills: [HF647](#) (Schultz) - Mt. Simon-Hinckley aquifer water appropriations authorized; [HF2824](#) (Nash) -

Continuous open season for taking largemouth and smallmouth bass provided; [HF1249](#) (Jacob) - State land added to Carley State Park (this will be the vehicle for the annual Lands Bill); [HF623](#) (Swedzinski) - Shotgun zone for taking deer eliminated; [HF820](#) (Skraba) - Chippewa Bands authorized to establish open seasons for big game in accordance with 1854 treaty, and money appropriated. More bills may be added.

At 1:00 PM, House [Energy Finance and Policy](#) will discuss: [HF2928](#) (Acomb) - Preapplication filings for large water appropriation projects required, permit application information for large water appropriation projects added, level of environmental review for data centers specified, data centers exempted from making financial contributions to an energy conservation and optimization plan, and other data center provisions modified; and [HF2297](#) (Myers) - Special license plate established for solar pollinator programs, and agrivoltaic solar sites made eligible for solar site management practices, among other bills.

At 3:00 PM, Senate [Environment, Climate, and Legacy](#) will convene to hear the following bills: [S.F. 2735](#) ([Seeberger](#)): Abandoned boats removal and disposal requirement provision; [S.F. 1569](#) ([Kupec](#)): Red River mediation agreement appropriation; [S.F. 0946](#) ([Dahms](#)): Floodplain management appropriation; [S.F. 2345](#) ([Hawj](#)): Various natural resources provisions modifications; [S.F. 2781](#) ([Hawj](#)): Certain environmental review reporting requirements modifications; [S.F. 2782](#) ([Hawj](#)): Environmental Quality Board obsolete provisions removal; and [S.F. 0514](#) ([Hoffman](#)): Animal feedlots definition provision.

On Wednesday at 10:15 AM, House [Legacy Finance](#) will convene to hear a number of arts and heritage funding bills.

At 1:00 PM, House [Agriculture Finance and Policy](#) will discuss a number of bills, including: [HF2667](#) (Nelson): Definition for restricted pesticide handler added, and restricted pesticide license requirements for handlers modified; [HF2683](#) (Anderson): Biofertilizer innovation and efficiency program established, rulemaking required, and money appropriated; [HF2446](#) (Anderson): Department of Agriculture, Board of Animal Health, and Agricultural Utilization Research Institute budget established; policy and technical changes made to agriculture provisions; fees modified and established; civil penalties provided; money transferred; and money appropriated; and [HF2916](#) (Smith): Southeast regional groundwater protection and soil health initiative funding provided, and money appropriated.

At 3:00 PM, Senate [Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development](#) will convene. Agenda TBD.

On Thursday at 3:00 PM, [Environment, Climate, and Legacy](#) will convene. Agenda: TBD

Bills Introductions of Interest:

Environment and Natural Resources:

Bipartisan Legislation:

Franson; Lee, F., and Frederick introduced: [H. F. 2844](#). A bill for an act relating to capital investment; authorizing spending to acquire and better public land and buildings and for other improvements of a capital nature with certain conditions; establishing new programs and modifying existing programs; authorizing the sale and issuance of state bonds; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 16A.501; 16B.97, subdivision 1; 16B.98, subdivision 1; 116.182, subdivision 5; 142A.46, subdivision 1; 446A.07, subdivision 8; 446A.072, subdivision 5a; 446A.073, subdivision 1; 446A.081, subdivision 9; Laws 2013, chapter 143, article 12, section 21; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 16B; 115B; 446A; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 16A.662; 116J.417, subdivision 9. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Capital Investment.

Pursell and Nelson introduced: [H. F. 2918](#). A bill for an act relating to natural resources; appropriating money to develop water availability atlas and siting methodology; requiring a report. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

DFL Legislation:

Senator Hoffman introduced--[S.F. No. 2870](#): A bill for an act relating to environment; appropriating money to complete a regional Mississippi overpass multi use trail bridge. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Senator Hauschild introduced--[S.F. No. 2926](#): A bill for an act relating to energy; appropriating money to evaluate the state's geologic hydrogen potential. Referred to the Committee on Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate.

Senator Hoffman introduced--[S.F. No. 2935](#): A bill for an act relating to environment; requiring public water supplies and publicly owned treatment works to annually report on water access policies; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 115. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Senator Seeberger introduced--[S.F. No. 2936](#): A bill for an act relating to agriculture; prohibiting the burning of pesticide containers; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 18B.07, subdivision 8. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development.

Senator Hauschild introduced--[S.F. No. 2955](#): A bill for an act relating to natural resources; requiring the commissioner of natural resources to renew a lease of certain state lands for maple syrup tapping; modifying terms in maple syrup lease and permits; requiring a report to determine methods for strengthening the maple syrup industry; appropriating money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 89. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Senator Hawj introduced--[S.F. No. 2961](#): A bill for an act relating to natural resources; appropriating money for emerald ash borer response and community tree-planting grants. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Senator Hawj introduced--[S.F. No. 2962](#): A bill for an act relating to natural resources; appropriating money for community tree-planting grants. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Senator Port introduced--[S.F. No. 2973](#): A bill for an act relating to environment; appropriating money for a wood upcycling campus. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Smith and Pursell introduced: [H. F. 2708](#). A bill for an act relating to agriculture; appropriating money for a southeast regional groundwater protection and soil health initiative. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture Finance and Policy.

Kozlowski and Johnson, P. introduced: [H. F. 2727](#). A bill for an act relating to environment; appropriating money to stabilize shoreline in St. Louis County. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Jordan introduced: [H. F. 2744](#). A bill for an act relating to state government; extending the due date for a St. Anthony Falls study; amending Laws 2023, chapter 62, article 1, section 47. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on State Government Finance and Policy.

Hansen, R.; Cha; Smith; Pursell; Jordan; Agbaje; Falconer; Lee, F.; Finke; Gottfried; Hollins and Hemmingsen-Jaeger introduced: [H. F. 2761](#). A bill for an act relating to agriculture; adding pesticides from treated seeds to the commissioner's pesticide management plan requirements; broadening pesticide management plan coordination to include local governments and public health agencies; adding pesticides from treated seeds and pesticide breakdown products to groundwater monitoring requirements; requiring action to prevent and monitor pesticide contamination of surface water and air quality; requiring labeling statements for certain pesticide-treated seed; establishing new program for systemic pesticide-treated seed; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 18B.045; 18B.10; 18D.40; 21.81, by adding a subdivision; 21.82, subdivision 3; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 18B; 21. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture Finance and Policy.

Hansen, R. introduced: [H. F. 2770](#). A bill for an act relating to agriculture; prohibiting the sale, use, or application of neonicotinoid pesticides; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 18B. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture Finance and Policy.

Hansen, R. and Lee, F. introduced: [H. F. 2778](#). A bill for an act relating to agriculture; transferring money to the agricultural research, education, extension, and technology transfer account. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture Finance and Policy.

Koegel, Long, Pursell and Kraft introduced: [H. F. 2847](#), A bill for an act relating to transportation; providing for a clean transportation standard; establishing statewide goals and annual standards; authorizing fees; providing certain civil enforcement authority; establishing penalties; directing implementation; authorizing rulemaking; providing for data practices; requiring a report; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 13.721, subdivision 1, by adding a subdivision; proposing coding for new law as Minnesota Statutes, chapter 174B. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Transportation Finance and Policy.

Pursell introduced: [H. F. 2852](#), A bill for an act relating to environment; requiring rulemaking to require environmental impact statement for large animal projects. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Rehm introduced: [H. F. 2857](#), A bill for an act relating to real property; prohibiting obstruction of public road that ends at a lake or stream; providing criminal penalties; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 103F. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Curran and Fischer introduced: [H. F. 2861](#), A bill for an act relating to natural resources; appropriating money for groundwater management areas and comprehensive planning. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Senator Champion introduced--[S.F. No. 2994](#): A bill for an act relating to state government; extending the due date for a St. Anthony Falls study; amending Laws 2023, chapter 62, article 1, section 47. Referred to the Committee on State and Local Government.

Senators McEwen and Lieske introduced--[S.F. No. 3015](#): A bill for an act relating to natural resources; appropriating money to develop water availability atlas and siting methodology; requiring a report. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Senator Boldon introduced--[S.F. No. 3046](#): A bill for an act relating to agriculture; appropriating money for a southeast regional groundwater protection and soil health initiative. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development.

Senator Pappas introduced--[S.F. No. 3056](#): A bill for an act relating to capital investment; authorizing spending to acquire and better public land and buildings and for other improvements of a capital nature with certain conditions; establishing new programs and modifying existing programs; authorizing the sale and issuance of state bonds; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 16A.501; 16B.97, subdivision 1; 16B.98, subdivision 1; 116.182, subdivision 5; 142A.46, subdivision 1; 446A.07, subdivision 8; 446A.072, subdivision 5a; 446A.073, subdivision 1; 446A.081, subdivision 9; Laws 2013, chapter 143, article 12, section 21; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 16B; 115B; 446A; repealing

Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 16A.662; 116J.417, subdivision 9. Referred to the Committee on Capital Investment.

Senators McEwen, Kunesh, Johnson Stewart, and Marty introduced--[S.F. No. 3083](#): A bill for an act relating to agriculture; adding pesticides from treated seeds to the commissioner's pesticide management plan requirements; broadening pesticide management plan coordination to include local governments and public health agencies; adding pesticides from treated seeds and pesticide breakdown products to groundwater monitoring requirements; requiring action to prevent and monitor pesticide contamination of surface water and air quality; requiring labeling statements for certain pesticide-treated seed; establishing new program for systemic pesticide-treated seed; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 18B.045; 18B.10; 18D.40; 21.81, by adding a subdivision; 21.82, subdivision 3; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 18B; 21. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development.

Senator McEwen introduced--[S.F. No. 3091](#): A bill for an act relating to agriculture; modifying agricultural waste handling regulations; requiring record retention of sewage sludge transfers; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 18C.111, subdivisions 2, 4, 5; 18C.135, subdivision 1, by adding a subdivision; 18C.201, subdivisions 1, 5; 18C.61. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development.

Senator Seeberger introduced--[S.F. No. 3099](#): A bill for an act relating to natural resources; appropriating money for groundwater management areas and comprehensive planning. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Smith introduced: [H. F. 2916](#), A bill for an act relating to agriculture; appropriating money for a southeast regional groundwater protection and soil health initiative. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture Finance and Policy.

Acomb introduced: [H. F. 2928](#), A bill for an act relating to energy; requiring preapplication filings for large water appropriation projects; adding information to permit applications for large water appropriation projects; specifying the level of environmental review for data centers; removing data centers' energy consumption from the calculation of a utility's energy savings goal; exempting data centers from making financial contributions to an energy conservation and optimization plan; depositing fee revenues in an account to be used for energy conservation; modifying the definition of large energy facility; establishing energy requirements for data centers; imposing a fee on data centers; requiring the Public Utilities Commission to establish a new tariff for data centers; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 103G.265, by adding a subdivision; 103G.271, by adding a subdivision; 116D.04, by adding a subdivision; 216B.2402, subdivision 10; 216B.241, subdivisions 1a, 2a; 216B.2421, subdivision 2; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 216B. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Energy Finance and Policy.

Republican Legislation:

Senators Lucero, Gruenhagen, Mathews, and Bahr introduced--[S.F. No. 2892](#): A bill for an act relating to solid waste; requiring product stewardship program for wind and solar infrastructure; providing for fee on retail sales of wind and solar infrastructure; establishing moratorium on disposal of wind and solar energy infrastructure in landfills; requiring a report; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 13.7411, subdivision 4; 115A.142; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 115A. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Senator Green introduced--[S.F. No. 2906](#): A bill for an act relating to natural resources; requiring employees of the Department of Natural Resources that serve the public to provide contact information when the usual means of contact are not available; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 84.083, by adding a subdivision. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Senator Mathews introduced--[S.F. No. 2953](#): A bill for an act relating to energy; abolishing prohibition on issuing certificate of need for new nuclear power plant; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 216B.243, subdivision 3b. Referred to the Committee on Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate.

Senator Green introduced--[S.F. No. 2969](#): A bill for an act relating to natural resources; requiring timely payment of timber refunds; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 90.201, by adding a subdivision. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Jacob introduced: [H. F. 2660](#), A bill for an act relating to taxation; local government aids; modifying the funding source and increasing the appropriation for soil and water conservation district aid; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 477A.23, subdivision 6. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Legacy Finance.

Nelson; Anderson, P. H., and Burkel introduced: [H. F. 2667](#), A bill for an act relating to agriculture; adding definition for restricted pesticide handler; modifying restricted pesticide license requirements for handlers; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 18B.01, subdivision 1d, by adding a subdivision; 18B.30. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture Finance and Policy.

Quam introduced: [H. F. 2670](#), A bill for an act relating to energy; abolishing prohibition on issuing certificate of need for new nuclear power plant; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 216B.243, subdivision 3b. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Energy Finance and Policy.

Anderson, P. H.; Burkel; Harder; Jacob and Nelson introduced: [H. F. 2683](#), A bill for an act relating to agriculture; establishing the biofertilizer innovation and efficiency program; requiring rulemaking; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 18C.005, by adding a subdivision; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 18C. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture Finance and Policy.

Hudson introduced: [H. F. 2806](#), A bill for an act relating to state government; prohibiting the State Board of Investment from investing in companies that boycott mining, energy production, production agriculture, or commercial lumber production; requiring the State Board of Investment to divest from companies that boycott mining, energy production, production agriculture, or commercial lumber production; prohibiting the state of Minnesota or any state agency from entering into contracts with companies that boycott mining, energy production, production agriculture, or commercial lumber production; prohibiting banks, credit unions, financial institutions, payment processors, savings and loan associations, and trust companies from discriminating against people based on certain subjective criteria; providing for civil penalties; requiring a report; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 11A; 16; 46. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on State Government Finance and Policy.

Senators Jasinski, Howe, and Lang introduced--[S.F. No. 3089](#): A bill for an act relating to public safety; establishing sunset for pipeline safety assessments; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 299A.55, subdivision 4. Referred to the Committee on Transportation.

Dippel introduced: [H. F. 2894](#), A bill for an act relating to natural resources; redesignating certain districts of the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area in St. Paul Park. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Schultz and Nelson introduced: [H. F. 2898](#). A bill for an act relating to agriculture; adding definition for restricted pesticide handler; modifying restricted pesticide license requirements for handlers; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 18B.01, subdivision 1d, by adding a subdivision; 18B.30. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture Finance and Policy.

Igo introduced: [H. F. 2934](#), A bill for an act relating to energy; appropriating money to evaluate the state's geologic hydrogen potential. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Energy Finance and Policy.

Game and Fish:

Bipartisan Legislation:

Skraba and Lillie introduced: [H. F. 2750](#). A bill for an act relating to capital investment; appropriating money for construction of a new National Loon Center in the city of Crosslake; authorizing the sale and issuance of state bonds. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Capital Investment.

Nash, Fischer, Lillie and Skraba introduced: [H. F. 2824](#). A bill for an act relating to game and fish; providing for a continuous open season for taking largemouth and smallmouth bass; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97C.395. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Senators Hoffman and Lang introduced--[S.F. No. 3031](#): A bill for an act relating to game and fish; providing for a continuous open season for taking largemouth and smallmouth bass; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97C.395. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Republican Legislation:

Jacob introduced: [H. F. 2661](#). A bill for an act relating to game and fish; allowing three-line fishing in Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97C.315, subdivision 1. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Myers introduced: [H. F. 2656](#). A bill for an act relating to motor vehicles; establishing ice fishing special license plates; appropriating money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 168. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Transportation Finance and Policy.

Nelson introduced: [H. F. 2897](#). A bill for an act relating to game and fish; providing for free angling, deer, and small game licenses to residents age 70 or over; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97A.441, by adding a subdivision. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Outdoor Recreation

Bipartisan Legislation:

Lillie, Vang and Dotseth introduced: [H. F. 2836](#). A bill for an act relating to legacy; appropriating money for youth water safety grant program. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Legacy Finance.

DFL Legislation:

Senator Pha introduced--[S.F. No. 3092](#): A bill for an act relating to legacy; appropriating money for youth water safety grant program. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Republican Legislation:

Robbins and Bliss introduced: [H. F. 2673](#). A bill for an act relating to natural resources; exempting disabled veterans from watercraft fees; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 86B.415, by adding a subdivision. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Skraba introduced: [H. F. 2678](#). A bill for an act relating to natural resources; allowing veterans with 100 percent service-connected disability to obtain a license for a fish house, dark house, or shelter without paying a fee; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97A.441, subdivision 5. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Senators Limmer, Howe, and Anderson introduced--[S.F. No. 2998](#): A bill for an act relating to natural resources; exempting disabled veterans from watercraft fees; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 86B.415, by adding a subdivision. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

Firearms:

Republican Legislation:

Novotny introduced: [H. F. 2796](#). A bill for an act proposing an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution; adding a section to article I; protecting the right of the people to keep and bear arms. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Public Safety Finance and Policy.

Hudson introduced: [H. F. 2805](#). A bill for an act relating to public safety; providing for the right to carry without a permit; providing for an optional permit to carry; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 624.714, subdivisions 2, 3, 7, 15, 20, 23, by adding subdivisions; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 624.714, subdivisions 1a, 1b, 16; 624.7181. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Public Safety Finance and Policy.

DFL Legislation:

Pinto introduced: [H. F. 2746](#). A bill for an act relating to public safety; requiring law enforcement agencies to trace and report on recovered or confiscated firearms; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 626. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Public Safety Finance and Policy.