

2026 Legislative Session MCPA Update

Week of February 17

Overview

The Minnesota Legislature convened the 2026 Legislative Session on February 17 at noon. Expectations for a highly productive session are tempered, given the compressed timeline, ongoing political gridlock, and the extraordinary series of tragedies that have affected the Capitol community since last June. With all 201 legislators and Minnesota's constitutional officers on the ballot this fall, the added pressures of an election year will further shape the tone and pace of the session. Partisan control in both chambers remains unchanged, though several new members have filled vacancies created by last summer's events. In the Senate, the Democratic-Farmer-Labor (DFL) Caucus retains a narrow 34-33 majority over Republicans. Two new senators have joined the chamber: Michael Holmstrom (R), elected following the passing of Bruce Anderson, and former State Representative Amanda Hemmingsen-Jaeger (DFL), who succeeded Nicole Mitchell after her resignation and subsequent burglary conviction.

The House begins the session evenly divided, with 67 DFL members and 67 Republicans. The DFL Caucus is now led by Representative Zack Stephenson, succeeding Melissa Hortman, who was tragically killed last summer along with her husband. Her absence marks the first legislative session in more than two decades without her leadership and it will be deeply felt across the Capitol. Representative XP Lee (DFL) was elected to fill her seat, and Shelley Buck (DFL) now represents the district previously held by Hemmingsen-Jaeger.

On the Republican side, House Speaker Lisa Demuth has announced a run for governor, as has Representative Kristin Robbins, creating an added layer of complexity within the House GOP Caucus. With the House, Senate, and governor's office all on the ballot in 2026, campaign considerations will inevitably intersect with legislative business.

Opening day was marked by remembrance and reflection, honoring the life and legacy of Speaker Emerita Hortman and her impact on Minnesota. The Senate also welcomed back John Hoffman following his recovery from an attempted assassination targeting him and his wife, Yvette, in a coordinated attack last June. In addition, senators paid tribute to the late Senator Bruce Anderson, recognizing his service to the state.

Committees of Interest

House Public Safety Committee

The House Public Safety Committee met for the first time on Wednesday where it took up three bills. The Republican Co-Chair Paul Novotny held the gavel.

[HF1567](#) (Duran) Personal information protections provided to public safety officers.

[HF2809](#) (Hudson) Crime of residential protesting established.

[HF3380](#) (Hudson) Requiring an aggravated durational departure for certain violent offenders who use a firearm; requiring certain sentences to be imposed consecutively to other sentences; requiring certain offenders to serve an entire announced sentence in prison.

[House File 1567](#), which would extend government data privacy protections currently afforded to judges and judicial officials to public safety officers, including police and correctional officers. The proposal would classify a broad range of personal information — such as contact details and home addresses — as “private data,” restrict how that information can be shared, and create mechanisms for officers to request its removal from public websites or record. HF2567 received testimony in support of the legislation from a myriad of law enforcement groups, including MCPA President and Richfield Chief, Jay Henthorne. The bill was passed out of the committee and is placed on the General Register to be taken up on the House floor for final passage.

Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee

On Friday, February 20 the committee held a multi-hour hearing on a set of bills largely aimed at responding to recent federal immigration enforcement actions in Minnesota. Democratic legislators focused on proposals to expand civil remedies and accountability for alleged civil rights violations by federal agents, including allowing Minnesotans to sue federal officials in state court and establish requirements for rendering aid after shootings. Other bills discussed would broaden state investigation authority in cases involving federal officers and limit when law enforcement can conceal identities. The measures drew debate over legal authority, civil liberties, and potential impacts on cooperation between state and federal law enforcement. All the bills were laid over for further committee discussion and consideration.

[SF3688](#) (Murphy) Civil action against a person for failure to render aid in certain circumstances authorization provision.

[SF3699](#) (Latz) Civil arrests prohibition for persons attending court proceedings.

[SF3660](#) (Latz) Bureau of Criminal Apprehension's Use of Force Investigations Unit to conduct investigations of incidents involving federal agents requirement.

[SF3628](#) (Champion) Cause of action for violations of civil rights under the color of law creation.

[SF3590](#) (Port) Circumstances when a person may conceal their identity in public modification and specific exceptions creation for law enforcement officers.

The Week Ahead

The following committee’s of interest have released agendas with legislation relevant to MCPA legislation priorities.

Monday

Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee

Agenda:

[SF0473](#) (Kunesh) Constitutional amendment to provide equal rights under the law and prohibiting discrimination based on a list of characteristics.

Tuesday

House Judiciary and Civil Law Committee

Agenda:

Overview of the State of Civil Rights in Minnesota: ACLU of Minnesota

[HF3414](#) (Long) Cause of action for violations of civil rights under color of law created, and state and local collaboration agreements with federal law enforcement agencies regulated.

[HF3477](#) (Long) Cause of action for violations of civil rights under color of law created, and state and local collaboration agreements with federal law enforcement agencies regulated.

[HF103](#) (Feist) Government entities prohibited from requesting or obtaining reverse-location information, uses of reverse-location data by various entities prohibited, and civil cause of action provided when data is obtained by a government entity.

HFXXX (Gomez) Acquisition and use of facial recognition technology by government entities prohibited. To be introduced.

House Public Safety Committee

Agenda:

[HF3433](#) (Greenman) Possession of semiautomatic military-style assault weapons banned, and criminal penalties provided.

[HF3402](#) (Tabke) Possession of large-capacity ammunition magazines banned.

[HF3412](#) (Finke) Circumstances when a person may conceal their identity in public modified and specific exceptions for law enforcement officers created.

[HF3405](#) (Moller) Bureau of Criminal Apprehension's Use of Force Investigations Unit required to conduct investigations of incidents involving federal agents.

[HF3404](#) (Klevorn) Criminal penalty for impersonating a peace officer increased, crime of impersonating a peace officer while possessing a firearm established, enhanced penalties established, persons presenting as peace officers required to fulfill duty to identify, and criminal penalties established.

Wednesday

Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee

Agenda: TBD

House Public Safety Committee

Agenda:

[HF2358](#) (Van Binsbergen) Coercion crime causing great bodily harm or death of victim enhanced criminal penalties imposed.

[HF3504](#) (Duran) Crime of physically assaulting a hospital or clinic security officer established.

[HF2169](#) (Schwartz) Unintentional murder in the second degree offense modified to include cases involving violation of protective orders issued in additional jurisdictions.

[HF3496](#) (Harder) Inmates required to complete restitution payments before being placed on supervision abatement status.

[HF3440](#) (Stier) Availability of funds appropriated for law enforcement use of force training extended.