

2026 Legislative Session MCPA Update

Week of March 23

Overview

This week the House and Senate met on their respective floors on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Bipartisan tensions continued during Thursday's House floor session where House Democrats brought motions to place bills that had failed in committee on the general register for a vote. All the motions failed in a tie, 67-67, along party lines. The bills brought by the DFL were on the following: limiting ICE access in schools, banning assault weapons, and banning high-capacity magazines.

In response the House GOP motioned to bring a bill to the floor related to age verification for online pornographic material and one on safe school funding. Both failed on a tie vote of 67-67.

The Legislature's 1st and 2nd deadline for policy legislation on Friday, March 26 at 5pm marks the closing of policy-only bills likelihood to move forward. The deadlines mark when policy bills will have had to make it through all the committees of jurisdiction in the House and Senate. Friday also marks the beginning of the Easter and Passover break for the Legislature until Tuesday, April 7th.

Committees of Interest

House Judiciary and Civil Law Committee

On Tuesday, the House Judiciary and Civil Law Committee heard [H.F. 962](#) (Novotny), prosecuting authority provided protection of accessed data, in relation to Brady Giglio material. The bill was amended, [DE4 amendment](#), to reflect stakeholder language specific to data from Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association, Law Enforcement Labor Services, Minnesota Sheriffs' Association, Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association, and the Minnesota County Attorney's Association. The bill was laid over as amended and still remains in the House Judiciary and Civil Law Committee.

On Wednesday, the Committee heard [H.F. 3658](#) (Frazier), that seeks to modify the processes for applying for, securing, and enforcing extreme risk protection orders (ERPO). The bill was amended with the [A3 amendment](#) that when an ERPO is ordered and a peace officer presents a respondent with a search warrant, the respondent must surrender all firearms in the respondent's possession to the peace officer immediately. The bill and amendment both received bipartisan support and passed out of the committee to go to the House floor.

House Public Safety Committee

On Tuesday the House Public Safety Committee heard [H.F. 4359](#) (Berg) that seeks to reenact the 2024 amendment to definition of trigger activator, the 2024 changes to crime of transferring a firearm to an ineligible person reenacted with amendments, and affirmative defense repealed for transfers of a firearm to an ineligible person by family or household members. The bill was amended with an author's amendment to update the date to July 1, 2026, but the bill failed to pass out of committee on a rollcall vote.

The original binary trigger activator bill had originally passed in 2024 as part of a large omnibus bill; however, that portion of the omnibus bill that passed into law was struck down this summer by a

Ramsey County District Court that argued the bill violated Minnesota’s constitutional single-subject rule. The case was brought forward by the Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus, and while Judge Castro struck down only the binary trigger ban, his opinion opens the door for further challenges to the 1,400-page bill that passed in 2024.

The following bills were also before the committee on Tuesday:

- [H.F. 3407](#) (Pinto) Sale and possession of ghost guns prohibited, 3D printing of guns limited to federally licensed firearms manufacturers, distribution of 3D printer firearm design files prohibited, firearm serial numbers required, public notice required, and limits on assembling firearms without license provided.
 - o Failed to pass out of committee on a rollcall vote.
- [H.F. 3356](#) (Huot) Removal of identifying equipment and insignia from emergency vehicles sold to the public required.
 - o Passed and referred to the Judiciary and Civil Law Committee.

The final bill discussed was [H.F. 3990](#) (Novotny), which served as a vehicle bill to amend the Public Safety Committee’s policy omnibus bill package into. A [DE Amendment](#) was offered with the policy package language ([policy package bill list](#)) and walked through for member questions and public testimony. The next day, the Committee adopted amendments to the omnibus policy bill package and voted the bill out of committee and sent it to the House floor. The Committee now waits to hear from legislative leadership as to if there will be financial targets for each committee, which will determine if they will continue to meet to hear finance bills.

Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee

On Friday, the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee made its way through many of the bills on the agenda with conversations of interest particular to the following two bills. The first being [S.F. 4703](#) (Latz), the Senate companion to the House bill that seeks to modify the processes for applying for, securing, and enforcing extreme risk protection orders (ERPO). The bill was amended with the [A4 author’s amendment](#) and the A1 amendment offered by Senator Holmstrom that creates an option for the owner to give firearm to a third party in addition to a law enforcement agency or a federal firearms licensee. The MCPA submitted a [letter of support](#) for the legislation, with note of support for the A4 amendment.

The committee discussion focused on due process, individual rights, and practical enforcement. Key concerns raised included extending firearm restrictions up to five years without a conviction, allowing individuals to petition on their own behalf, expanding law enforcement authority, and how broadly terms like “history” or “exigent circumstances” could be interpreted. Some senators worried the bill may weaken protections for gun owners, such as compensation for seized firearms and limits on searches, while others argue the changes improve efficiency and safety, leaving important judgments to the courts.

One of the last bills heard was [S.F. 4760](#) (Latz) that served as the public safety omnibus policy bill. A [delete-everything amendment](#) was adopted to insert the policy language that consisted of a number of individual bills that were primarily initiatives from the Dept. of Public Safety and Dept. of Corrections. The bill was passed to Senate floor.

The Week Ahead

The Legislature will be on their Easter/Passover break from Friday, March 27 until April 7th and no legislative action will take place until they return.