

## Legislative Update for the Week of April 13, 2026 (Week 9)

“What would Tom Lehman do?”

**Quote(s) the Week: “I have to go to Taxes, which is never a fun stop anyway.”**

**“We have two chiropractors on here, so it’s weird that the meteorologist is talking about this.”**

**Bill of the Week [HF 4938](#): prohibiting employers from requiring implantation of a microchip.**

### Upcoming Dates to Remember:

- Today, April 17, is the Third Deadline. This is the deadline that appropriations bills need to be passed out of their appropriations committees.
- Tuesday, April 28 at 7pm: Gov. Walz will give his final state of the state address before a joint convening of the legislature. You will be able to watch the [state of the state here](#).
- The Legislature must adjourn by May 18.
- Looking ahead to all things elections:
  - DFL/Republican conventions: May 29-31
  - Primary Election: August 11
  - Election Day 2026: November 3 (vote early begins Sept. 18)

### Legislative Overview:

One thing you will notice in next week’s schedule is there are far fewer committee hearings and many more bills being scheduled for the floor in the House and the Senate. The Senate Finance Committee (and maybe the House Ways & Means Committee depending on the Committee) is also taking up omnibus bills, which is the final step in the committee process for these bills before they can be heard on the floor. We can expect daily floor sessions with longer floor agendas from here on out! And bill introductions will start to trickle... I will note that taxes and capital investment (bonding) committees will still meet and put together their bills.

**Targets?** Usually by this point, lobbyists are all abuzz about something called budget targets. These are budget numbers that are worked out between caucus leaders and committee chairs in the House and Senate (usually separately but sometimes they work them out together) and they are based on the February Forecast. As a reminder, the February Forecast showed a \$3.7 billion budget surplus in the FY26-27 biennium and a nominal budget surplus of \$377 million in FY28-29. Each committee, based on the number given, would be told how much they have to spend

and wouldn't be able to go over that number or their bill would put the budget "out of balance." Constitutionally, the legislature cannot pass a budget is out of balance – I guess unlike the federal government (sadface).

This year, they're not doing that. So, in the Senate HHS Committee, for example, we didn't know how much that bill was going to have to spend until the spreadsheet was released - \$750 million btw (most of it going to HCMC and a new provider grant program). That number was reached between conversations with Chair Wiklund and Senate Majority Leader Murphy (and possibly Finance Chair Marty) as was discussed in committee when the bill was discussed.



The Senate HHS Bill passed to the Senate Finance Committee, which could take a hatchet to the bill and reduce spending or increase spending because there is no target agreement.

On the House side, it's a little more confusing because the House has been passing individual bills to the floor but *some* committees have been building omnibus supplemental budget bills. At the beginning of session, Republican committee chairs and leadership said there wouldn't be omnibus bills, but there are both policy and supplemental finance bills. And they don't necessarily line up with the senate.

We have a month left and there is a lot that we don't know what an otherwise standard process will be. Stay tuned?

**First meeting with Gov. Walz/Legislators on End of Sesh:** But! House leaders are reporting they had their first meeting with the Governor yesterday and that it...was...an "encouraging first meeting"! So, there's that. Here's the scoop on what they talked about:



- Conversations on a rescue plan for HCMC have been taking place between legislative leaders and the governor's office;
- Republicans want a potential school safety package to be for all schools, not only public schools;
- Thursday's meeting included a "wide ranging" discussion on DFL priorities; and
- discussion took place on aligning state policies with new Medicaid requirements in the Trump administration's HR 1.

Note: We'll see these negotiations through the end of session. Some will be good, some will be rocky. That they are talking is a good thing!

**Not All Omnibus Bills Pass:** A not so funny thing happened when trying to pass an omnibus bill... On Wednesday, the House Children and Families Committee met to put together an mini omnibus bill or a bill on childcare modernization – depending on which caucus you were talking to. Republican members didn't accept DFL amendments that were bills that had been laid over for possible inclusion in mini omnibus bill (the bill DFL members thought they were working on) because Republicans only wanted the bill to be about childcare modernization. DFL members didn't vote for the final bill because it didn't include amendments that dealt with issues like foster youth and child protection. GOP members said the plan all along was to only move the bill as a childcare modernization bill. DFL members said they were never told that. Like in every relationship communication is key. Here is an [article from the House](#). These issues will have to wait until next year.

**Despite progress with CMS, significant Medicaid cuts loom:** On Thursday, Assistant Commissioner and State Medicaid Director John Connolly issued a [news release saying](#) that a potential \$3.1 billion in Medicaid cuts could destabilize health care services and local economies across Minnesota. Despite the federal government's approval of the state's corrective action plan, \$3.1 billion in federal Medicaid funding is still at risk. A federal court ruling last week cleared the way for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to continue deferring \$260 million in quarterly reimbursements for Medicaid claims the state has already paid out. The \$260 million deferral is equal to the cost of providing health insurance for 35,000 children for an entire year. That amount of funding would also cover all pharmacy services for kids under 18 years of age for 12 months.

**Impeachment Fails:** Members of the House Rules Committee met Wednesday to consider whether to open impeachment investigations into Governor Tim Walz and Attorney General Keith Ellison. A [resolution brought](#) by House Freedom Caucus Members Ben Davis and Mike Wiener would have required the House Fraud Prevention Committee to conduct an investigation, hold hearings, produce a report, and issue articles of impeachment or other recommendations by May 1, 2026. The resolution, failed on a tie party-line vote.



**FUNdraising:** And there are plenty of articles and stories about fundraising numbers for the 2026 Election that were just released for the first quarter of 2026. Here's one from the [Minnesota Reformer](#). And one from the [Star Tribune](#). And one from [Alpha News](#). But for the top of our ticket in Minnesota, the Governor's race, I'll just say – because I don't think I've ever seen this – US Senator Amy Klobuchar, who is running for the DFL nomination for governor, raised 21 times the amount of money her Republican challengers raised. As of right now, I am unaware of another major DFL candidate entering the race to challenge Sen. Klobuchar. Republican House

Speaker Lisa Demuth, Army veteran and former healthcare CEO Kendall Qualls, and MyPillow CEO Mike Lindell are all running for the Republican nomination. Both the DFL and Republican conventions are May 29-31 with a primary election (if needed) on August 11.

## **HHS-related Highlights:**

Monday

- The House and Senate met in Session.
  - The Senate passed the following bills:
    - SF 3958 Clark - Disaster assistance contingency account reporting date modification. Passed 66-0.
    - HF 1410 Limmer - Local correctional officers provision in Peace Officers Discipline Procedures Act. Passed 66-0.
    - HF 3802 Frentz - Exemptions to the certificate of need requirement amended. Passed 67-0.
  - The House passed the following bills:
    - SF 2511 (O'Driscoll) authorizing various municipalities to issue liquor licenses
    - HF 3427 (Allen) modifying the application of residential mortgage loan fees and penalties in certain instances
    - HF 3479 clarifying right to postpone a mortgage sale
    - HF 4118 (Kotyza-Witthuhn) authorizing credit unions to obtain insurance from a credit union share insurance provider
    - HF 4241 (Freiberg) modifying certain selection procedures for the Hennepin County medical examiner
    - HF 3699 (Gottfried) adding requirements for state park license plate contests
- The Senate Human Services Committee heard SF 5042, the Supplemental Human Services Budget.
- The House Fraud Prevention Committee discussed the Governor's anti-fraud proposals. You can review [the powerpoint here](#).
- The House Ways and Means Committee heard Presentations on the economic impact of Operation Metro Surge. Here is a [summary of state data](#).
- The House Health Committee heard several bills, including:
  - HF 4801 (Nadeau) Provisions governing prior authorization of health care services modified, and managed care contracts under medical assistance modified.
  - HF 3756 (Backer) Definition for covered insulin provided for the insulin safety net program and manufacturer registration fee.

- HF 4860 (Backer) Operation of remote pickup sites from which patients may obtain drugs and devices dispensed by a managing pharmacy authorized, and rulemaking authorized.
- HF 4931 (Backer) Single dental administrator implementation delayed for the medical assistance program.
- HF 4289 (Backer) Parent allowed to request one free certified birth record per child.
- HF 4460 (Huot) Anesthesiologist assistant licensure established.
- HF 4712 (Schultz) Use of private residential pools for certified swimming classes authorized.

## Tuesday

- The Senate met in Session.
  - The Senate heard and passed:
    - SF 2511 (Klein) Omnibus Liquor Bill. Passed 56-10.
    - HF 3741 Modifying educational assistance for veterans children and spouses. Passed 66-0.
    - SF 3622 Minnesota Common Interest Ownership Act technical and conforming changes. Passed 67-0.
    - The Senate also confirmed Joseph Sullivan to a second term as Commissioner on the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.
- The Senate Health and Human Services Committee heard SF 2689 (Johnson Steward) Modifying provisions governing Medicaid fraud addition. The committee also heard two presentations:
  - Updates on Recent Work Regarding the Financial Stability of MN Hospitals and Systems: Jan Malcolm, Governor's Senior Advisor on Hospitals and Systems
  - [Continued Discussion](#) on the Financial Status of Hennepin County Medical Center
- The Senate Tax Committee heard SF 5052 (Rest) the [Governor's Supplemental Tax Bill](#).
- The Senate Labor Committee heard a presentation on two reports on union avoidance activity in Minnesota's nursing homes. Here is the [report](#) and the [presentation](#).
- The Senate Commerce Committee heard the Governor's Commerce Supplemental Budget proposal, [SF 5046 \(Klein\)](#).
  - The committee also walked through the delete-all amendment for SF 4365 (Klein), which is the Omnibus Commerce and [Consumer Protection Bill](#).
- The House Human Services Committee heard presentations on the Governor's [Human Services](#) and [Direct Care and Treatment Budget](#) proposals. [Public Testimony](#).
- The House Human Services Committee heard:

- HF4421 (Duran) County cost-share requirements for economically distressed counties modified, and opiate epidemic response fund appropriation modified. Passed to the Tax Committee.
- HF1937 (Reyer) Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly service delivery system implemented. Laid over.
- HF4675 (Nadeau) Human Services Systems Steering Committee established, reports required, and money appropriated. Laid over.
- HF4684 (Robbins) Nonemergency medical transportation providers require vehicles equipped with a global positions system and rear-facing camera, compile information for each trip, and retain recordings for two years. Laid over.
- The House Judiciary Committee heard HF 4428 (Nadeau): Community engagement requirements established for the medical assistance program.

### Wednesday

- The Senate met in session and passed:
  - SF 4339 (Hoffman) modifying certain requirements governing the excavation notice system, including to require electronic positive response. Passed 64-0.
  - HF 3718 (Kupec) Kupec Veterinary medicine and veterinary technology practice provisions modification. Passed 52-13.
  - SF 4455 (Drazkowski) modifying the port authority powers of the city of Lake City; changing the length of terms for appointees to the Red Wing Port Authority. Passed 65-0.
- The Senate Health and Human Services Committee released and walked through the Omnibus HHS Budget Bill, [SF 4612 \(Wiklund\)](#). [Spreadsheet](#). [Amendment Language](#). At this hearing the committee took testimony but did not amend the bill.
  - The committee also discussed the [HCMC and Provider Stabilization Bill](#) that got amended into SF 4612 during Thursday's hearing.
- The Senate Tax Committee heard SF 4968 (Rest) Hennepin County local sales tax authority provisions modifications and county health care facilities and ballpark authority grants for certain improvements provision. This would allow Hennepin County to use local sales and use tax it was given to build the Twins stadium to help HCMC and other health systems in Hennepin County. Here's a [summary of the bill](#). You can review the bill language and the list of [letters of support here](#).
- The Senate Human Services walked through the Omnibus Human Services Budget Bill, [SF 4476 \(Hoffman\)](#).
- The House Commerce Committee heard:
  - An informational hearing on HF 4881 (Koegel) Prescription Drug Affordability Advisory Council eliminated, non-depository financial institution provisions modified, health plan regulatory alignment provided, duties transferred, premium

security plan modified, appropriations reduced, and money appropriated (Governor's Commerce budget bill).

- HF 4223 (Elkins) the Commerce Finance and Policy Supplemental Budget Vehicle Bill.
- The House Human Services Committee heard HF 4338 (Schomacker) the Human Services Finance Bill dedicated to program integrity.
- The House Rules Committee took up [2026-R13A \(Niska\)](#) Resolution on Impeachment Investigations, which would have opened impeachment investigations into Gov. Walz and AG Ellison over fraud. The resolution did not pass on a tie vote of the committee.
- The Health Committee heard and passed HF 4466 (Bierman) the Health Supplemental Budget bill. The committee also heard HF 4401 (Reyer) Medical assistance reimbursement rates for dental services and critical access dental providers modified.

#### Thursday

- The House and Senate met in Session.
  - The Senate heard and passed:
    - HF 3544 (Kupec) Certain veterans or former members of the armed forces who have forfeited federal benefits made ineligible for state-funded benefits, services, or programs; and environmental hazards information and assistance program for veterans discontinued.. Passed 65-0.
    - HF 3479 (Pappas) Right to postpone a mortgage sale clarified.. Passed 65-0.
    - SF 3637 (Howe) Optometrists prescribing of certain window glaze materials authorization clarification provision. Passed 66-0.
  - The House did not take up any bills.
- The Senate Health and Human Services Committee heard and passed to Finance the Senate HHS Omnibus Supplemental Budget bill, SF 4612 (Wiklund).
- The Senate Commerce Committee heard and passed to Finance the Senate Commerce Omnibus Supplemental Budget bill, SF 4365 (Klein).
- The House Human Services Committee heard and passed to Ways and Means HF 4338 (Schomacker) Human services finance bill dedicated to program integrity.

#### Friday

Third Deadline! The day all finance bills need to be to the Senate Finance Committee or House Ways and Means Committee (or to the Senate or House Floor).

There are no House Committees meeting.

- The Senate Human Services Committee heard S.F. 4476 (Hoffman) Parties who may be awarded fees and expenses modification in certain proceedings involving the state. This is the Omnibus Human Services Finance Bill.

## Schedule for the Week of April 20 (as of 4/17/26):

Note: hearings can be watched virtually. Visit [MNHouseInfo](#) for House Hearings and [MNSenateMedia](#) for Senate Hearings.

Monday

10:15am House Ways & Means (Capitol 120)

- SF856 (Norris) Office of the Inspector General created, advisory committee created, conforming and technical changes made, interagency agreements provided, reports required, and money appropriated.

11:00am Senate Floor Session

- [SF 4561](#)--Putnam: Omnibus Agriculture policy bill
- [SF 4555](#)--Xiong: Omnibus State and Local Government policy bill
- [SF 4171](#)--Port: Vacating tenants submetered utility service final billing provision and payment of rent by tenants provisions modifications
- [SF 1943](#)--Dibble: Pet shops prohibition from selling cats and dogs
- [HF 3437](#)--Duckworth: Investment loans exception provision; Debt service coverage ratio loan definition
- [HF 4241](#)--Johnson Stewart: Procedure to select the Hennepin County medical examiner modification

1:00pm House Floor Session – there are 18 bills on the calendar, including:

- [H. F. No. 3453](#), (Hanson, J) establishing the legal age to possess kratom as 21 years of age or older
- [H. F. No. 4467](#), (Bierman) modifying provider disenrollment, premium payment requirements, and physician-directed clinic staff services coverage; modifying enrollment for the county-administered rural medical assistance program; recodifying certain language; requiring a report
- [H. F. No. 3769](#), (Curran) clarifying in law the multiple levels of substance abuse care provided by the commissioner of corrections; expanding access to mental health unit beds for incarcerated persons; clarifying mandatory tuberculosis screening in correctional facilities
- [H. F. No. 4425](#), (Myers) increasing the statute of limitations for crimes involving medical assistance fraud or other theft of money belonging to the government
- Here is the full [Calendar for the Day](#).

2:30pm Advisory Committee on Capitol Security (123 Capitol)

- Updates from the Department of Public Safety and the House and Senate Sergeants.

Tuesday

11:00am Senate Floor Session

- [SF 4760](#)--Latz: Omnibus Public Safety policy bill
- [SF 4282](#)--Kunesh: Prekindergarten through grade 12 education programs forecast adjustments
- [SF 2691](#)--Boldon: Standards for rent and utility payments, fees, and charges provision in manufactured home parks
- [HF 4118](#)--Frentz: Credit unions authorization to obtain insurance from a credit union share insurance provider
- [HF 3699](#)--Hauschild: State park license plate contest requirements provision
- [SF 3888](#)--Jasinski: Tow trucks permission to use variable message signs

Wednesday

11:00am Senate Floor Session

- [SF 4807](#) Putnam: Omnibus Veterans policy and appropriations (*pending committee passage*)
- [SF 3295](#)--Wiklund: Omnibus Health and Human Services policy bill
- [SF 4446](#)--Hawj: Soil and water conservation provisions modification
- [SF 4390](#)--Rasmusson: Supplemental health insurance product establishment to cover short-term home health and nursing care
- [SF 2971](#)--Dibble: Kayla's HOPE Act establishment

Thursday

8:30am Senate Finance Committee (1200 MSB)

- SF 4612 (Wiklund) Certain reporting requirement elimination (Health and Human Services Omnibus)

11:00am Senate Floor Session

- [HF 3593](#)--Drazkowski: Portion of marked Trunk Highway 58 in Zumbrota designation as "Officer/ Firefighter Gary L. Schroeder, Jr. Memorial Highway" (*pending House passage*)
- [HF 3453](#)--Mann: Kratom possession legal age establishment as 21 years of age or older (*pending House passage*)
- [SF 4223](#)--Westlin: Omnibus Elections policy provisions
- [SF 476](#)--Hoffman: Omnibus Human Services policy bill

Friday

9:00am Senate Finance Committee (1200 MSB)

- SF 4365 (Klein) Omnibus Commerce Bill

## **Bill Introductions**



### **HOUSE**

Bahner, Perryman and Baker introduced:

[H. F. 4966](#), A bill for an act relating to health occupations; modifying ratios of pharmacy technicians to pharmacists; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 151.102, subdivision 1; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 151.102, subdivision 2.

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Health Finance and Policy.

Bierman introduced:

[H. F. 4968](#), A bill for an act relating to health; making health policy changes to all-payer claims data provisions, newborn screening program, health professional loan forgiveness program, rural residency training program, and international medical graduates assistance program; setting fees; appropriating money;

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Rules and Legislative Administration.

**Bierman introduced:**

[H. F. 4969](#), A bill for an act relating to human services; modifying human services provisions on aging and health care, behavioral health, housing, licensing and program integrity, mental health licensing, background studies, and forecasted program appropriations adjustments; requiring reports; appropriating money

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Rules and Legislative Administration.

Novotny and Witte introduced:

[H. F. 4988](#), A bill for an act relating to retirement; continued health insurance coverage for peace officers and firefighters disabled in the line of duty; modifying eligibility to receive continued

health insurance coverage for which the employer must pay the employer contribution; amending Minnesota Statutes 2025 Supplement, section 299A.465, subdivision 1.

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on State Government Finance and Policy.

McDonald introduced:

[H. F. 4992](#), A bill for an act relating to insurance; requiring health carriers to offer reference-based pricing health plans; prohibiting open-ended promise-to-pay contracts; establishing a provider number framework; authorizing rulemaking; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 62J.81, by adding a subdivision; 62J.826, subdivision 1, by adding subdivisions; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 62J; 62K.

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Commerce Finance and Policy.

## **SENATE**

**Senator Abeler introduced--**

[S.F. No. 5071](#): A bill for an act relating to health; creating an exception to assisted living facility minimum site, physical environment, and fire safety requirements for a facility in Hennepin County; amending Minnesota Statutes 2025 Supplement, section 144G.45, subdivision 8.

Referred to the Committee on Human Services.

**Senator Utke introduced--**

[S.F. No. 5103](#): A bill for an act relating to insurance; prohibiting contractual provisions between hospitals and health plan companies; defining terms relating to provider contracting agreements; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 62Q.

Referred to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.

**Senator Boldon introduced--**

[S.F. No. 5109](#): A bill for an act relating to health; requiring health impact assessments to be conducted in certain circumstances to assess the impact of proposed projects on human health; assigning duties to the commissioner of health; authorizing rulemaking by the Environmental Quality Board; appropriating money.

Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services.

**Senators Rasmusson and Weber introduced--**

[S.F. No. 5140](#): A bill for an act relating to health occupations; authorizing the operation of remote pickup sites from which patients may obtain drugs and devices dispensed by a managing

pharmacy; authorizing rulemaking; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 151.19, subdivision 1; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 151.

Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services.

**Senators Coleman, Hemmingsen-Jaeger, and Housley introduced--**

**S.F. No. 5142:** A bill for an act relating to health insurance; requiring coverage of medical services and prescription medications for the treatment of dementia; modifying step therapy requirements for medical assistance; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 256B.0625, subdivision 13f; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 62Q.

Referred to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.

**Senator Wiklund introduced--**

**S.F. No. 5162:** A bill for an act relating to commerce; eliminating the Prescription Drug Affordability Advisory Council; modifying various provisions governing nondepository financial institutions; providing for health plan regulatory alignment; transferring duties and employees; modifying the premium security plan; appropriating money and making reductions; requiring reports;

Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services.

**Senator Gruenhagen introduced--**

**S.F. No. 5167:** A bill for an act relating to health; repealing prohibition on conversion therapy with minors and vulnerable adults.

Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services.

**Senators Maye Quade and Duckworth introduced--**

**S.F. No. 5170:** A bill for an act relating to health; appropriating money for a grant to study lead exposure in Dakota County.

Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services.

## **Minnesota: The first four.**

For my birthday (still accepting birthday presents...) I saw the Tony award-winning musical SUFFS at the Orpheum (would highly recommend) about women's suffrage in the United States.

Did you know that *just* 9 days after the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment became law, women in South St. Paul were the first in the nation to vote? They did so in a special election on a water bond referendum! Marguerite Newburgh is cited as the first woman to cast a ballot in South St Paul. In Minnesota. In the nation.

Legislatively, let's look at the first four women to serve in the Minnesota Legislature (elected in 1922). Taking office in 1923 were Mabeth Hurd Paige, Hannah Kempfer, Sue Metzger Dickey Hough, and Myrtle Cain.



**Mabeth Hurd Paige** was a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives Conservative Caucus from 1923 to 1945. She represented downtown and part of north Minneapolis and served as chair of the public welfare and social legislation committee. She passed bills that shortened the work week for girls and women who worked 10-13 hours per day seven days a week. She was a former art teacher, having studied at the Académie Julian in Paris, and graduated from the UMN Law School.

**Hannah Kempfer** is the first woman elected to the Minnesota Legislature (Independent) from Greater Minnesota and represented Otter Tail County. She was born on a ship in the North Sea and was adopted by Norwegian immigrants. She was a rural schoolteacher. She championed conservation and introduced legislation to protect Minnesota's state flower, the Lady Slipper. She served two separate times, from 1923 to 1930 and from 1933 to 1942.



**Sue Metzger Hough** served one term from Minneapolis as a member of the Conservative Caucus. A lawyer, she was an advocate for crime and tax reduction. Her great-grandfather was President John Quincy Adams, and her great-great grandfather was President and US Founding Father John Adams.

**Myrtle Cain** served one term from Minneapolis as a member of the Liberal Caucus. She was the President of the Women's Trades Union of Minneapolis when she was elected. She introduced the first equal rights for women amendment bill in 1923. After her legislative service, she was a state fire marshal, an aide to Mayor Hubert Humphrey, and legislative staff to Congressman Roy Weir and United States Senator Eugene McCarthy.

