

MINNESOTA AFL-CIO 2014 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



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INTRODUCTION



This Legislative Report includes:

Tables showing key 2014 votes: Grids showing whether legislators supported or opposed working families with their votes. The numbered columns in the tables correspond to the numbered votes for the appropriate legislative body. Vote description page references are also included on the grids to more easily find the corresponding vote description. (pgs. 5-9)

Descriptions of key votes: Numbered explanations of votes taken in the Senate and the House that include the action voted on (motion, amendment, passage, etc.), together with the Minnesota AFL-CIO's position, the vote outcome and vote totals. (pgs. 10-17)

Definition of right and wrong votes: A legislator's vote is recorded as "Right" (R), supporting the Minnesota AFL-CIO position, or "Wrong" (W), opposing the Minnesota AFL-CIO position. If the legislator was absent or did not vote, "Not Voting" (NV) is recorded.

Lifetime Voting Records: The Minnesota AFL-CIO Lifetime Voting Records of current members of the House and Senate are included on the House and Senate grids in the far right column. Only actual "R" or "W" are counted in calculating the percentage.

Notes on how votes are selected: Votes have been selected for their accuracy as a gauge of legislators' views. For this reason, unanimous or wide-margin votes are avoided, unless there are no other significant votes available on an important issue. These votes frequently reveal a legislator's true position on an issue more clearly than lopsided votes on a bill's passage.

Sources: Information sources used to compile this record include the journals of the Minnesota House and Senate, the text of bills, the publications *Session Weekly* and *Session Briefly*, and affiliate websites. The Minnesota AFL-CIO is solely responsible for compiling and publishing this voting record. Questions or comments may be directed to the Minnesota AFL-CIO Legislative Director, Jennifer Schaubach, at 651-227-7647 or 1-800-652-9004.



MINNESOTA AFL-CIO 2014 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



WAGES

INCREASING THE MINIMUM WAGE

- Incrementally raise the minimum wage to at least \$8.50 for small business, at least \$9.50 for large business, and index it to inflation,
- Conform state overtime thresholds with existing standards under federal law,
- Conform to federal 12 week parental leave standards,
- Conform to federal definition of large and small business,
- Prohibit employers from taking credit card fees out of servers' tips, and
- Preserve Minnesota's prohibition on the tip penalty.

CREATING JOBS

BONDING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

While Minnesota's economy is improving, many sectors of our economy are still lagging, particularly construction. When someone is unemployed or underemployed they, their families, and communities suffer. Workers in the building trades and manufacturing saw massive long-term unemployment and underemployment for several years.

Well-built and maintained infrastructure is critical to the long-term success of Minnesota. Affordable housing is also considered a core component of our public infrastructure, and construction and preservation of that infrastructure should also be financed, in part, through bonding. Buy America provisions should also be included to ensure that our infrastructure projects are built with American-made products. Enacting these key policies will bring everyone along in the economic recovery.

The Minnesota AFL-CIO supports passages of a significant bonding and infrastructure bill in the 2014 legislative session. A bonding bill of \$1 billion, including \$100 million for affordable housing, will create 28,000 jobs with 7,000-8,000 direct construction jobs.

TRANSPORTATION

Minnesota's current transportation system adversely affects our economic competitiveness and quality of life. Our state's population and job growth is outpacing our current infrastructure, making it harder to move people, goods and services to their next destination.

We must plan now for this expected growth to create job and efficiently move commerce and people. Businesses need a reliable, efficient transportation and expanding exports and trade with other countries requires updating our infrastructure.

The Minnesota AFL-CIO supports the passage of a comprehensive transportation funding package in the 2014 legislative session that will generate new economic development opportunities throughout the state, help Minnesota retain and attract a talented workforce, create immediate jobs, and keep Minnesota economically competitive.



EDUCATION

- Pass the Safe & Supportive Minnesota Schools Act
- Pass the Health Insurance Transparency & Accountability bill, increasing competition in school employee health care
- Pass legislation to limit caseloads and reduce district-mandated special education paperwork
- Pass the Site-based Professional Development bill, mandating 50 percent of professional development dollars be allocated to sites

BUDGET

The Minnesota AFL-CIO supports preserving tax policies enacted last session that balanced the budget and made our tax system fairer. Legislators should act cautiously in the 2014 legislative session and keep revenues strong to improve our economy and continue to make Minnesota a better place to live and work for years to come.

The Minnesota AFL-CIO, its affiliates, and community and faith partners, will be working together to make sure progressivity and adequacy of revenues remain a goal in tax decisions. Cutting taxes now risks our ability to fund our priorities, is an ineffective way to grow the state's economy, and will make the next economic downturn even harder to recover from.

RESTORING DIGNITY IN THE WORKPLACE

Worker Protections

- Women's Economic Security Act
- Labor Peace legislation
- Increase penalties for wage theft
- Responsible contracting
- Credit privacy in employment act
- Protect against any attempts to lower – or “recalculate” – prevailing wage in Minnesota
- Call center consumer and worker protections

Other Union Priorities Supported by the Minnesota AFL-CIO

- 5% increase in rates to community-based services for people with disabilities and older adults (5% Campaign)
- Payday lending reform
- Creation of a cancer surveillance system
- Legalize medical cannabis
- Restoration of voting rights



SENATE	DISTRICT	2014 Voting Percentage	KEY TO SYMBOLS:																	Lifetime Voting Percentage '14	
			(R) Voted with the MN AFL-CIO position (W) Voted against the MN AFL-CIO position (NV) Absent or Not Voting																		
			Vote description page reference:																		
			pg. 10			pg. 11	pg. 10	pg. 12		pg. 13	pg. 14	pg. 12	pg. 14	pg. 16	pg. 15	pg. 16	pg. 15	pg. 11	pg. 15		pg. 15
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19			
Anderson, Bruce (R)	29	5%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	7%
Bakk, Thomas (DFL)	03	94%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	NV	R	R	97%
Benson, Michelle (R)	31	5%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	4%
Bonoff, Terri (DFL)	44	89%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	83%
Brown, Dave (R)	15	21%	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	R	W	R	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	7%
Carlson, Jim (DFL)	51	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	99%
Chamberlain, Roger (R)	38	5%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	4%
Champion, Bobby Joe (DFL)	59	100%	R	R	R	R	R	NV	NV	R	R	NV	R	R	R	NV	R	R	R	R	96%
Clausen, Greg (DFL)	57	100%	R	R	R	NV	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	97%
Cohen, Richard (DFL)	64	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	NV	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	91%
Dahle, Kevin (DFL)	20	100%	R	R	R	NV	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	99%
Dahms, Gary (R)	16	26%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	R	R	W	R	R	W	W	16%
Dibble, D. Scott (DFL)	61	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	97%
Dziedzic, Kari (DFL)	60	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	93%
Eaton, Chris (DFL)	40	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	96%
Eken, Kent (DFL)	04	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	95%
Fischbach, Michelle (R)	13	40%	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	R	W	W	R	R	R	NV	NV	NV	NV	30%
Franzen, Melisa (DFL)	49	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	NV	R	NV	R	R	R	R	87%
Gazelka, Paul (R)	09	16%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	R	R	W	W	W	W	W	5%
Goodwin, Barb (DFL)	41	93%	R	R	R	W	R	R	NV	R	R	NV	R	R	NV	NV	R	R	R	R	99%
Hall, Dan (R)	56	11%	W	W	W	W	W	W	NV	W	R	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	5%
Hann, David (R)	48	11%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	9%
Hawj, Foug (DFL)	67	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
Hayden, Jeff (DFL)	62	100%	R	R	R	NV	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	NV	R	R	R	R	96%
Hoffman, John (DFL)	36	94%	R	R	R	R	R	NV	R	R	NV	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	100%
Housley, Karin (R)	39	31%	W	W	W	W	NV	W	W	W	R	W	W	R	R	R	R	W	W	NV	23%
Ingebrigtsen, Bill (R)	08	28%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	R	R	W	R	R	W	W	18%
Jensen, Vicki (DFL)	24	94%	R	R	W	R	R	R	NV	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	91%
Johnson, Alice (DFL)	37	100%	R	R	R	NV	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	NV	NV	NV	NV	R	96%
Kent, Susan (DFL)	53	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	94%
Kiffmeyer, Mary (R)	30	25%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	R	W	R	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	10%
Koenen, Lyle (DFL)	17	89%	R	W	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	NV	R	R	R	R	R	R	95%
Latz, Ron (DFL)	46	89%	R	R	R	R	R	R	NV	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	W	R	R	92%
Limmer, Warren (R)	34	13%	W	W	W	W	W	NV	NV	W	R	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	NV	NV	21%
Lourey, Tony (DFL)	11	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	NV	R	R	99%
Marty, John (DFL)	66	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	NV	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	91%
Metzen, Jim (DFL)	52	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	90%
Miller, Jeremy (R)	28	75%	R	W	W	R	R	R	W	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	NV	NV	NV	30%
Nelson, Carla (R)	26	56%	W	W	W	NV	R	R	W	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	W	W	W	26%
Newman, Scott (R)	18	22%	W	W	W	W	W	W	NV	W	R	R	W	R	R	W	W	W	W	W	10%
Nienow, Sean (R)	32	17%	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	R	NV	W	W	W	W	12%
Ortman, Julianne (R)	47	6%	NV	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	9%
Osmek, David (R)	33	5%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	6%
Pappas, Sandra (DFL)	65	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	94%
Pederson, John (R)	14	42%	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	R	R	W	R	R	W	R	R	W	W	25%
Petersen, Branden (R)	35	22%	W	W	W	W	R	W	R	W	R	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	NV	16%
Pratt, Eric (R)	55	21%	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	R	W	W	R	W	W	W	19%
Reinert, Roger (DFL)	07	100%	R	R	R	R	R	NV	R	R	R	R	R	NV	R	R	R	R	R	R	99%

HOUSE	DISTRICT	2014 Voting Percentage	KEY TO SYMBOLS: (R) Voted with the MN AFL-CIO position (W) Voted against the MN AFL-CIO position (NV) Absent or Not Voting																			Lifetime Voting Percentage '14
			Vote description page reference:																			
			pg. 10				pg. 11		pg. 12			pg. 13	pg. 14		pg. 15				pg. 16			
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
Persell, John (DFL)	05A	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	
Petersburg, John (R)	24A	32%	W	W	R	W	W	W	R	W	R	R	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	23%	
Poppe, Jeanne (DFL)	27B	89%	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	95%	
Pugh, Cindy (R)	33B	6%	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	NV	W	W	W	W	W	3%	
Quam, Duane (R)	25A	5%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	1%	
Radinovich, Joe (DFL)	10B	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	
Rosenthal, Paul (DFL)	49B	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	91%	
Runbeck, Linda (R)	38A	22%	W	W	R	W	W	W	R	W	W	R	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	NV	17%	
Sanders, Tim (R)	37B	26%	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	R	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	14%	
Savick, Shannon (DFL)	27A	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	
Sawatzky, Mary (DFL)	17B	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	94%	
Schoen, Dan (DFL)	54A	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	
Schomacker, Joe (R)	22A	26%	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	R	W	R	11%	
Scott, Peggy (R)	35B	6%	W	W	R	W	W	W	NV	NV	NV	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	3%	
Selcer, Yvonne (DFL)	48A	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	91%	
Simon, Steve (DFL)	46B	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	98%	
Simonson, Erik (DFL)	07B	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	
Slocum, Linda (DFL)	50A	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	98%	
Sundin, Mike (DFL)	11A	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	
Swedzinski, Chris (R)	16A	26%	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	R	R	W	R	W	11%	
Thissen, Paul (DFL)	61B	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	98%	
Theis, Tama (R)	14A	37%	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	R	W	W	R	W	R	R	W	W	13%	
Torkelson, Paul (R)	16B	5%	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	9%	
Uglem, Mark (R)	36A	53%	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	R	R	W	R	W	R	R	R	W	41%	
Urdahl, Dean (R)	18A	65%	R	W	R	W	W	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	NV	NV	26%	
Wagenius, Jean (DFL)	63B	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	93%	
Ward, JoAnn (DFL)	53A	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	
Ward, John (DFL)	10A	100%	R	R	R	R	R	NV	R	R	R	R	NV	NV	R	R	R	R	R	R	99%	
Wills, Anna (R)	57B	16%	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	6%	
Winkler, Ryan (DFL)	46A	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	98%	
Woodard, Kelby (R)	20A	0%	W	NV	NV	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	5%	
Yarusso, Barb (DFL)	42A	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%	
Zellers, Kurt (R)	34B	19%	NV	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	NV	R	W	W	W	NV	W	7%	
Zerwas, Nick (R)	30A	17%	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	NV	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	7%	

HOUSE & SENATE BILL VOTES & DESCRIPTIONS

House vote # 1 /Senate vote # 1

SF 1952 (*Sen. Jim Metzen, D-South St. Paul/Rep. Leon Lille, D-North St. Paul*) - This bill ratified state employees' collective bargaining agreements for 2013-2015.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: SUPPORT

Correct vote: Yea

House vote: 84 Yea – 48 Nay (*House journal pgs. 7573-74; 3/24/14*)

Senate vote: 43 Yea – 22 Nay (*Senate journal pgs. 6084-85; 3/10/14*)

House vote # 2 /Senate vote # 2

HF 826 (Rep. Jim Davnie, D-Minneapolis/Sen. Scott Dibble, D-Minneapolis) - This bill sets forth clear definitions of bullying and intimidation with enumerated protections for students who are likely to be bullied or harassed because of their actual or perceived race, color, creed, religion, disability, sex, age, national origin, immigration status, marital status, family status, socioeconomic status, status with regard to public assistance, academic status, physical appearance, sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression. It also requires training and resources for students, staff, and school volunteers on bullying prevention and intervention.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: SUPPORT

Correct vote: Yea

House vote: 69 Yea – 63 Nay (*House journal pgs. 9673-74; 4/8/14*)

Senate vote: 36 Yea – 31 Nay (*Senate journal pg. 7385; 4/3/14*)

House vote # 3 /Senate vote # 5

HF 2096 (Rep. Steve Simon, D-Hopkins/Sen. Katie Sieben, D-Newport) - This bill authorizes a state online voter registration system and allows for absentee ballots through the secretary of state's website. Minnesota now officially joins about half of the states offering online registration, making it easier, cheaper, and more reliable than filling out paper applications. The legislation also ensures that the web-based online registration system is legal and secure.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: SUPPORT

Correct vote: Yea

House vote: 129 Yea – 2 Nay (*House journal pgs. 9748-49; 4/9/14*)

Senate vote: 39 Yea – 28 Nay (*Senate journal pgs. 3412-3414; 4/29/14*)

House vote # 4 /Senate vote # 3

HF 2091 (Rep. Ryan Winkler, D-Golden Valley/Sen. Jeff Hayden, D-Minneapolis) - This bill increased the state's minimum wage and allows for future yearly increases as follows:

- Large employer - \$8.00 (2014); \$9.00 (2015); \$9.50 (2016);
- Small employer - \$6.50 (2014); \$7.25 (2015); \$7.75 (2016);
- J-1 Visa - \$7.25 (2014); \$7.50 (2015); \$7.75 (2016);
- Under 18 - \$6.50 (2014); \$7.25 (2015); \$7.75 (2016);



House vote # 4 /Senate vote # 3 (continued)

- o Annual inflationary increases beginning in January 2018 based on implicit price deflator for the 12-month period preceding the preceding August by the lesser of 2.5 percent rounded to the nearest cent or the percentage calculated by the commissioner rounded to the nearest cent;
- o Commissioner is given authority to issue an order no later than September 30 of each year that an increase not take effect based on economic indicators of a potential downturn, but is allowed to supplement future increases until the full amount of the increase ordered not to take effect is made up.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: SUPPORT

Correct vote: Yea

House vote: 71 Yea – 60 Nay (*House journal pg. 9768; 4/10/14*)

Senate vote: 35 Yea – 31 Nay (*Senate journal pgs. 8015-16; 4/9/14*)

House vote # 5 /Senate vote # 16

HF 2293 (Rep. Joe Atkins, D-Inver Grove Heights/Sen. Jeff Hayden, D-Minneapolis) – This legislation, designed to restrict the payday loan industry, fell short of final approval before an agreement between the Senate and the House could be reached.

The House bill detailed requirements that short-term consumer lenders must comply with. They included determining that the borrower had a reasonable ability to repay the loan, limited the borrower to no more than four short-term loans within a 12-month period, limited a borrower's short-term loan debt to no more than 90 days, verified the borrower's number of short-term loans and the number of days the borrower is indebted for those loans, and in general compliance with Minnesota and federal laws that regulate short-term consumer loans.

The Senate bill only limited borrowers to 10 per year and also required lenders to check whether the borrower was overextended. If so, it capped the annual percentage rate at 36%.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: SUPPORT

Correct vote: Yea

House vote: 73 Yea – 58 Nay (*House journal pg. 9874; 5/16/14*)

Senate vote: 37 Yea – 25 Nay (*Senate journal pg. 9902; 5/16/14*)

House vote # 6 /Senate vote # 4

HF 3014 (Rep. Lyndon Carlson, D-Crystal/Sen. Sandy Pappas, D-St. Paul) – This legislation creates a Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) to hear unfair labor practice charges under the Public Employment Labor Relations Act (PELRA) and unfair labor practice charges involving charitable hospitals. Many of these charges currently are heard in district court.

Unfair labor practices relating to elections of an exclusive representative currently are considered by the Commissioner of Mediation Services. PERB has authority to review the commissioner's determinations on these issues. The bill also provides that public employees have the right to engage in concerted activity for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: SUPPORT

Correct vote: Yea

House vote: 74 Yea – 59 Nay (*House journal pg. 10075; 5/5/14*)

Senate vote: 35 Yea – 26 Nay (*Senate journal pg. 8484; 4/28/14*)



House vote # 7 /Senate vote # 7

HF 2313 (Rep. Ryan Winkler, D-Golden Valley/Sen. John Hoffman, D-Champlin) – This legislation updated the definition of a confidential employee from an employee who “has access” to an employee who “has authorized access” to labor relations information. This new language should prevent employees who, through no fault of their own, may briefly obtain access to labor relations information, from being classified as confidential and being removed from their bargaining unit.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: SUPPORT

Correct vote: Yea

House vote: 79 Yea – 46 Nay (*House journal pgs. 10163-64; 5/6/14*)

Senate vote: 36 Yea – 23 Nay (*Senate journal pg. 8581; 5/1/14*)

House vote # 8 /Senate vote # 6

SF 2490 (Sen. David Tomassoni, D-Chisholm/Rep. Tom Anzelc, D-Balsam Township) – This legislation provides for the transition of exclusive representation of employees under the Public Employee Labor Relations Act (PELRA) when governmental units (“members”) form a joint powers entity.

The bill makes employees of an entity public employees and makes joint powers entities public employers for purposes of PELRA; requires the Bureau of Mediation Services to follow the PELRA process for determining initial certification and decertification of an exclusive representative for appropriate units of employees of a newly formed joint powers entity; provides that an existing collective bargaining agreement covering employees of a governmental unit shall remain in effect when that governmental unit forms a joint powers entity until a new agreement becomes effective; requires the exclusive representative of employees of the joint powers entity to be responsible to negotiate a new collective bargaining agreement, file grievances, and otherwise administer the prior collective bargaining agreement until a new collective bargaining agreement is agreed to; establishes that seniority must be based on the employees continuous service with a member and the employees service with the joint powers entity; requires that layoffs and recall must be based on seniority, and recall rights must continue to apply until a new collective bargaining agreement is made.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: SUPPORT

Correct vote: Yea

House vote: 77 Yea – 44 Nay (*House journal pg. 10178; 5/6/14*)

Senate vote: 39 Yea – 23 Nay (*Senate journal pg. 8537; 4/30/14*)

House vote # 9 /Senate vote # 10

HF 2397 (Rep. Carlos Mariani, D-St. Paul/Sen. Patricia Torres Ray, D-Minneapolis) – The Omnibus K-12 Education Policy bill includes a provision that adds therapists to the definition of those included in teacher bargaining units in schools.

The Public Employees Labor Relations Act (PELRA) has not kept up with changes in the educational workforce, specifically in special education, where therapists are increasingly common parts of school district departments.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: SUPPORT

Correct vote: Yea

House vote: 80 Yea – 49 Nay (*House journal pg. 10337; 5/6/14*)

Senate vote: 37 Yea – 27 Nay (*Senate journal pgs. 9309-10; 5/13/14*)



House vote # 10 /Senate vote # 8

HF 2536 (Rep. Carly Melin, D-Hibbing/Sen. Sandra Pappas, D-St. Paul) – This collection of legislative reforms, called the Women’s Economic Security Act, aims at providing equal opportunities and pay for women and families. WESA includes several monumental policy changes including:

- o Assisting women to obtain high-wage, high demand, nontraditional jobs;
- o Establishing a grant program to increase the number of women in high-wage, high demand nontraditional occupations with criteria for recruitment, preparation, placement, and retention of women in apprenticeship, education, training programs and permanent employment;
- o Provides funding for a study to be completed by MMB to determine the feasibility of creating a state-administered retirement savings plan for private employees not offered pensions by their employers to ensure retirement security for women and all Minnesotans;
- o Adding sexual assault and stalking to the list of reasons that provide an exception to the denial of unemployment benefits to applicants that quit employment;
- o Providing that a state agency, the Metropolitan Council, and other metropolitan agencies may not execute a contract in excess of \$500,000 with a business having 40 or more full - time employees in Minnesota or in the state where the business has its primary place of business unless the business has an equal pay certificate of compliance or is exempt;
- o Providing startup funding in fiscal year 2015 of \$674,000 and ongoing funding of \$426,000 per year to the department of human rights for implementing the pay equity provisions of the act;
- o Providing for 12 weeks of leave for pregnancy and parenting;
- o Expanding the use of personal sick leave to cover the care of a mother-in-law, father-in-law, or grandchildren; and for use in circumstances of domestic abuse, sexual assault, and stalking;
- o Requiring employers to provide reasonable accommodations for employees for health conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth if the employee requests accommodation with the advice of her licensed health care provider or certified doula, unless the accommodation would impose an undue hardship on the operation of the employer’s business. A reasonable accommodation includes temporary transfer to a less strenuous or hazardous position. Prohibits retribution;
- o Specifies that parental or pregnancy leave may be reduced by any period of paid parental, disability, personal, medical or sick leave, accrued vacation, or leave taken for the same purpose under federal law;
- o Prohibits employers from requiring nondisclosure of a person’s wages as a condition of employment, requiring them to sign a waiver of rights for disclosure of wage information, or from taking adverse employment action for disclosing wages. Provides for civil action by an employee against an employer for violations, and
- o Prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of familial status

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: SUPPORT

Correct vote: Yea

House vote: 104 Yea – 24 Nay (*House journal pgs. 10478-79; 5/7/14*)

Senate vote: 43 Yea – 24 Nay (*Senate journal pgs. 8990-91; 5/8/14*)



House vote # 11 /Senate vote # 9

HF 1984 (Rep. Mike Sundin, D-Esko/Sen. Tom Saxhaug, D-Grand Rapids) – This responsible contracting legislation:

- Provides that a contractor or vendor must meet minimum criteria to be eligible to be awarded a construction contract over \$50,000 if the contract is awarded pursuant to a lowest responsible bidder or best value selection method;
- Requires a contractor to verify that it meets compliance criteria when the contractor responds to a solicitation document of compliance with workers compensation and unemployment compensation requirements, registration with Department of Revenue and DEED, and has a valid federal tax identification number (or Social Security number, if an individual); compliance with minimum wages; overtime; prevailing wages; timely payment of wages to employees; misrepresentation of employment relationship; federal prevailing wage;
- Requires a contractor to submit a signed statement under oath by an owner or officer verifying compliance;
- Requires verification to include a list of first tier subcontractors and vendors to be used on the project; and
- Specifies consequences for noncompliance and false statements.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: SUPPORT

Correct vote: Yea

House vote: 84 Yea – 38 Nay (*House journal pg. 10572; 5/9/14*)

Senate vote: 59 Yea – 0 Nay (*Senate journal pgs. 9065-66; 5/12/14*)

House vote # 12 /Senate vote # 11

HF 2180 (Rep. Erin Murphy, D-St. Paul/Sen. Katie Sieben, D-Newport) – The Health Insurance Transparency & Accountability Act for school employees (HITA),

- Requires school districts to request at least three different bids for health insurance, with the Minnesota Public Employees Insurance Program (PEIP) being one of the three;
- Requires PEIP to respond to a request for proposal from a school district within 60 days;
- Prohibits board members and school district employees from receiving compensation or benefits based on incentives or other money provided to the school district by a source of group insurance coverage;
- Provides that if a school district receives a refund from its provider of health coverage, the school district must negotiate with the exclusive representative (union) regarding the proportionate number of insured lives covered by that exclusive representative; and
- Specifies how this process must be handled if there is no exclusive representative or if the exclusive representative and the employer cannot come to an agreement.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: SUPPORT

Correct vote: Yea

House vote: 78 Yea – 50 Nay (*House journal pgs. 10707-08; 5/14/14*)

Senate vote: 40 Yea – 27 Nay (*Senate journal pg. 9340; 5/14/14*)



House vote # 13 /Senate vote # 13

HF 2402 (Rep. Tina Liebling, D-Rochester/Sen. Kathy Sheran, D-Mankato) – The Health & Human Services Policy bill included the Health Licensing Bill which combined a number of provisions that make changes to all health licensing boards, specifically the Board of Nursing. The bill included:

- New discipline requirements for all licensed health professionals who do not satisfactorily complete the Health Professionals Services Program. Once a person is unsatisfactorily discharged from the program or if the regulated person commits disciplinary violations while in the program, the program manager has to report such to the regulating board. If the Board has probable cause to believe there is an imminent risk of harm to the public, they must immediately suspend the license until an investigation is complete;
- Allows the Board to deny a nursing license to a person who has been convicted of a felony-level criminal sexual conduct offense, but allows criteria to be developed by which a convicted individual may overcome a presumption to gain a license, unless the offense was committed against a patient.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: SUPPORT

Correct vote: Yea

House vote: 93 Yea – 35 Nay (*House journal pgs. 11057-58; 5/15/14*)

Senate vote: 52 Yea – 13 Nay (*Senate journal pg. 9664; 5/15/14*)

House vote # 14 /Senate vote # 15

HF 1951 (Rep. Mary Murphy, D- Hermantown/Sen. Sandy Pappas, D-St. Paul) – The Omnibus Retirement & Pensions bill included the consolidation of the Duluth Teachers Retirement Fund into the Teachers Retirement Fund due to a structural deficiency in their funding ratio, and \$7 million in ongoing aid to the St. Paul Teachers Retirement Fund.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: SUPPORT

Correct vote: Yea

House vote: 79 Yea – 52 Nay (*House journal pgs. 11062-63; 5/15/14*)

Senate vote: 38 Yea – 24 Nay (*Senate journal pg. 9699; 5/16/14*)

House vote # 15 /Senate vote # 17 (GO bill) & House vote # 16 /Senate vote # 18 (Cash bill)

HF 2490 (GO bill) & HF 1068 (Cash bill) (Rep. Alice Hausman, D-St. Paul/Sen. Leroy Stumpf, D-Plummer) – The House and Senate reached an agreement on a \$1.7 billion capital investment bill that includes \$846 million in General Obligation (GO) bonds and an additional \$200 million in one-time cash. The bill is estimated to create more than 28,000 jobs. Key highlights of the bill include:

- \$126 million for completion of the State Capitol renovation;
- \$240 million in higher education projects for the U of M and MnSCU;
- More than \$100 million for roads, bridges and vital transportation infrastructure;
- \$100 million for housing – the largest investment in state history;
- \$448 million is dedicated to economic development projects and programs;
- \$54 million is dedicated to local road improvements;
- \$34 million to the local bridge replacement program; and
- \$67 million to the Public Facilities Authority to fund clean water and wastewater infrastructure projects.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: SUPPORT

Correct vote: Yea (for both)

HF 2490

House vote: 92 Yea – 40 Nay
(*House journal pgs. 11154-55; 5/15/14*)

Senate vote: 47 Yea – 17 Nay
(*Senate journal pgs. 9695-96; 5/16/14*)

HF 1068

House vote: 79 Yea – 52 Nay
(*House journal pg. 11174; 5/15/14*)

Senate vote: 44 Yea – 19 Nay
(*Senate journal pgs. 9696-97; 5/16/14*)



House vote # 17 /Senate vote # 12

HF 2881 (Rep. Sandra Masin, D-Burnsville/Sen. Jim Carlson, D-Eagan) – This legislation improves and clarifies the intent of the Motor Carriers of Railroad Employees law. Contract carrier vans transport train crew to and from remote areas across the state. The distance could be as short as from a yard office to the train less than a mile away or to a roundhouse a couple of city blocks away or to a location hundreds of miles away – day or night in all types of weather conditions with the driver on call and not sure when to get the rest they need.

Prior to this legislation, these drivers and the vehicles they drive were only required to pass company policy requirements – not state or federal standards. This legislation closes loopholes and clarifies grey areas, by requiring that companies conducting business in Minnesota, be held accountable to state and federal standards. It will provide for, and ensure, the safe transportation of railroad employees with safer drivers and safer vehicles.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: SUPPORT

Correct vote: Yea

House vote: 77 Yea – 50 Nay (*House journal pg. 11190; 5/16/14*)

Senate vote: 38 Yea – 24 Nay (*Senate journal pgs. 9344-45; 5/14/14*)

House vote # 18 /Senate vote # 14

SF 2065 (Sen. Matt Schmit, D-Red Wing/Rep. Mike Nelson, D-Brooklyn Park) - This bill had two provisions of particular interest to labor: First, it aligns Minnesota's apprenticeship laws with the federal standards; and second, it makes the state's independent contractor pilot program permanent.

The Construction Contractor law was enacted to address the issue of misclassification of employees in the construction industry as independent contractors. The law's central provision was a registration system that required a certificate from the Department of Labor and Industry to establish independent contractor status. The system did not work well and the law was converted to a pilot program in 2012 that is set to expire June 30, 2014.

This bill repealed the pilot program and replaced it with a new, no fee registration system that is administered by the Department of Labor and Industry. Failure to register as an independent contractor creates a rebuttable presumption that an individual is an employee. The tests for establishing independent contractor status are not changed from the prior law.

It also created a rebuttable presumption that if an individual is not registered as an independent contractor that the individual is an employee of the person for whom services were provided in the course of the person's trade, business, profession, or occupation. Similar provisions provide for an individual with an ownership interest in a business entity that is not registered.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: SUPPORT

Correct vote: Yea

House vote: 82 Yea – 48 Nay (*House journal pg. 11234; 5/16/14*)

Senate vote: 40 Yea – 18 Nay (*Senate journal pg. 9695; 5/16/14*)

House vote # 19 /Senate vote # 19

HF 3172 (Rep. Lyndon Carlson, D-Crystal/Sen. Richard Cohen, D-St. Paul) – The Omnibus Supplemental Budget bill included:

➤ **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES:**

This legislation provided for a 5% increase to community based servicers and intermediate care facilities for those with developmental disabilities. It requires that providers spend 80% of this increase on compensation-related costs. More than 6,600 people with disabilities, 24,900 older adults and 90,000 caregivers in Minnesota will be positively affected by the increase.



House vote # 19 /Senate vote # 19 (continued)

This legislation also rebased the payment system for hospital inpatient services for Medicaid benefits for the first time since 2002. To help with rebasing, the proposal would speed up the repeal of the 10 percent rate cut for inpatient hospital services for Medical Assistance patients repealing the cut by November 1, 2014.

Other key provisions include:

- \$1 million per year of additional funding for homeless youth;
 - \$1.5 million in additional funding for the implementation of the Safe Harbor Law; and
 - A deficit reduction in the Health Care Access Fund – to \$239 million - which will provide a stable funding source for MinnesotaCare by providing lower premiums and reduced out-of-pocket expenses and deductibles.
- **JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
- \$20 million in one-time funding for broadband;
 - \$475,000 to each of six initiative foundations for business revolving loans or other lending programs;
 - \$2.2 million for the Greater Minnesota Business Development Infrastructure Program to spur economic development; and
 - It also included funding for tourism, housing, and workforce development.
- **HIGHER EDUCATION**
- \$4.5 million to the U of M for regenerative medicine;
 - \$17 million for salary adjustments at MnSCU, applying the money to MnSCU's base;
 - \$3.5 million a year from 2016 to 2041 to pay debt services on the bond to build a new Bell Natural History Museum and Planetarium.
- **JUDICIARY**
- \$16 million for negotiated pay increases for critical staff;
 - \$11 million to cover unexpected overcrowding in the prison population;
 - \$700,000 for youth intervention programs;
 - \$300,000 for sexual assault prevention grants;
 - \$3 million into a new disaster assistance contingency account for the Department of Public Safety to pay 100 percent of the nonfederal share of disaster assistance incurred by state and local governments.
- **TRANSPORTATION**
- \$15 million in supplemental General Fund spending for transportation
 - \$6.5 million for Greater Minnesota Transit;
 - \$2 million for railroad grade crossing safety;
 - Railroad yard lighting requirements, mandates Minnesota-made solar photovoltaic modules in the construction or maintenance by a railroad company in which such modules are used;
 - There were several non-general fund appropriations included as well, such as \$20 million in one-time money from the Trunk Highway Fund for snow and ice removal.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: SUPPORT

Correct vote: Yea

House vote: 75 Yea – 55 Nay (*House journal pgs. 11838-39; 5/16/14*)

Senate vote: 37 Yea – 22 Nay (*Senate journal pg. 10395; 5/16/14*)



