



## WEEKLY SESSION UPDATE

January 23, 2017

### **SF 1 Moves Forward**

On Thursday the House took up [SF 1](#), the GOP health care relief and reform bill. Rep. Joe Hoppe, the author of the House version of the bill (HF 1) offered a delete-all amendment ([DEA1](#)) to SF 1 that contained the language from HF1. The amendment was adopted. Additional amendments were also adopted. The House sent SF 1 back to the Senate.

Just this afternoon, the Senate refused to concur with the bill as amended by the House and requested that a conference committee be created to negotiate the final bill. The Senate named the following conferees: **Benson, Abeler, Dahms, Jensen, Franzen**. The House named the following conferees: **Hoppe, Davids, Dean, M., Fabian, Halverson**.

[House Public Information Services Article on SF1](#)

Additional article of interest: [House Public Information Services Article on Mental Health Task Force Report](#)

### **Conference Committee on S.F. 1 – January 24, 2017 (Tomorrow)**

**Chairs:** Sen. Michelle R. Benson and Rep. Joe Hoppe

**CONFEREES: SENATE:** Benson; Abeler; Dahms; Franzen; Jensen - **HOUSE:** Hoppe; Dean; Halverson; Fabian; Davids

**8:30 a.m.**

**Room 123 Capitol**

#### **Agenda:**

S.F. 1-Benson: Health insurance premium assistance temporary payment program; health maintenance organizations (HMO) requirements and health insurance modifications; reporting requirements; Minnesota comprehensive health association reinsurance program establishment.

**ALLINA:** as seen in *Star Tribune*, **VERBATIM:** “**Allina Health System** and insurance giant Aetna are forming a joint venture with the goal of selling commercial coverage in the Twin Cities starting in early 2018...Called **Allina Health and Aetna Insurance Company**, the jointly owned health plan will link one of the state’s largest hospital and clinic systems with a national insurer that hasn’t had a huge presence in the state.” **MORE:** <http://strib.mn/2jKTln4>

### **Taxes**

Last week, Governor Dayton signed into the law the first bill passed this session by the legislature , HF 2. This law conforms state income tax laws with federal tax code, in time for the 2016 tax filing season. This includes retroactive changes for 2015 tax returns.

### **Environment, Energy, Water**

On Tuesday, Gov. Dayton signed a deal to establish Minnesota CREP (conservation reserve enhancement program), a joint state-federal effort that will invest \$500 million in Greater Minnesota for water conservation initiatives such as buffer installation, wetland protection, and well upgrades. The program will be administered by the Board of Soil and Water Resources (BSWR) by providing payments directly to farmers and agricultural land owners primarily in southern and western parts of the state.

The Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR) provided an update on the implementation of last year's buffer law to the House Environment and Agriculture committees on Thursday, in a nearly-four hour hearing. The buffer requirements are intended to address water quality degradation caused by agricultural land use along waterways. Some DFL legislators emphasized the law's effectiveness in helping farmers trap and filter sediment, phosphorous, and other pollutants before they enter surface waters, while GOP members expressed concerns over local enforcement of the law.

### **Sunday Sales**

The legislature may finally strike down Minnesota's long-standing ban on Sunday liquor sales – a bill authored by Rep. Jennifer Loon (R-Eden Prairie) easily passed the House Commerce committee, with some previous opponents reversing their stances on the issue. Minnesota is one of 11 states that does not allow alcohol sales on Sundays. Gov. Dayton has said that he will not veto the bill if passed out of both the House and Senate.

### **Transportation**

The Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB), a five-county regional transit funding board discussed a plan on Tuesday before a joint Transportation committee to dissolve the board and strip the legislature of its role in funding new rail and bus rapid transit projects in Twin Cities, effectively relegating the funding role to individual counties. CTIB cannot dissolve unless all five member counties vote unanimously to do so. Dissolution would allow counties to double their sales tax to .5% to fund transit lines – Dakota County recently approved a plan to phase out its CTIB membership. The legislature did not pass a transportation funding package last year, so CTIB funding, or lack thereof, will influence any forthcoming transportation bill.