



WEEKLY SESSION UPDATE

January 6, 2017

2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION BEGINS

The 2017 Legislative session kicked off on Tuesday, January 3rd, with the House and Senate back under one roof in the newly renovated capitol building. This is the first major renovation since it opened in 1905, and after over three years of construction, the building is back open to the legislature and public. Looking ahead, the last day of session will be on Monday, May 22nd – the Minnesota Constitution requires a deadline for the end of each year's session to be the first Monday after the third Saturday in May.

SENATE

Lieutenant Governor Tina Smith convened the Senate at 12:00 PM. Senators were sworn into office by MN Supreme Court Associate Justice, The Honorable G. Barry Anderson. Michelle Fischbach (R-Paynesville) was formally elected President of the Senate on a 24-31 vote and other officers of the Senate were confirmed on a single vote. Newly confirmed majority leader, Sen. Paul Gazelka (R-Nisswa), encouraged members to work across the aisle and to be bipartisan whenever possible. He also recognized the work of late Sen. Jim Metzen and his long history of working with members of both parties.

HOUSE

The House also met at 12:00 PM, with Secretary of State Steve Simon calling the floor session to order. Minnesota Supreme Court Chief Justice Lorie Skjerven Gildea administered the oath of office to members of the House. Rep. Kurt Daudt (R-Crown) was formally re-elected as Speaker. Speaker Daudt offered brief remarks, noting the special nature of the day, that on that day, January 3rd, 1905, the MN House used the House chamber for the first time, and the first day of the 2017 session was the first time the newly restored chamber was being used. He welcomed the 23 new members of the House, and recognized that there are now 48 women serving in the House, the largest number in the history of the House. Other officers of the House were confirmed and sworn in. Rep. Mike Freiberg (DFL-Golden Valley) recognized Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal) who is the longest serving legislator, with 16,073 days of service, never having missed a day of legislative service.

GOVERNOR'S HEALTH CARE PROPOSAL

Governor Mark Dayton released his first budget proposal of the 2017 legislative session on Tuesday, calling for a 25 percent reduction in health insurance premiums for the more than 125,000 Minnesotans facing significant increases in the individual market. The governor's

proposal was introduced in the House as [HF 67](#) and is chief authored by Rep. Tina Liebling (DFL-Rochester).

Below, see how the Governor’s proposed 25 percent health insurance premium relief would impact different premium scenarios for a silver plan.

Premium Scenario	Monthly Premium, Current Projected*	Monthly Premium, Dayton Plan	Monthly Projected Rebate
Family of four (two 50-year-old parents and two kids) in Rochester	\$2,378	\$1,784	\$594
Family of four (two 50-year-old parents and two kids) in Duluth	\$1,934	\$1,451	\$483
Family of four (two 50-year-old parents and two kids) in the Metro Area	\$1,652	\$1,239	\$413
55-year-old in Rochester	\$968	\$726	\$242
55-year-old in Duluth	\$775	\$581	\$194
55-year-old in the Metro Area	\$638	\$479	\$159
40-year-old in Rochester	\$555	\$416	\$139
40-year-old in Duluth	\$444	\$333	\$111
40-year-old in the Metro Area	\$366	\$275	\$91

[\[FACT SHEET\]](#) See how Governor Dayton’s plan would reduce health insurance premiums by 25 percent for more than 196,000 Minnesotans.

The full press release can be found [here](#).

HF1/SF1: GOP HEALTH CARE LEGISLATION

On Thursday House and Senate GOP Leadership held a press conference about [HF1/SF1](#) (identical language), the “2017 Health Care Emergency Aid & Access” bill. The House will be moving faster with the bill than the Senate. Speaker Daudt assured the press that the bill would be passed off the House floor by late next week. The Senate wants to have hearings in Commerce and HHS committees to ensure public participation, which is why they will be moving more slowly. The bills will be going to conference committee to ensure transparency

and participation from the public, stakeholders, and the Governor. HF 1 is authored by House Commerce Committee Chair Joe Hoppe (R-Chaska), and SF 1 is authored by Senate Health and Human Services Finance and Policy Committee Chair Michelle Benson (R-Ham Lake).

Rep. Hoppe made a motion to suspend the rules during Thursday's session in order to bypass the committee process and send HF 1 directly to conference committee. The bill did not receive the necessary 2/3 votes to suspend the rules. As a result, the bill will be heard in House committees next week. Hearing information is below:

[Health and Human Services Reform Committee](#)

Tuesday, January 10, 2017
8:15 AM to 10:00 AM
200 State Office Building

[HF XXXX \(Schomacker\)](#) Sections of HF Sections of [HF1](#) relevant to HHS policy:
Article 2, except sections 2, 3, & 15

[State Government Finance Committee](#)

Tuesday, January 10, 2017
1:00 PM to 2:45 PM
10 State Office Building

HFXXX Relating to Health Insurance Premium Assistance (language attached)

Additional Information:

[House Public Information's release on Governor Dayton's tax bill](#)

GOVERNOR'S TAX BILL

Governor Mark Dayton and Lt. Governor Tina Smith unveiled their 2017 Tax Bill on Thursday, which would provide \$300 million in tax cuts for more than 450,000 Minnesotans and in aid payments to local governments for essential services, while protecting the state's long-term fiscal health. The Dayton-Smith Tax Bill also would reduce taxes for Minnesota farmers and landowners to help build an economy that works for everyone, everywhere in Minnesota. And their proposal would eliminate tax loopholes for corporations – leveling the playing field for businesses.

For more information about Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith's Tax Bill, read the [Tax Cuts for Over 450,000 Minnesotans](#) fact sheet and [Closing Corporate Tax Loopholes](#) fact sheet.

[\[FACT SHEET\]](#) Learn more about the tax cut proposals included in Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith's tax bill

[\[FACT SHEET\]](#) Learn more Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith's proposals to close corporate tax loopholes.

[\[GRAPHIC\]](#) View a graphic highlighting the major components of the Governor and Lt. Governor's tax cut proposal.

The full press release can be found [here](#).

Additional information:

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