2020 Law Summaries

Preliminary Legislative Action

MINNESOTA SESSION LAWS 2020

INCLUDES REGULAR SESSION, FIRST SPECIAL SESSION, SECOND SPECIAL SESSION, AND THIRD SPECIAL SESSION LAWS
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2020 Law Summaries
On Feb. 11, the Minnesota Legislature reconvened to begin the second half of its 91st biennial session. The session was expected to be short and focused on making tweaks to the biennial budget. There were also hopes for a robust omnibus capital investment bill.

**COVID-19 creates disruption**

By early March, it became clear the session would unfold differently than anyone could have predicted. As the coronavirus spread from continent to continent and eventually reached Minnesota, legislative leaders and Gov. Tim Walz (DFL) braced for the disruption it would bring.

On March 13, Gov. Walz issued Executive Order 20-01 declaring a peacetime emergency, which allowed his administration to quickly impose measures aimed at mitigating the COVID-19 health threat. These measures, which were issued through dozens of executive orders over the months that would follow, included shuttering certain businesses, closing schools, limiting social gatherings, and requiring Minnesotans who are not essential employees to stay home.

Meanwhile, on March 16, in response to concerns over the spread of COVID-19, the Legislature approved a concurrent resolution allowing the House and Senate to adjourn from floor sessions until April 14. They could agree to convene hearings and floor sessions with two days’ notice to members, but Legislative leaders said any meeting convened during the break would be restricted to issues around COVID-19 preparedness and response, “mission critical” measures such as a bonding bill, and any legislation that had bipartisan agreement.

Most in-person meetings were abruptly moved to virtual platforms and the focus became advancing measures that would help address the health, economic, and social implications of the pandemic. When the Legislature reconvened on April 7, a week sooner than initially planned, the Capitol was closed to the public and most members participated remotely. They acted exclusively on pandemic-related measures, including a bill creating a presumption in the workers’ compensation system for public safety and health care workers who contract COVID-19.

**Regular session fizzes**

The regular session continued into May with sporadic virtual committee hearings and floor sessions marked by social distancing and remote participation. The governor’s executive orders, some of which were modified to address changing circumstances, remained in place. The economic fallout of COVID-19-related business closures became apparent with an updated budget forecast released by Minnesota Management and Budget on May 6. The state’s budget outlook had crumbled from a $1.5 billion surplus to a projected $2.4 billion deficit in less than two months.

Republican leaders began demanding that the governor end the peacetime emergency in the name of economic stability. Under state law, a peacetime emergency may last up to 30 days. The governor has the authority to extend a peacetime emergency beyond 30 days unless the Legislature votes to end it. Both chambers need to vote down the extension to block it. Senate Republicans, who hold the majority in that body, voted repeatedly to end the peacetime emergency while DFL members, who control the House, voted down motions to end the emergency.

As these debates took place, issues like passing capital investment, housing, and tax bills fell to the wayside. In the final days of session, the House and Senate worked on separate proposals to distribute the estimated $667 million in the federal Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) dollars to cities, counties, and townships. The CRF distribution was another issue that was left unresolved. Legislators also failed to authorize the use of mail balloting statewide for the upcoming August primary or November general election despite elections administrators’ concern about safely conducting elections during the COVID-19 outbreak. Cities are struggling to recruit and retain election judges and secure polling places as the pandemic continues.

Ultimately, the session adjourned sine die at midnight on May 18, with the Legislature and governor having accomplished little over the preceding months. The expectation was that the governor would reconvene the Legislature in a special session on or around June 12, when the existing peacetime emergency would expire. If the Legislature is not in session, and the governor wants to extend the peacetime emergency beyond 30 days, the governor must call the Legislature into special session to give them the opportunity to end the peacetime emergency.

**George Floyd killed by police**

On May 25, one week after the conclusion of the regular session, George Floyd, an unarmed Black man from St. Louis Park, was killed while in police custody in Minneapolis. The horrific event, involving an officer kneeling on Floyd’s neck for nearly eight minutes, was captured on video and broadcast around the world.

Public outrage over Floyd’s death led to peaceful and violent protests, the latter of which resulted in looting and extensive damage to public property and private businesses. Gov. Walz activated Minnesota’s National Guard to help...
local law enforcement and the State Patrol restore order in Minneapolis and St. Paul. Outrage over Floyd’s death also resulted in renewed calls for policy changes aimed at police reform and ending systemic racism. With a special session approaching, a group of legislators belonging to the People of Color and Indigenous (POCI) Caucus called for urgent action on a comprehensive police reform package.

First special session accomplishes nothing
As expected, Gov. Walz called the Legislature into special session on June 12. Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka (R–Nisswa) stated the Senate would remain convened for no more than one week. He stayed true to his word, and the Senate adjourned the special session sine die in the wee hours of June 20. Unfortunately, the seven-plus days yielded virtually no resolutions on the issues at hand.

One of the failed measures that received the most attention — and was of particular interest to cities — was a plan to distribute federal funds to cities, counties, and townships for pandemic-related expenses. Despite an agreement among all four caucuses on distributing federal CRF money — now revised upward to $841 million — to local governments, the Legislature failed to pass the bill before adjourning the special session. This was particularly frustrating to Senate leadership, who claimed Gov. Walz changed the terms of the agreement.

Making meaningful changes to laws governing police conduct, training, and oversight was also a focal point. However, proposals that emerged from the House and Senate did not align. The House package was very comprehensive and included measures aimed at addressing systemic racism, while the Senate bills focused on police training, officer mental health, and reporting requirements. Despite the flurry of offers exchanged on the last night of the special session, no police reform measures were passed.

Passage of a capital investment bill, which was expected to be a priority in the special session, was hardly discussed. Neither the House nor the Senate took up a capital investment bill in earnest, and there were few reports of capital investment legislation being part of the negotiations between leaders.

In the end, the special session yielded 10 new chapters of law, the majority of which were technical changes or corrections to existing laws.

Governor orders CRF distribution
Gov. Walz announced on June 25 that he would use his authority to distribute $841 million in CRF federal funds to cities, counties, and townships for coronavirus-related expenses. The governor used the framework of the legislative agreement debated in the special session, and is distributing the funds via the Legislative Advisory Commission process allowed by state law.

Under the governor’s action, the Department of Revenue (DOR) will distribute a portion of the state’s allocation from the CRF, which was created by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The funds may be used for COVID-19-related costs that occur between March 1, 2020, and Nov. 15, 2020.

Second special session yields Police Accountability Act
Another special session began July 13 and ended in the early hours of July 21. It focused extensively on advancing police reform measures. The Legislature ultimately passed the Police Accountability Act, a measure that makes changes to laws governing police conduct, training, and oversight. Gov. Walz signed the bill on July 23.

The League sought inclusion of a measure that would reduce the standard of review in law enforcement grievances to a reasonable standard and also provide a process for appeals when a termination or serious discipline is overturned. Despite working with legislators on both sides of the aisle, the League’s preferred reforms were not included in the final package. The second special session also failed to yield capital investment and tax bills that were being sought by many stakeholders, including the League.

Third special session lasts one day, accomplishes little
During the one-day special session on Aug. 12, the Legislature made a few minor changes to the Police Accountability Act that was passed in the second special session in July, but left other issues untouched.

The DFL-controlled House extended Gov. Walz’s emergency powers, which had been in place since March. Like the special sessions in June and July, the Republican-controlled Senate passed a resolution to end that emergency. But a House motion to take up its own resolution to end the emergency was again unsuccessful. Both chambers must vote to end a peacetime emergency.

The Legislature also passed two bills and, in a surprise move, the Senate took up and rejected the confirmation of one of Gov. Walz’s cabinet members, Department of Labor and Industry Commissioner Nancy Leppink. This means Commissioner Leppink must leave her position.

Uncertainty prevails
Gov. Walz is expected to call the Legislature into another special session on or around Sept. 11. He must call a special session within 30 days of the Legislature adjourning the most recent session if he wants to keep the peacetime emergency declaration in place. The probability of the Legislature taking up bills that were left unfinished during the regular and first three special sessions is unclear and will depend upon negotiations.

If a future 2020 special session yields new chapters of law that are relevant to cities, the 2020 Law Summaries will be updated to reflect action.
The League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) annually prepares this summary of new laws that impact city operations. This document is intended to highlight relevant new laws but is not intended to be comprehensive legal advice. Each law summary includes a reference to the session chapter and bill numbers. The number of the bill that was approved by the Legislature and sent to the governor is denoted with an asterisk (*). The chapter number can be used to locate the actual text of new laws on the state Revisor of Statutes website: www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/laws.

We have also attempted to provide effective dates for each new law; however, occasionally the legislation may not specify an effective date. If no effective date is provided, Minn. Stat. § 645.02 specifies that each act (except one making appropriations) enacted finally at any session of the Legislature takes effect on Aug. 1, unless a different date is specified in the act. An act making appropriations enacted finally at any session of the Legislature takes effect on July 1, unless a different date is specified in the act. Each act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day it becomes effective, unless a different time is specified in the act.

Special laws affecting individual cities must generally be approved by the city. The law then becomes effective the day after the certificate of approval is filed with the secretary of state (as specified by Minn. Stat. § 645.021), unless a different date is specified in the act. When approval of such a special law is required by two or more local government units, the law becomes effective the day after the last of the required certificates is filed, unless a different date is specified in the act. If you have questions about a new law, an effective date, or the legislative process, contact a member of the LMC Intergovernmental Relations Department. Contact information for each staff member is provided here.

Following each law summary are the initials of the League’s Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) staff who worked on that legislative issue. For more information, please refer to the list on the right for contact information. An asterisk (*) next to a bill number denotes the version of the bill that was approved by the Legislature and sent to the governor.

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Court deadlines during peacetime emergency
Chapter 74 (HF 4556*/SF 4462) is the omnibus COVID-19 policy bill. Article 1, section 16 allows statutory deadlines governing proceedings in district and appellate courts, including statutes of limitations, to be suspended during the COVID-19 peacetime emergency. This includes any statutorily authorized extensions and lasts for 60 days after the end of the peacetime emergency declaration. However, a court is not prevented from holding a hearing, requiring an appearance, or issuing an order during the peacetime emergency if a judge determines that individual circumstances relevant to public safety, personal safety, or other emergency matters require action in a specific case. Effective April 16, 2020, and expires 60 days after the end of the peacetime emergency declaration or Feb. 16, 2021, whichever is earlier, and applies to all deadlines that had not expired as of March 13, 2020, or were triggered on or after that date. (IK)

Search warrant requirement for electronic communication information
Chapter 82 (HF 3012/SF 3072*) is the omnibus data privacy bill. Section 4 creates a new statute, Minn. Stat. § 626.085, and requires government entities to obtain a search warrant before requiring the disclosure of “electronic communication information.” “Electronic communication information” is defined as “any information about an electronic communication or the use of an electronic communication service, limited to the contents of electronic communications and precise or approximate location of the sender or recipients at any point during the communication.” A search warrant is not required (1) if consent is given or (2) if exigent circumstances exist where there is a danger to an individual’s life or physical safety. The new statute also includes requirements for notice, filing, sealing, and reporting on these warrants. Effective Aug. 1, 2020. (IK)

Electronic device location tracking warrants
Chapter 82 (HF 3012/SF 3072*) is the omnibus data privacy bill. Sections 6 and 13 amend Minn. Stat. §§ 626A.08, subd. 2 and 626A.37, subd. 4 respectively, and exempt location tracking warrants from requirements for (1) the sealing and disclosure of a warrant for wire, electronic, or oral communications and (2) the sealing of a warrant for a pen register, trap and trace device, or mobile tracking device, and instead location tracking warrants are governed by Minn. Stat. § 626A.42, subd. 4. Effective May 17, 2020. (IK)

Scope of location tracking warrants expanded
Chapter 82 (HF 3012/SF 3072*) is the omnibus data privacy bill. Sections 14–17 amend Minn. Stat. § 626A.42 and expand the scope of location tracking warrants to include “unique identifiers,” which are defined as “any numeric or alphanumeric string that is associated with a single entity or account within an electronic communication application or service.” Effective Aug. 1, 2020. (IK)

Stalking-by-mail and mail harassment changes
Chapter 96 (HF 4137*/SF 4065) addresses the statute at issue in the Minnesota Supreme Court case, Matter of Welfare of A.J.B., 929 N.W.2d 840 (Minn. 2019), where the Court found this statute to be facially overbroad and thus unconstitutional. The statutory changes include:

• Harassment crimes. Minn. Stat. § 609.749, subd. 2 is amended to establish the mental state of the intent to kill, injure, harass, or intimidate another person as an element of the crime of harassment. It also establishes a causation element by requiring harassing conduct that (1) places another in reasonable fear of substantial bodily harm, (2) places another in reasonable fear that the person’s family or household members will be subject to substantial bodily harm, or (3) causes or would reasonably be expected to cause substantial emotional distress. There are also new definitions for “family or household members” and “substantial emotional distress.”

• Obscene call crime. Minn. Stat. § 609.79, subd. 1 is amended to establish the same elements above of an actor’s mental state and causation in the crime of repeatedly mailing another.

Effective Aug. 1, 2020, and applies to crimes committed on or after that date. (IK)

COVID-19 response provided
Chapter 71 (HF 4531*/SF 4451) is aimed at providing financial relief, authorizing deadline extensions, and modifying the work of state agencies under the pandemic-related peacetime emergency. Most notably, the measure includes a $200 million General Fund appropriation to create a COVID–19 Fund that Minnesota Management and Budget may draw upon to help state agencies respond to the outbreak. Summarized are funding and policy provisions that may be of interest to cities.

• Funding provided. The measure contains the following funding provisions:
  • $30 million to create an account for small business emergency loans at the Department of Employment and Economic Development, codifying provisions in an existing executive order;
  • $29.96 million for a grant program to support licensed childcare providers, who, in part, agree to care for the children of healthcare and other emergency workers;
• $26.54 million in emergency services grants, of which $15.21 million is intended to provide additional shelter space; $5 million is to purchase hygiene, sanitation, and cleaning supplies; and $6.33 million is for staffing;
• $11 million to help Minnesota’s 11 tribal nations address the crisis;
• $10 million to the small business emergency loan account to guarantee loans from private banks to small employers;
• $9 million in one-time funding for the state’s food shelf program, at least $3 million of which must be used to help regional food banks make specialized responses to community needs;
• $6.2 million to provide financial assistance to veterans and surviving spouses in need of assistance as a result of COVID-19;
• $5.53 million to provide housing support relief for low-income seniors and individuals under 65 with disabilities by temporarily increasing limits and rates for room and board and supplementary services – the program helps pay for rent, food, household supplies, and other necessities;
• $2.4 million to continue reissuing driver’s licenses and complete other motor vehicle transactions.

**Policy provisions.** The package also includes numerous policy provisions of interest to cities:

- Transfers $20 million from the Minnesota 21st Century Fund and $10 million from the Minnesota Investment Revolving loan fund to fund the Small Business Emergency Loan Program outlined in Executive Order 20-15.
- Allows for municipalities with uncommitted money from the repayment of Minnesota Investment Fund (MIF) loans to use uncommitted funds to make loans to retail stores, services providers, and hospitality businesses until the end of fiscal year 2020 and requires a report from any municipality who uses the exception to report how the funds were used to the legislature by Feb. 15, 2021.
- Retools small business loan guarantee program, which was unfunded since 2012 to provide state loan guarantees of 80% of a loan up to $200,000 made to a small business by a lender within 12 months of the declaration of COVID-19.
- Broad authorization for the Commissioner of the Department of Commerce to delay, stay, or waive licensing and investigation deadlines. This could be applied to prevent expiration of municipal electrical utility staff certifications and licensure and to delay continuing education requirements.
- Extends the expiration date for driver’s licenses, Minnesota identification cards, and disability parking certificates and permits so they expire two months after the peacetime public health emergencies declared by the Governor during 2020.
- Directs the Department of Public Safety to work with law enforcement agencies to ensure awareness about license expiration date extensions and to publicize information on the expiration date extensions to the general public.
- Authorizes the Superintendent of the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to delay submission of fingerprints as part of background checks for “essential workers” during peacetime emergencies declared by the Governor. Provides a gross misdemeanor penalty for “essential workers” who provide false information as part of a background check while the fingerprint requirement is suspended. Requires the Superintendent to report to the legislature on the exercise of this emergency power.

**Effective March 29, 2020. (AF)**

**Workers’ compensation claims COVID-19 presumption for specified employees**

Chapter 72 (HF 4537*/SF 4458) adds several provisions to Minn. Stat. § 176.011, subd. 15. It provides a presumption that an employee who contracts COVID-19 has an occupational disease arising out of and in the course of employment if the employee is employed in one of the occupations specified and has a confirmed case of COVID-19.

- **List of covered occupations provided.** The covered occupations for the presumption include: licensed peace officers; firefighters; paramedics; nurses, healthcare workers, correction officers, and security counselors employed by the state or a political subdivision at a corrections, detention, or secure treatment facility; emergency medical technicians; healthcare providers, nurses, and assistive employees employed in a healthcare, home care, or long-term care setting, with direct COVID-19 patient care or ancillary work in COVID-19 patient units; and workers who are required to provide childcare to first responders and healthcare workers under Executive Orders 20-02 and 20-19.

- **Positive test required.** An employee’s contraction of COVID-19 must be confirmed by a positive laboratory or diagnosed and documented by the employee’s licensed physician, licensed physician’s assistant, or licensed advanced practice registered nurse (APRN), based on the employee’s symptoms. It requires a copy of the positive test or documentation to be provided to the employer or insurer.

- **Presumption rebuttal provided.** Once the presumption is established by an employee, the presumption can only be rebutted if the employer or insurer shows the employment was not a direct cause of the disease.

- **Date of injury defined.** The “date of injury” for an employee who has contracted COVID-19 is the earliest date that the employee was unable to work: (1) due to a diagnosis of COVID-19; or (2) due to symptoms that were later diagnosed as COVID-19.
• Rights of employees not included in presumption provided. An employee who has contracted COVID-19, but who is not entitled to the presumption, is not excluded from claiming another occupational disease or from claiming a personal injury.

• Report required. The Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry is required to provide a detailed report on COVID-19 workers' compensation claims to the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council and the legislature by Jan. 15, 2021.

• Sunset provided. The presumption sunsets on May 1, 2021. Effective April 8, 2020. (AF)

DATA PRACTICES

Law enforcement use of unmanned aerial vehicles (drones)
Chapter 82 (HF 3012/SF 3072*) is the omnibus data privacy bill. Sections 1, 2, and 5 address law enforcement use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs or drones), which is now governed by a new statute, Minn. Stat. § 626.19.

• Public benefit data application. Section 1 amends Minn. Stat. § 13.82, subd. 15 to include UAV data into the public benefit law, allowing a law enforcement agency to make public otherwise nonpublic UAV data if the agency determines the access will aid the law enforcement process, promote public safety, or dispel widespread rumor or unrest.

• Governance of UAV data. Section 2 creates a new subdivision, Minn. Stat. § 13.82, subd. 32 to specify that data collected, created, or maintained through the use of a drone is governed by Minn. Stat. § 626.19.

• Application; definitions. Section 5, subd. 1 provides that Minn. Stat. § 626.19 applies to any UAV data collected, created, or maintained by a law enforcement agency. Definitions include “government entity,” “law enforcement agency,” “unmanned vehicle,” and “terrorist attack.”

• Search warrant requirement. Section 5, subd. 2 provides that except as provided for in subd. 3, a law enforcement agency must obtain a search warrant before using a UAV.

• Exceptions to search warrant requirement. Section 5, subd. 3 does not require a search warrant when a UAV is used:
  • During or in the aftermath of an emergency situation that involves the risk of death or bodily harm to a person;
  • Over a public event where there is heightened risk to the safety of participants or bystanders;
  • To counter the risk of a terrorist attack by a specific individual or organization;
  • To prevent the loss of life and property in natural or man-made disasters and to facilitate post-recovery efforts;
  • To conduct a threat assessment in anticipation of a specific event;
  • To collect information from a public area if there is a reasonable suspicion of criminal activity;
  • To collect information for crash-reconstruction purposes after a serious or deadly collision occurring on a public road;
  • Over a public area for officer training or public relations purposes; and
  • For a non-law enforcement purpose at the written request of a government entity. The government entity must specify the reason for the request and proposed period of use.

• Limitations on UAV use. Section 5, subd. 4 requires law enforcement agencies to comply with Federal Aviation Administration requirements and guidelines and prohibits (1) deploying a UAV with facial recognition or other biometric-matching technology unless authorized by a warrant, (2) equipping a UAV with weapons, or (3) collecting data on public protests or demonstrations unless authorized by a warrant or under an exception in subd. 3.

• Documentation requirement. Section 5, subd. 5 requires law enforcement agencies to document each use of a UAV, including providing a case number and the factual basis for each use. Documentation must also include what statutory exception under subd. 3 applies if a warrant was not obtained.

• Data classification. Section 5, subd. 6(a) classifies data collected by a UAV as private data on individuals or nonpublic data. Exceptions include:
  • If the data subject requests a copy of the recording, data on other individuals who do not consent to its release must be redacted;
  • Disclosure as necessary in an emergency situation that involves the risk of death or bodily harm to a person;
  • Disclosure to the government entity making a request for UAV use for non-law-enforcement purposes;
  • If UAV data are criminal investigative data, this data is governed by Minn. Stat. § 13.82, subd. 7; and
  • Classification under other provisions of Minn. Stat. ch. 13 are retained.

• No Tennessen warning. Section 5, subd. 6(b) specifies that no Tennessen warning is required for data collected by a UAV.

• Retention period. Section 5, subd. 6(c) requires law enforcement agencies to delete the data collected no later than seven days after collection, unless the data is part of an active criminal investigation.
• Evidence. Section 5, subd. 7 prohibits admissibility of information obtained or collected in violation of Minn. Stat. § 626.19 in a criminal, administrative, or civil proceeding.

• Remedies. Section 5, subd. 8 provides an aggrieved party may bring a civil action to prevent or remedy a violation of Minn. Stat. § 626.19.

• Public comment. Section 5, subd. 9 requires law enforcement agencies to provide an opportunity for public comment before purchasing or using a UAV, which must be accepted electronically or by mail. The city council must also provide an opportunity for public comment at a regularly scheduled meeting.

• Written policies. Section 5, subd. 10 requires that prior to the operation of a UAV, the chief law enforcement officer must establish and enforce a written policy governing its use, including requests for use from government entities. Public comment and input on written policies must meet the requirements described in subd. 9. Written policies must be posted on the law enforcement agency’s website, if the agency has a website.

• Notice; disclosure of warrant. Section 5, subd. 11 requires service of a warrant within 90 days of the court unsealing the warrant and requires that the warrant be filed with the court administrator within ten days of expiration of the warrant. The prosecutor may request that the warrant, supporting affidavits, and order granting the request not be filed. An order must be issued granting the request, in whole or in part, if the court finds reasonable grounds exist that filing the warrant may cause the search to be unsuccessful, create a substantial risk of injury to an innocent person, or severely hamper an ongoing investigation.

• Reporting. Section 5, subd. 12 requires law enforcement agencies that maintain or use a UAV submit a report to the Commissioner of Public Safety by Jan. 15 of each year with the following information from the preceding calendar year:
  • Number of times a UAV was deployed without a search warrant, including dates of deployment and authorized exception under subd. 3; and
  • Total cost of the agency’s UAV program.

The Commissioner of Public Safety, judiciary, and state court administrator are also required to provide annual reports related to the use of UAVs.

Effective Aug. 1, 2020, except that law enforcement agencies must adopt written policies by Feb. 15, 2021. (IK)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Emergency small business assistance program for businesses impacted by COVID-19

First Special Session Chapter 1 (HF 5*/SF 2) creates a program to appropriate federal coronavirus relief funds to make grants available to certain small businesses impacted by COVID-19. It amends 2020 Minn. Laws Ch. 71 by appropriating $60 million from the state share of the federal coronavirus relief fund to the Commissioner of the Department of Employment and Economic Development for grants to eligible small businesses employing up to 50 full-time workers up to $10,000. In fiscal year 2020, $2.5 million is also appropriated from the loan guarantee trust fund, which is available until June 30, 2021. The total of $62.5 million is allocated as follows: $31.25 million is provided to the Minnesota Initiative Foundations to provide grants to small businesses in greater Minnesota and $31.25 million is provided to approved lenders for grants to small businesses in the seven-county metropolitan area. The $62.5 million must also meet the following requirements:
  • $18 million for businesses employing six full-time workers or less;
  • $10 million for minority business enterprises;
  • $2.5 million for veteran-owned businesses;
  • $2.5 million for women-owned business; and
  • A minimum of $2.5 million for owners of permanent retail space and food markets with an ethnic cultural emphasis.

Effective July 17, 2020. (DL)

ELECTIONS

COVID-19 elections bill

Chapter 77 (HF 3429*/SF 3494) provides special procedures for the safe and secure conduct of the 2020 state primary and state general elections during the COVID-19 outbreak. It includes the appropriation of funds for administration, security, accessibility, training, public health and safety in conducting the elections.

• Special procedures for the safe and secure conduct of 2020 state primary and state general elections. Section 1, subd. 1 applies only to the state primary and state general elections conducted in 2020. Section 1, subd. 2 outlines local authority allowing a city, by ordinance or resolution to:
  • Designate polling places after the deadline required by Minn. Stat. § 204B.16, subd. 1, but no later than July 1, 2020;
  • Train and designate employees of a healthcare facility or hospital to administer the absentee voting process under Minn. Stat. § 203B.11; and
• Extend the period during which absentee ballots are processed to include no more than two days following the date of the election. If more ballots are to be processed after the election, the county must submit a report to the Secretary of State as soon as practicable, but no more than four hours after the period ends, the number of absentee ballots remaining to be counted after the 24-hour period prescribed in Minn. Stat. § 203B.121, subd. 5(c).

• Schools as polling places. Section 1, subd. 2 clarifies that the governing body of a municipality must only use a school as a polling place when no other public or private location is reasonably available for use as a polling place. Nothing in subd. 2 prohibits a local election official from responding to the outbreak of COVID-19 by exercising powers granted by the Minnesota Election Law to address emergency situations that prevent the safe, secure, and full operation of a polling place on election day.

• Processing absentee ballots. Section 1, subd. 3 allows for the county auditor or municipal clerk, and the applicable ballot board, to begin processing absentee ballots 14 days prior to the date of the election. After the close of business on the 14th day before the election, a voter whose record indicates that an absentee ballot has been accepted must not be permitted to cast another ballot at that election.

• Accepting electronic filings. Section 1, subd. 4 allows a filing officer to accept electronic mail, facsimile, or other electronic submissions of any of the following:
  - An affidavit of candidacy under Minn. Stat. § 204B.06, including any applicable filing fees;
  - A nominating petition under Minn. Stats. §§ 204B.07 or 204B.08, including petition signatures collected electronically; and
  - A request that a write-in candidate's votes be counted, consistent with Minn. Stat. § 204B.09, subd. 3, or other applicable law.

• Nomination of 2020 presidential electors and alternates. Section 2 provides that notwithstanding Minn. Stat. § 208.03, the chairs of each major political party may submit the names of presidential electors and alternates nominated to be elected at the 2020 state general election no fewer than 67 days prior to the date of the election.

• Help America Vote Act appropriations and transfer; federal consolidated appropriations act. Section 3, subd. 1 appropriates $7.4 million in fiscal year 2020 from the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) account to the Secretary of State for purposes authorized by subd. 4. Subd. 2 appropriates a state match of $1.5 million in fiscal year 2020 from the general fund to the HAVA account to the Secretary of State for purposes authorized by subd. 4. Subd. 3 specifies that any interest earned on the amounts appropriated under subds. 1 and 2 is appropriated from the HAVA account to the Secretary of State for purposes authorized in subd. 4. Subd. 4 outlines authorized uses of the funds for:
  - Modernizing, securing, and updating the statewide voter registration system and for cybersecurity upgrades as authorized by federal law;
  - Improving accessibility;
  - Preparing training materials and training local election officials;
  - Implementing security improvements for election systems;
  - Funding other activities to improve the security of elections; and
  - Any activities authorized by section 4, subd. 4.

Subd. 5 prohibits the use of funds for any purpose not authorized by the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act and requires that the Secretary of State and any political subdivision receiving a grant must cooperate with any audits related to the use of the funds conducted by the United States Election Assistance Commission, Office of the Inspector General. Subd. 6 provides appropriations in section 3 are onetime and available until Dec. 21, 2024.

• Help America Vote Act appropriation and transfer; federal CARES Act. Section 4, subd. 1 appropriates $6.9 million in fiscal year 2020 from the HAVA account to the Secretary of State for the purposes authorized by subd. 4. Subd. 2 appropriates a state match of $1.4 million in fiscal year 2021 from the general fund to the HAVA account for purposes authorized by subd. 4 if, as of July 1, 2020, a state match is required to secure the amount made available to the state under the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Public Law 116-136. If, as of July 1, 2020, a state match is not required, the transfer and appropriation must not be made. If the requirement of a state match is waived after July 1, 2020, any unspent amounts are canceled to the general fund. Subd. 3 provides that any interest earned on the amounts appropriated under subds. 1 and 2 is appropriated from the HAVA account to the Secretary of State for the purposes authorized in subd. 4. Subd. 4 outlines authorized uses of the funds for the following purposes:
  - Ensuring the health and safety of election officials and in-person voters, including the purchase of sanitation and disinfectant supplies;
  - Public outreach and preparations for implementing social distancing guidelines related to voting, including additional signs and staff;
  - Facilitation, support, and preparation for increased absentee voting, including voter education materials, printing, and postage;
  - Preparation of training materials and administration of additional training of local election officials;
• Preparation of new polling place locations;
• Purchasing an electronic roster system meeting the technology requirements of Minn. Stat. § 201.225, subd. 2 along with equipment necessary to support the system; and
• Issuing grants authorized by the local grant program established in subd. 6, and administering that program. Subd. 5 prohibits the use of funds for not authorized by the federal CARES Act and requires that the Secretary of State and any political subdivision receiving a grant must cooperate with any audits related to the use of the funds conducted by the United States Election Assistance Commission, Office of the Inspector General.
• Grants for political subdivisions. Section 4, subd. 6 states that the Secretary of State must administer grants to political subdivisions to support the activities authorized in subd. 4. The Secretary of State may make a grant only after receiving an application from the county auditor or municipal clerk responsible for administering the election within that political subdivision. The application must contain the following information:
  • The date the application is submitted;
  • The name of the political subdivision requesting the grant;
  • The name and title of the individual who prepared the application;
  • A description of the purpose of the grant request;
  • The political subdivision’s anticipated cost for efforts to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 outbreak at the 2020 state primary and state general elections;
  • The total number of registered voters, as of the date of the application, in each precinct within the political subdivision;
  • The total amount of the grant requested;
  • A certified statement by the official responsible for the application that the grant will be used only for purposes authorized in subdivision 4; and
  • Any other information required by the Secretary of State.
A political subdivision is eligible to receive a grant of no more than 75% of the total cost of purchasing an electronic roster system and necessary support equipment and no more than 80% of the total cost of any other activities authorized under subd. 4. The Secretary of State must establish a deadline for receipt of grant applications, a procedure for awarding and distributing grants consistent with this subdivision, and a process for verifying the proper use of the grants after distribution. In evaluating an application, the Secretary of State must consider only the information set forth in the application and is not subject to Minn. Stat. Ch. 14 (Administrative Procedure Act). If the Secretary of State determines that the application has been fully and properly completed, and there is a sufficient balance available to fund the grant, either in whole or in part, the Secretary of State may approve the application. No later than Jan. 15, 2021, the Secretary of State must submit a report to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over elections policy and state government finance on the use of funds appropriated by this section. The report must detail the state’s use of the funds and identify each jurisdiction receiving a grant and the amount of each grant awarded. Subd. 7 stipulates that the appropriations provided in this section are onetime and available until March 27, 2022. **Effective May 13, 2020. (AL)**

### EMPLOYMENT

**Minimum age for operating amusement rides and lawn mowers modified**

Chapter 98 (HF 3720/SF 3358*) allows minors of at least 16 years of age to be employed to operate amusement rides and certain lawn care equipment.

• **Minors allowed to operate amusement rides.** Section 1 adds a subdivision to Minn. Stat. § 181A.04. It allows minors of at least 16 years of age, to be employed in the operation of amusement rides or loading and unloading of passengers from amusement rides. “Operation of an amusement ride” does not include maintenance, testing, repair, erection, or dismantling of an amusement ride. The amusement rides to be operated by minors 16 or 17 years of age must be located in a fixed site amusement park. **Effective Aug. 1, 2020.**

• **Minors allowed to be employed to operate lawn care equipment.** Section 2 creates a new statute, Minn. Stat. § 181A.116. It allows minors of at least 16 years of age to be employed to operate lawn care equipment. “Lawn care equipment” means lawn trimmers, weed cutters, and machines designed to cut grass and weeds that meet safety specifications of the American National Standards Institute/Outdoor Power Equipment Institute’s (ANSI/OPEI) B71.1 2017 definition of pedestrian-controlled mowers and ride-on mowers. A 16- or 17-year-old employed under this section must, prior to operating lawn care equipment, be trained in the safe operation of each type of lawn care equipment listed and wear personal protective equipment including, but not limited to, safety glasses, hearing protection, gloves, safety vest, and work boots, as necessary, at all times when operating the lawn care equipment.

• **Employer responsibilities for minors employed to operate lawn care equipment.** An employer employing a 16– or 17-year-old under this section must ensure that lawn care equipment operators that are ages 16 or 17 follow all safety rules and instructions provided in the equipment’s operator manual, including prohibiting the operation of lawn care equipment on a slope greater than is recommended by the operator’s manual.
Employers must also ensure required safety equipment is in place and operational on all lawn care equipment, including roll-over protection, seat belts, operator presence control systems, interlocks, guards, and shields.

- **Limitations of minors employed to operate lawn care equipment.** The exception under this section is limited to minors who are directly employed by a golf course, resort, or municipality to perform lawn care on golf courses, resort grounds, and municipal grounds; and minors who are directly employed by a rental property owner and the minor performs lawn care on the owner’s rental property. **Effective May 28, 2020. (AF)**

**Law enforcement salary survey**

Chapter 100 (HF 462*/SF 1014) is the omnibus transportation policy act. Section 20 adds a subdivision to Minn. Stat. § 299D.03. It requires that by Jan. 1 of 2021, 2023, 2027, and 2031, the Legislative Auditor must conduct a compensation and benefit survey of law enforcement officers in every police department in a city with a population in excess of 25,000, located in a metropolitan county that is represented by a union certified by the Bureau of Mediation Services; or in a city of the first class. The State Patrol must also be included in the survey. The Legislative Auditor must also include in the survey all benefits, including insurance, retirement, and pension benefits. The Legislative Auditor must include contributions from both the employee and employer when determining benefits. The Legislative Auditor must compile the survey results into a report. The report must show each department separately. The Legislative Auditor must transmit the survey report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the House of Representatives and Senate committees with jurisdiction over the State Patrol budget. It is the legislature’s intent to use the information in this study to compare salaries between the identified police departments and the State Patrol and to make appropriate increases to patrol trooper salaries. **Effective May 28, 2020.**

**ENVIRONMENT**

**Minor and technical changes made related to noxious weed management statutes**

Chapter 89 (HF 4285*/SF 4223) is the omnibus agriculture policy bill. It includes provisions in Article 3 to update terminology and procedures used by the state, allows cooperative weed management plans between responsible governmental units, and adds two additional University of Minnesota members to the noxious weed advisory committee, all of which are found in Minn. Stat. ch. 18. **Effective Aug. 1, 2020. (CJ)**

**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage funds allocated**

Chapter 104 (HF 2682*/SF 2732) is the annual appropriation of funds from the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund for hunting, fishing, and habitat purposes. The bill allocates approximately $118 million for specifically identified projects related to the outdoors. It also requires that meetings of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council be streamed for live viewing and be stored on the state website for later viewing as well, unless the location makes that not practicable. **Effective July 1, 2020, with a few specified provisions with different enactment dates. (CJ)**

**Recycling solid waste tax exemption, trust fund grant availability adjusted for COVID-19**

First Special Session Chapter 4 (HF 37*/SF 48) creates session law that addresses environmental issues that have been identified under the COVID-19 public health state of emergency.

- **Higher percentage of recycling and compost disposal allowed.** Section 1, subd. 1 authorizes the Commissioners of the Department of Revenue and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to suspend the requirement that less than 15 percent of mixed municipal solid waste received by recycling or composting facilities be disposed of, rather than recycled or composted, as long as the need for that exception was triggered by operational changes implemented to address the COVID-19 pandemic. **Effective June 19, 2020.**

- **Solid waste tax exemption maintained.** Section 1, subd. 2 allows those materials to retain their exemption from the solid waste management tax, even if they needed to be disposed of in a landfill or at a resource recovery facility. Effective for recyclable materials delivered to a disposal facility or resource recovery facility after April 1, 2020.

- **LCCMR grant expenditure deadline extended.** Section 2 extends the time available to expend grant funds received through the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) process from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund that would previously have expired on June 30, 2020, to be available until June 30, 2021. To use this extension, a recipient must notify the LCCMR and modify the applicable work plan. **Section 2 is effective June 19, 2020.**

Effective dates vary and are noted by section. **(CJ)**
Medical exception to Open Meeting Law
Chapter 74 (HF 4556*/SF 4462) is the omnibus COVID-19 policy bill. Article 1, section 1 amends the interactive TV provision of the Open Meeting Law, Minn. Stat. § 13D.02. The new law allows participation in meetings by interactive TV (such as Skype or Zoom) without making an elected official’s location public when a health care professional advises that elected official against being in public due to personal or family medical reasons. This allowance is only when a national security or peacetime emergency has been declared under Minn. Stat. § 12.31 and can be used up to 60 days after the emergency has been lifted. An elected official may only use this exception and the current military exception for a total of three times in a calendar year. Also, whenever the interactive TV exception is generally used for meetings, votes must be conducted by roll call and be recorded in the minutes. Effective April 16, 2020. (IK)

Charter commission appointments and spending limit
Chapter 87 (HF 3483/SF 3298*) amends Minn. Stat. § 410.05 to modify the process of appointing new or reappointing existing charter commission members by extending the timeframe for a chief district court judge to make an appointment from 30 days to 60 days and removes the option that a city council fill a vacancy if the chief district court judge fails to appoint within the 60 days. Minn. Stat. § 410.06 is also amended to increase the limit on annual charter commission expenses required to be reimbursed by the city, which was last raised for first-class cities in 1961 and for all other cities in 1947. Under current law, the limit is $10,000 for the cities of Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, and Rochester and $1,500 for all other cities. Under the new law, the charter commission reimbursable expense limit is a sliding schedule calculated as .07% of the city’s current certified general property tax levy with a minimum of $1,500 and a maximum of $20,000. A city retains the authority to reimburse charter commission expenses in excess of the calculated limit. Effective Aug. 1, 2020. (GC)

Expanded authority for electronic signatures during COVID-19
Chapter 92 (HF 4605*/SF 4525) allows cities, counties, and townships to accept certain documents, signatures, or filings electronically, by mail, or facsimile during the COVID-19 health pandemic regardless of any other law, rule, or ordinance otherwise. This allowance is for:
• Planning and zoning applications and permits under Minn. Stat. chs. 394 and 462;
• Land use documents under Minn. Stat. ch. 505;
• Documents requiring the signature of a licensed architect, licensed engineer, licensed land surveyor, licensed landscape architect, licensed geoscientist, or certified interior designer under Minn. Stat. § 326.03, subd. 3, and Minn. Stat. § 326.12, subd. 3;
• Applications for birth and death certificates under Minn. Stat § 144.225; and
• Recording a notary commission under Minn. Stat. § 359.061.
Effective May 17, 2020, and expires Jan. 6, 2021, or 60 days after the peacetime public health emergency is terminated, whichever is earlier. (IK)

Prescription drug price transparency act
Chapter 78 (HF 1246/SF 1098*) requires drug manufacturers to report specified information on drug prices and costs to the Commissioner of the Department of Health for prescription drugs whose price increases exceed certain limits, and new prescription drugs and newly acquired prescription drugs whose price exceeds certain dollar thresholds beginning Oct. 1, 2021. The Commissioner is also directed to post certain information on drug prices and report annually by Jan. 15 each year, beginning Jan. 15, 2022, to the legislature on issues related to drug pricing and spending. Effective July 1, 2020. (AL)

Raising the age for purchasing tobacco to 21
Chapter 88 (HF 331*/SF 463) adds charter schools to the prohibition of tobacco in schools and increases the tobacco sale age to 21 to conform to federal law. Penalties are also modified for selling, providing, or furnishing these items, and for purchasing or attempting to purchase these items if under age 21. Alternative penalties are required to be established for certain violations. Other changes are made to the Clean Indoor Air Act and statutes governing the sale of tobacco and related products.
• Tobacco products prohibited in public schools. Section 1 amends Minn. Stat. § 144.4165 by removing a reference to the term “tobacco product” and strikes language that prohibits persons under 18 from possessing tobacco, tobacco products and electronic delivery devices at public schools.
• Tobacco products shops. Section 2 amends Minn. Stat. § 144.4167, subd. 4 to amend the definition of a tobacco products shop that allows sampling of tobacco products as a shop that a person under age 21 cannot enter at any time.
• Suspension; illegal purchase of alcohol or tobacco. Section 3 amends Minn. Stat. § 171.171 by striking a clause referring to a petty misdemeanor penalty for
using false identification to purchase tobacco. The section also provides that if a person lends a license or other identification to a person under 21 for certain purchases, the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety must suspend the lendee’s license, and modifies the purchases covered by this clause to include tobacco, a tobacco-related device, an electronic delivery device, or a nicotine or lobelia delivery product.

**Administrative penalties for sales and furnishing; licenses.** Section 4 amends Minn. Stat. § 461.12, subd. 2 to change the age at or above which a person can purchase tobacco, tobacco-related devices, electronic delivery devices, and nicotine delivery devices from 18 to 21. Penalties now also apply to giving or furnishing these items, in addition to selling these items, which is in current law. Penalties are also increased for selling, giving, or furnishing to a person under age 21, and allows a license to be revoked for a third or subsequent violation.

**Administrative penalties for sales and furnishings; individuals.** Section 5 amends Minn. Stat. § 461.12, subd. 3 to make the $50 penalty apply to giving or furnishing tobacco, tobacco-related devices, electronic delivery devices, or nicotine or lobelia delivery products to an underage person, in addition to selling these items, which is in current law. It also changes the age at or above which an individual can buy these items from another individual from 18 to 21 and makes imposition of the administrative penalty optional rather than mandatory.

**Alternative penalties for use of false identification; persons under age 21.** Section 6 amends Minn. Stat. § 461.12, subd. 4, which is a subdivision allowing local units of government to consult with interested persons to develop alternative penalties for using a false identification to purchase tobacco, tobacco-related devices, electronic delivery devices, or nicotine or lobelia delivery products to an underage person. These changes include: changing references from “children” or “minors” to “persons under the age of 21 years”; listing the types of false identification that a person uses that may subject them to penalties; and providing that the penalties must be alternative civil penalties and prohibits alternative penalties from including fines or monetary penalties.

**Compliance checks.** Section 7 amends Minn. Stat. § 461.12, subd. 5 to change the age of persons involved in compliance checks from over age 15 but under age 18 to at least 17 but under age 21. A person under age 18 is not required to get a parent’s prior written consent to participate in compliance checks. It also specifies that the age requirements for participating in compliance checks do not affect the age requirements in federal law for federally required compliance checks.

**Defense.** Section 8 amends Minn. Stat. § 461.12, subd. 6, which is a subdivision establishing an affirmative defense to a charge of selling tobacco or related items to an underage person. It changes the age at which a person can purchase tobacco or related items from 18 to 21.

**Ban on self-service sales; exceptions.** Section 9 amends Minn. Stat. § 461.18 to change the age at which a person can enter a tobacco products store from 18 to 21. This section clarifies that the prohibition of the sale of tobacco products and related items from vending machines does not apply to vending machines in locations that cannot be entered by persons under age 21, rather than under age 18 as was previous law.

**Age verification and signage required.** Section 10 adds new language to Minn. Stat. § 461.22, subds. 1 and 2 to require signage at all locations where tobacco, tobacco-related devices, electronic delivery devices, and nicotine or lobelia delivery products are sold that selling these products to a person under age 21 is illegal and that staff must verify the age of any person under age 30 who wants to purchase. Subd. 2 requires that a retail seller of tobacco products must verify that a person seeking to buy tobacco products is at least 21 and that verification is not required if the purchaser appears to be age 30 or older.

**Sale of tobacco to person under age 21.** Section 11 makes several changes to Minn. Stat. § 609.685.

**Definitions.** Subdivision 1 modifies the description of items and definitions of “tobacco” and “electronic delivery devices.”

**Penalty to sell or furnish.** Subd. 1a changes the penalty from a misdemeanor to a petty misdemeanor for a first violation if a person gives or furnishes tobacco or related items to those under 21. The penalty is also lowered for a subsequent violation from a gross misdemeanor to a misdemeanor.

**Use of false identification.** Subd. 2 changes the penalty from a misdemeanor to an alternative civil penalty if a person under 21 buys or attempts to buy tobacco or a related item with a false identification.

**Alternative penalties.** Sub. 2a directs law enforcement and court system representatives to consult with interested persons to develop alternative civil penalties for persons under 21 and lists options for alternative civil penalties, which cannot include fines or monetary penalties.

**Petty misdemeanor.** Subd. 3 strikes language establishing a petty misdemeanor penalty for a person under age 18 who possesses or purchases tobacco or related items.

**Effect on local ordinances.** Subd. 4 makes conforming changes since subd. 3 was stricken.
* **Exceptions.** Subd. 5 allows an American Indian to furnish tobacco to another American Indian under 21, rather than under 18 as was current law, if furnished as part of a traditional American Indian spiritual or cultural ceremony, and exempts persons under 21, rather than under 18 as was current law, from the penalties in this section if the person buys or attempts to buy tobacco or related items for training, education, research, or enforcement.

* **Seizure of false identification.** Subd. 6 changes a term from “retailer” to “licensee.”

* **Sale of nicotine delivery products to person under age 21.** Section 12 amends Minn. Stat. § 609.6855.

* **Penalty to sell or furnish.** Subd. 1 changes the penalty from a misdemeanor to a petty misdemeanor for a first violation if a person gives or furnishes a product containing or delivering nicotine to a person under age 21. But it is permissible to sell a product containing or delivering nicotine or lobelia to a person under age 21 if the product is a drug, device, or combination product authorized for sale by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

* **Use of false identification.** Subd. 2 changes the penalty from a misdemeanor to an alternative civil penalty if a person under 21 buys or attempts to buy a nicotine or lobelia delivery product, but penalties do not apply if a person under age 21 buys or attempts to buy these products for training, education, research, or enforcement purposes.

* **Alternative penalties.** Subd. 3 strikes language establishing a penalty for a person under age 18 who possesses or purchase a nicotine or lobelia delivery product. It also directs law enforcement and court system representatives to consult with interested persons to develop alternative civil penalties for persons under 21 and lists options for alternative civil penalties, which cannot include fines or monetary penalties.

**Effective Aug. 1, 2020. (AL)**

**LIQUOR AND TOBACCO**

**Limited off-sale for restaurants closed by executive order**

Chapter 75 (HF 4562/SF 4489*) allows a qualifying licensee to offer off-sales of malt liquor, hard seltzer, cider, and wine with a prepared food takeout order, without obtaining an additional license, subject to certain limitations.

* **Limitations.** The limitations include:
  - Any sale of malt liquor, hard seltzer, cider, or wine is made in conjunction with and is incidental to the sale of prepared food for takeout;
  - The alcoholic beverages are sold in their original, unopened packaging;
  - No more than 72 ounces in total of malt liquor, hard seltzer, and cider; and 750 milliliters of wine may be sold per prepared food takeout order;
  - The qualifying licensee must confirm that the person picking up the prepared food takeout order is at least 21 years of age as provided by Minn. Stat. § 340A.503, subd. 6; and
  - The qualifying licensee must notify the insurer providing insurance coverage required by Minn. Stat. § 340A.409 that it is making off-sales under this section.

All laws and rules relating to the off-sale of liquor under Minn. Stat. §§ 340A.502–.504.

- **No delivery allowed.** No delivery of alcoholic beverages is authorized and the governing body of a municipality may elect to prohibit the off-sale of alcoholic beverages authorized by this law.

- **“Qualified licensee” definition.** For purposes of this section, “qualifying licensee” means a restaurant holding an on-sale intoxicating liquor license issued under Minn. Stat. § 340A.404, subd. 1(a)(2), or subd. 6(a), or a restaurant holding an on-sale wine license issued under Minn. Stat. § 340A.404, subd. 5.

- **No changes to licensed brewers.** Nothing in this section affects or modifies the ability of a licensed brewer to make off-sales of alcoholic beverages under the law.

**Expiration.** This authority expires when the closure of restaurants as set forth in Executive Order 20-04, as modified and extended by Executive Orders 20-18 and 20-33, or any subsequent order, expires or is terminated or rescinded.

**Effective April 18, 2020. (AL)**

**Omnibus liquor bill**

Chapter 103 (HF 2290/SF 2130*) is the 2020 omnibus liquor bill. It includes some miscellaneous liquor law provisions and authorizes several local liquor licenses.

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**Modular home definition modification and relocation trust fund changes**

Chapter 99 (HF 3625/SF 3443*) amends Minn. Stat. § 327.31, subd. 23 to change the definition of “modular home” from a single-family dwelling to a “one- or two-family dwelling” and amends Minn. Stat. § 327C.095, subd. 12 to change the payment deadline to the manufactured home relocation trust fund from Nov. 30 to Oct. 31.

**Effective Aug. 1, 2020. (DL)**
• **Additional events at ballparks or stadiums.** Section 1 amends Minn. Stat. § 340A.404, subd. 1 by adding “and any other events” to item (d). A city may issue an on-sale wine license and on-sale malt liquor license to a person who is the owner of a summer collegiate league baseball team or to a person holding a concessions or management contract with the owner for beverage sales at a ball park or stadium located within the city. The additional language includes other events in addition to baseball games.

• **City of Minneapolis concessions or catering contracts.** Section 2 amends Minn. Stat. § 340A.404, subd. 2 to allow the city of Minneapolis to issue one or more on-sale intoxicating liquor licenses to any entity holding a concessions or catering contract with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board for use on the premises of the Downtown Commons Park, the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, or at Boom Island Park. The licenses authorized by this subdivision may be used for space specified within the park property, provided all such space is included in the description of the licensed premises on the approved license application. The licenses authorize sales on the dates on the approved license application. Effective upon approval by the Minneapolis City Council and in compliance with Minn. Stat. § 645.021.

• **Sunday delivery of alcohol to on-sale licensee prohibited.** Section 3 amends Minn. Stat. § 340A.504, subd. 4 by adding “or on-sale” to clarify that no delivery of alcohol to an off-sale or on-sale licensee may be made by a wholesaler or accepted by an off-sale or on-sale licensee on a Sunday.

• **Airport Commission authority to set hours of sale.** Section 4 amends Minn. Stat. § 340A.5041 to allow the Metropolitan Airports Commission to set hours of sale at on-sale locations within the security areas of the Lindbergh and Humphrey Terminals.

• **Reporting of pension obligations.** Section 5 amends Minn. Stat. § 340A.602 to clarify that costs related to pension obligations of municipal liquor store employees, as required by Statement 68 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, should not be regarded in the report of the operations of a municipal liquor store showing a net loss prior to interfund transfer.

• **Local liquor licenses.** Sections 6–19 are local licensing authorizations.
  - **City of St. Paul licenses.** Section 6 amends the authority of the city of St. Paul to issue a temporary on-sale intoxicating liquor license to Twin Cities in Motion for the Twin Cities Marathon for both days of the weekend that the marathon is held instead of one day.
  - **Sartell special license.** Section 7 authorizes the city of Sartell to issue an on-sale intoxicating liquor license to a person or entity holding a concessions or management contract with the city or its agent for the city-owned facility known as St. Cloud Orthopedics Field.

• **Chaska Athletic Park.** Section 8 authorizes the city of Chaska to issue an on-sale liquor license for events occurring each year between May 1 and Aug. 30 at the Athletic Park located at 725 West 1st Street in the city of Chaska.

• **St. Paul Food Hall.** Section 9 authorizes the city of St. Paul to issue an on-sale intoxicating liquor license for an anchor tenant or umbrella operator for a distinct, compact, and contiguous premises which contains restaurants and closes by midnight. The license may allow service and consumption anywhere within the defined premises as long as consumption of licensed beverages sold by the license holder is within the food establishment area or common areas within the licensed premises.

• **Baudette Arena Association.** Section 10 authorizes Lake of the Woods County to issue temporary licenses for the Baudette Arena Association.

• **Maple Lake Ice Fishing Derby, Inc.** Section 11 authorizes Wright County to issue a temporary on-sale license to the Maple Lake Ice Fishing Derby, Inc. The authority to issue and approve the on-sale license under this section expires May 1, 2022.

• **City of Forest Lake, Castlewood Golf Course.** Section 12 authorizes the City of Forest Lake to issue an on-sale intoxicating liquor license for the Castlewood Golf Course located at 7050 Scandia Trail North in the city of Forest Lake and owned by the city. The city is deemed the licensee.

• **Junior Hockey Leagues.** Sections 13, 14, and 15 authorize the cities of St. Cloud, Austin, and Rochester to issue on-sale wine licenses and on-sale malt liquor licenses to a person who is the owner of a junior hockey league team or to a person holding a concessions or management contract with the city or the team owner for beverage sales at the St. Cloud Municipal Ice Arena, the Riverside Arena in Austin, and the Rochester Recreation Center.

• **City of Pierz Golf Course.** Section 16 authorizes the City of Pierz to issue an on-sale intoxicating liquor license, an on-sale wine license, or an on-sale malt liquor license for the city-owned Pierz Golf Course. The city is deemed the licensee.

• **City of Pemberton Community Center.** Section 17 authorizes the City of Pemberton to issue an on-sale intoxicating liquor license, an on-sale wine license, or an on-sale malt liquor license for the city-owned Pemberton Community Center. The city is deemed the licensee.
• City of Roseville Cedarholm Golf Course. Section 18 authorizes the City of Roseville to issue an on-sale intoxicating liquor license for the city-owned Roseville Cedarholm Golf Course located at 2323 Hamline Avenue North. The city is deemed the licensee.

• Minnesota Lakes Maritime Society. Section 19 authorizes the City of Alexandria to issue temporary licenses to the Minnesota Lakes Maritime Society, doing business as the Legacy of the Lakes Museum, without regard to the restriction set forth in Minn. Stat. § 340A.410, subd. 10(b).

Local liquor licenses in sections 2 and 6-19 are effective upon approval by the county boards or city councils in each jurisdiction and in compliance with Minn. Stat. § 645.021. All other provisions effective May 28, 2020. (AL)

LOCAL LAWS

Special legislation allowing increased members for North Branch PUC
Chapter 102 (HF 3242/SF 3020*) allows the City of North Branch to increase their public utility commission membership from three to five members. The change was requested by the city. Effective the day following approval by the city council and in compliance with Minn. Stat. § 645.021. All other provisions effective May 28, 2020. (AL)

PENSIONS

Omnibus Pensions and Retirement Act
Chapter 108 (HF 3903/SF 3808*) is the Omnibus Pensions and Retirement Act. Summarized below are provisions that may be of interest to cities.

• City of St. Paul and St. Paul School District contributions to multiemployer plans modified. Article 2 resolves an issue related to the City of St. Paul and the St. Paul School District. It was discovered that the city and St. Paul School District were contributing to multiemployer plans on behalf of employees in the building and construction trades. Trades employees hired before July 1, 2020 who have been participating in the PERA General Plan and a multiemployer plan, are grandfathered and will be permitted to continue to participate in both PERA and their multiemployer plan. Trades employees hired on or after July 1, 2020 are not permitted to participate in PERA. The city and school district are required to annually report to the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement the number of grandfathered trades employees for whom these employers are still making contributions to PERA.

• Requirement repealed. Article 2, section 3 repeals a requirement that has not been complied with for many years, if ever, which is that any change in benefits or employer contributions to a supplemental plan will not take effect unless approved by the legislature. “Supplemental plans” include multiemployer plans, school district 403(b) plans, municipal 457(b) plans, and other retirement plans sponsored by public employers that are not one of the statewide plans. Effective May 28, 2020.

• Phase-out of enhanced augmentation under PERA when a medical facility privatizes provided. Article 3 revises Minn. Stat. ch. 353F, which provides additional benefits to employees whose PERA coverage ends when their employer changes from a governmental subdivision to a nonprofit or for-profit corporation. Affected employers include hospitals, nursing homes, and other medical facilities. The article phases out enhanced augmentation for these employees. Beginning July 1, 2020, the augmentation rate for all previously privatized employees is reduced to 2% and is eliminated entirely effective Jan. 1, 2024. Effective May 28, 2020.

• State auditor reporting requirements for pension plans modified. Article 4 revises Minn. Stat. ch. 356. It updates and clarifies the requirements for reporting to the State Auditor by public pension plans that do not fully invest their assets with the State Board of Investment (SBI). It also removes redundant reporting requirements for the SBI. Generally, the updated reporting requirements apply to the Bloomington Fire Department Relief Association, the St. Paul Teachers Retirement Fund Association, and volunteer firefighter relief associations that are not fully invested through the SBI. Effective May 28, 2020.
• **PERA administrative changes provided.** Article 6 makes administrative changes to Minn. Stat. ch. 353, as requested by PERA, as follows:
  - Clarifies the definition of a “seasonal employee;”
  - Clarifies that a member who purchases service credit for a period of military service is permitted to purchase service credit for less than the entire period of military service if the period is longer than one year and that such purchases must be in increments of six months;
  - Clarifies the date as of which a member or survivor is able to be considered as having begun to receive a retirement annuity, bounce-back annuity, or survivor annuity, where the member or survivor does not file an application for benefits immediately upon the retirement or death;
  - Clarifies language in the Phased Retirement Option (PRO) and states that a member wishing to use the PRO must continue working in the same position for the same employer as the member had prior to entering into the PRO;
  - Clarifies the graded vesting requirements for the PERA Police and Fire Plan;
  - Makes a number of modifications to the PERA Police and Fire Plan disability provisions including clarifying that a member is not required to terminate service before being eligible to apply for a disability benefit and making retroactive corrections to reflect actual operation in compliance with federal law; and
  - Repeals a provision permitting members to suspend or reduce their annuity payments for a period of time. 
  *Effective July 1, 2020.*

• **Administrative changes to the PERA Statewide Volunteer Firefighter (SVF) Plan.** Article 7 makes administrative changes to Minn. Stat. ch. 353G, as requested by the PERA Statewide Volunteer Firefighter Plan Advisory Committee, as follows:
  - Provides that the definition of “governing body” is the governing body of a municipality or independent nonprofit firefighting corporation or, in the case of a joint powers entity, the governing bodies of the municipalities associated with the joint powers entity;
  - Establishes a process for a governing body to elect coverage by the SVF when there is no existing volunteer fire relief association;
  - Modifies the process for transferring coverage from a volunteer fire relief association to the SVF;
  - Establishes procedures for approval when the approving body is a joint powers entity;
  - Permits the calculation of a lump-sum pension amount using months rather than years if it is provided for in the relief association’s bylaws;
  - Clarifies that a deferred member of a former relief association is eligible for the benefit the member would have received from the former relief association, even though the benefit will be paid from the SVF;
  - Permits a fire chief to initiate a benefit increase under the lump-sum division of the SVF; not just the governing body of the municipality, as under current law; and
  - Changes the official name of the SVF from “voluntary statewide volunteer firefighter retirement” plan or fund to “statewide volunteer firefighter plan” or “statewide volunteer firefighter fund,” as applicable. *Effective May 28, 2020.*

• **Credit for service for Maplewood firefighter provided.** Article 9 is a 2020 Session Law that permits a former firefighter employed by the city of Maplewood to purchase service credit under the PERA Police and Fire Plan for a period of approximately 7 months when he should have been participating in the plan, but had not been enrolled by the City. If the member pays the missed employee contributions with interest, the City must pay the missed employer contributions with interest, and PERA will credit the service. *Effective May 28, 2020.*

• **Increase in the maximum lump-sum pension amount for volunteer firefighters provided.** Article 10 amends Minn. Stat. § 424A.02, subd. 3. It increases the maximum lump-sum pension amount that is multiplied by years of service to compute lump sum benefits under a defined benefit relief association. The maximum is increased from $10,000 to $15,000 and incremental amounts are added between $10,000 and $15,000. The article also repeals Laws 2018, chapter 211, article 14, section 29, which permits Plymouth to increase its lump-sum amount up to $12,500. The section is repealed because the new maximum lump-sum amount is higher than the current $12,500 maximum available to Plymouth. *Effective Jan. 1, 2021.*

• **Authorized allocation of fire state aid modified.** Article 11 contains the recommendations of the Fire State Aid Work Group to permit a municipality to allocate (or split) its fire state aid between its career firefighters and its volunteer firefighters, but only if the amount allocated to the career firefighters is agreed to by the relief association. Under current law, if a municipality is affiliated with a relief association, any fire state aid the municipality receives must be sent to the relief association. This remains true regardless of whether the municipality also has full-time or career firefighters covered by the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) Police and Fire Plan.
• Distribution of aid according to agreement required. Article 11, section 1 amends Minn. Stat. § 477B.04, subd. 3. It requires a municipality affiliated with a relief association to distribute fire state aid in accordance with an aid allocation agreement if one exists. Effective for aids payable in 2021 and thereafter.

• Split fire state aid allocation authorized. Article 11, section 2 creates Minn. Stat. § 477B.042. It authorizes municipalities to allocate fire state aid between their affiliated volunteer firefighter relief association and their career firefighters if there is an aid allocation agreement between the municipality and the relief association. It requires that any aid allocated to career firefighters must be used to pay PERA employer contributions within 18 months of the transfer or be returned to the relief association. It describes the requirements for an acceptable aid allocation agreement. It provides for the termination of an aid allocation agreement by the mutual consent of the municipality and the relief association or by either party upon a 50% or more change in the fire state aid transmitted to the municipality by the state. It establishes a requirement that aid allocation agreements must be filed with the state auditor. Effective for aids payable in 2021 and thereafter.

• Hibbing and Austin allocation agreements grandfathered. Article 11, section 3 is a 2020 Session Law that grandfathered the fire state aid allocation arrangements of the cities of Hibbing and Austin. Hibbing is allocating fire state aid under a court ordered settlement agreement and a 1980 session law. Austin is allocating fire state aid under a session law passed in 2019. Both cities are permitted to continue their current arrangement until such time as their arrangement changes. At that point, the cities would be required to comply with sections 1 and 2 as described above. Effective May 28, 2020.

• Eagan allocation authorized. Article 11, section 4 is a 2020 Session Law that permits the City of Eagan to allocate fire state aid paid in 2020 pursuant to an aid allocation agreement. The authority to do so expires June 30, 2022. Effective May 28 and applies retroactively from Jan. 1, 2020.

• Relief association dissolution and retirement plan termination provided. Article 12 is legislation resulting from the recommendations of the Conversions and Dissolutions Work Group.

• Definitions provided. Article 12, sections 1-14 add subdivisions to Minn. Stat. § 424B.01 to include new definitions for “defined benefit plan” and “defined contribution plan;” “municipality,” which addresses municipalities that are part of a joint powers agreement; “required contribution;” and “retiree in pay status.”

• Dissolution and retirement plan termination procedure specified. Article 12, section 15 creates Minn. Stat. § 424B.22. It consists of 12 subdivisions providing a new set of procedures and requirements for dissolving a relief association and terminating its retirement plan. Steps in the process include fully vesting all members in their retirement benefits; authority to increase the lump sum amount or monthly benefit amount to reduce any surplus and pay the surplus to firefighters in the form of larger retirement benefits. (“Surplus” is defined in Section 14 as the amount by which assets exceed liabilities); a requirement that the board of trustees transfer any remaining surplus to the affiliated municipality up to the amount of required contributions made by the municipality during the preceding 10 years, and thereafter split any remaining surplus equally between the relief association and the municipality; and a requirement that payment of all retirement benefits within 210 days of the effective date of plan termination, thereby allowing firefighters to receive their benefits immediately, rather than waiting until they reach age 50.


• Brooklyn Park Firefighters’ Relief Association dissolution and plan termination provided. Article 13 is a 2020 Session Law that provides for the dissolution of the Brooklyn Park Firefighters’ Relief Association and the termination of the retirement plan administered by the relief association. The relief association is required to fully vest all accounts in the relief association retirement plan and make immediate distributions of accounts, among other requirements. Effective the day after compliance with the local approval requirements in Minn. Stat. § 645.021, which require approval by the Brooklyn Park City Council and the filing of the council’s resolution with the Secretary of State.

• Ramsey Volunteer Firefighters’ Relief Association division authorized. Article 14 is a 2020 Session Law that provides for the division of the Ramsey Firefighters’ Relief Association. The cities of Ramsey and Nowthen are in the process of terminating a joint powers agreement by which fire services were provided through one fire department. Effective May 28, 2020.

• Volunteer Firefighter Relief Associations conversions from defined benefit plan to defined contribution plan provided. Article 15 is also the result of recommendations from the Conversions and Dissolutions Work Group (the first is Article 12 pertaining to dissolutions and retirement plan terminations).
• Definitions provided. Article 15, sections 1-12 add subdivisions to Minn. Stat. § 424B.01. They provide new definitions to supplement definitions already provided in the section.

• Conversions from defined benefit plan to defined contribution plan process specified. Article 15, section 13 creates Minn. Stat. § 424B.13. It consists of 10 subdivisions that provide a procedure and requirements for converting a defined benefit relief association to a defined contribution relief association. The new procedures include a requirement that all retirement benefits under the defined benefit plan become fully vested and authority to allocate any surplus among the new accounts in the defined contribution plan. Effective May 28, 2020.

• State Auditor’s Volunteer Firefighter Working Group recommendations. Article 16 contains the recommendations of State Auditor’s Volunteer Fire Relief Association Working Group.

• Time to dispute shortened. Article 16, section 1 amends Minn. Stat. § 424A.003 by revising the period of time in which a firefighter can dispute the fire chief’s annual service credit certification from 60 days to 21 days. Effective Jan. 1, 2021.


• Defined contribution requirement for inactive members modified. Article 16, section 3 amends Minn. Stat. § 424A.016, subd. 4 by modifying the requirements for defined contribution plans to require that defined contribution plans credit inactive members with investment gains or losses. Effective Aug. 1, 2020.

• Defined contribution requirement for deferred members modified. Article 16, section 4 amends Minn. Stat. § 424A.016, subd. 6 by modifying the requirements for defined contribution plans to require that defined contribution plans credit deferred members with investment gains or losses. Effective May 28, 2020.

• Benefits based on service clarified. Article 16, section 5 amends Minn. Stat. § 424A.03 by clarifying provisions that require pension and retirement benefits to be based on service, not compensation. Effective May 28, 2020.


• Accrued liability determination modified. Article 16, section 7 amends Minn. Stat. § 424A.092, subd. 2. It provides that starting with calculations performed in 2021, accrued liability will be determined based on a method and factors to be updated and maintained in the Appendix to the Pension Commission’s Standards for Actuarial Work, allowing the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement to revise the table without needing to pass legislation. Effective May 28, 2020.

Effective dates vary and are noted by section. (AF)

PUBLIC FINANCE

State disaster assistance account replenished
Chapter 68 (HF 3633/SF 3564*) transfers $30 million to the state disaster assistance contingency account. That fund is used to meet local match requirements for federal disaster assistance, as well as for other state disaster assistance purposes found in Minn. Stat. § 12.221, subd. 6. Effective May 18, 2020. (CJ)

PUBLIC SAFETY

Law enforcement use of unmanned aerial vehicles
See summary under Data Practices.

Eyewitness identification policies required
Chapter 90 (HF 627*/SF 1256) creates Minn. Stat. § 626.8433. It requires law enforcement policies on best practices for eyewitness identifications.

• Statewide model policy required. Subd. 1 provides that by Nov. 1, 2020, the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Board, in consultation with stakeholders, must develop a model policy that articulates best practices in eyewitness identification and promotes uniform practices statewide. The POST Board must distribute this model policy to all chief law enforcement officers. At a minimum, the policy must require that:
  • A person administering a live or photographic lineup be unaware of the suspect’s identity, or if that is not practical, the administrator use a photographic lineup that prevents the administrator from seeing which member of the photographic lineup is being viewed by the eyewitness at a given time;
  • Before the procedure, the eyewitness be instructed that the perpetrator may or may not be in the lineup;
  • Non-suspect “fillers” used in the lineup be substantially similar to the eyewitness’ description of the perpetrator; and
  • Immediately after an identification is made, the eyewitness provide a statement in the eyewitness’ own words that articulates the level of the eyewitness’ confidence in the identification.
• **Agency policies required.** Subd. 2 provides that by Feb. 1, 2021, the chief law enforcement officers of every state and local law enforcement agency shall adopt and implement a written policy on eyewitness identification practices that is identical to or substantially similar to the model policy developed under subd. 1.

• **Admissibility of evidence not impacted.** Subd. 3 provides that nothing in this section is intended to preclude the admissibility of any relevant evidence or to affect the standards governing the admissibility of evidence under the United States or Minnesota Constitution.  
  *Effective Aug. 1, 2020. (AF)*

**Omnibus public safety and corrections policy act**  
Chapter 110 (HF 3391/SF 3258*) is the omnibus public safety and corrections policy act. Summarized below are provisions that may be of interest to cities.

• **Conservation officer limitation removed.** Section 1 amends Minn. Stat. § 169A.03, subd. 18. It removes limitations on when a conservation officer qualifies as a “peace officer” under the driving while intoxicated (DWI) chapter. Under current law, conservation officers only have the authority to enforce provisions of the DWI chapter against individuals who are hunting, or operating off-road recreational vehicles or motorboats while under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or an intoxicating substance.  
  *Effective Aug. 1, 2020.*

• **Unmanned aerial vehicle prohibition provided.** Section 5 creates Minn. Stat. § 243.552. It creates the misdemeanor crime of operating a drone in the airspace above a state prison or other property controlled by the Commissioner of the Department of Corrections. It assesses a gross misdemeanor penalty to those who operate a drone in violation of this new law while using the drone to record images or to introduce items that are not contraband into a prison without authorization.  
  *Effective Aug. 1, 2020.*

• **Local match temporarily suspended for youth intervention program grants.** Section 7 is a 2020 Session Law. It eliminates the local match requirement for youth intervention program grants made in calendar year 2020 before the Governor’s declaration of a peacetime emergency if grant recipients suspended or severely limited programming in response to the peacetime emergency. The Office of Justice Programs is required to report on the number of grant recipients who either met or were unable to meet the local match requirement in 2020.  
  *Effective May 28, 2020.* **Effective dates vary and are noted by section.** (AF)

**Police Accountability Act**  
The eight-day special session that began July 13 and ended July 21 produced Second Special Session Chapter 1 (2nd SS HF 1*/2nd SS SF 37), the Police Accountability Act. It makes changes to laws governing police conduct, training, and oversight. In a one-day special session on Aug. 12, the Legislature passed Third Special Session Chapter 2 (3rd SS HF 2*/3rd SS SF 2), which amended some of the provisions in the Police Accountability Act. Summarized are provisions in the Police Accountability Act, as amended in the third special session, that may be of interest to cities.

• **Public safety peer counseling and critical incident stress management defined and authorized.** Sections 1 through 4 define “public safety peer counseling” and “critical incident stress management” and protect information shared during peer counseling critical incident stress management sessions by classifying it as private data. (Note: Section 36 of the Police Accountability Act repeals Minn. Stat. § 181.973, the public safety peer counseling and debriefing program that is replaced in this Act.)  
  *Data classification conforming changes provided.* Section 1 amends Minn. Stat. § 13.43, subd. 9 by making conforming changes in relation to the classification of peer counseling data.  
  *Effective Aug. 1, 2020.*

• **Data classification provided.** Section 2 amends Minn. Stat. § 13.43 by adding a subdivision that classifies data acquired by a critical incident stress management team member when providing critical incident stress management services. It provides that information provided during public safety peer counseling and critical incident stress management sessions are not admissible as evidence in any personnel or occupational licensing matter involving the person being debriefed or counseled.  
  *Effective Aug. 1, 2020.*

• **“Public safety peer counseling” defined and authorized.** Section 3 creates Minn. Stat. § 181.9731. It defines the terms “emergency service providers,” “peer support counselor,” and “public safety peer counseling” for purposes of this section. It prohibits a peer support counselor from providing public safety peer counseling to an emergency service provider if the peer support counselor was a witness to the critical incident. It prohibits disclosure of information obtained solely through the provision of, or receipt of, peer counseling unless an exception listed applies. It establishes five exceptions to the prohibition on disclosure: (1) to prevent a person receiving services from harming self or others, (2) to make mandatory reports of abuse, (3) have written consent of the person who received services, (4) if the person is deceased and the surviving spouse or estate administrator gives written consent, or (5) if that person testifies.  
  *Effective Aug. 1, 2020.*

• **“Critical incident stress management” defined and authorized.** Section 4 creates Minn. Stat. § 181.9732. Defines terms including “crisis intervention services,” “critical incident,” “critical incident stress...
management,”“emergency service provider,”“critical incident stress management team,” and “peer support activity.” It prohibits a peer support counselor from providing public safety peer counseling to an emergency service provider if the peer support counselor was a witness to the critical incident. It prohibits disclosure of information obtained solely through the provision of, or receipt of, crisis intervention services unless an exception listed applies. It establishes five exceptions to the prohibition on disclosure: (1) to prevent a person receiving services from harming self or others, (2) to make mandatory reports of abuse, (3) have written consent of the person who received services, (4) if the person is deceased and the surviving spouse or estate administrator gives written consent, or (5) if that person testifies. Effective Aug. 20, 2020.

• **Independent Use of Force Investigations Unit established.** Section 5 creates Minn. Stat. § 299C.80. It establishes an independent Use of Force Investigations Unit in the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA). The unit is responsible for investigating all officer involved deaths in the state as well as criminal sexual assault allegations made against peace officers. The unit expires Aug. 1, 2024. Effective Aug. 1, 2020.

• **Residency incentives for peace officers authorized.** Section 6 adds a subdivision to Minn. Stat. § 415.16. It provides that a statutory or home rule charter city or county may offer incentives to encourage a person hired as a peace officer, as defined in Minn. Stat. § 626.84, subd. 1, paragraph (c), to be a resident of the city or county. Effective Aug. 1, 2020.

• **Limitations on the use of certain restraints provided.** Section 8 adds a subdivision to Minn. Stat. § 609.06. It prohibits peace officers from using the following restraints unless the use of deadly force is authorized: a chokehold, securing all of a person’s limbs together behind the person’s back (“hog tying”), and securing a person in any way that results in transporting the person face down in a vehicle. It defines “chokehold” as a method of applying sufficient pressure to a person to make breathing difficult or impossible or stop the flow of blood to the brain via the carotid arteries. Effective July 24, 2020.

• **Use of deadly force provisions established and modified.** Section 9 through 11 establish and modify provisions related to law enforcement use of deadly force.

• **Use of deadly force legislative intent provided.** Section 9 adds a subdivision to Minn. Stat. § 609.066. It declares that: (1) the authority to use deadly force conferred on peace officers is a critical responsibility that must be exercised judiciously and with respect for human rights and dignity and for the sanctity of every human life; (2) peace officers should use deadly force only when necessary in defense of human life or to prevent great bodily harm; (3) the decision by a peace officer to use deadly force shall be evaluated from the perspective of a reasonable officer in the same situation, based on the totality of the circumstances known to or perceived by the officer at the time, rather than with the benefit of hindsight, and that the totality of the circumstances shall account for occasions when officers may be forced to make quick judgments about using deadly force; and (4) peace officers should exercise special care when interacting with individuals with known physical, mental health, developmental, or intellectual disabilities as an individual’s disability may affect the individual’s ability to understand or comply with commands from peace officers. Effective March 1, 2021.

• **Use of deadly force authority limited.** Section 10 amends Minn. Stat. § 609.066, subd. 2. It limits the authority of peace officers to use deadly force in the course of their duties. It provides that an officer must be able to articulate the threat with specificity, the threat must be reasonably likely to occur absent action by the officer, and the threat must be one that requires the officer to address it through the use of deadly force without unreasonable delay. It restricts the use of deadly force in cases where the person only presents a danger to self. Effective March 1, 2021.

• **Use of force reporting required.** Section 11 creates Minn. Stat. § 626.5534. It requires chief law enforcement officers to provide the information requested by the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) regarding any use of force by peace officers that results in serious bodily injury or death to the BCA. It directs the superintendent of the BCA to adopt a reporting form. It requires chief law enforcement officers to file the report required once per month. It directs the superintendent of the BCA to summarize and analyze the reports and annually file a written report with the legislative committees with jurisdiction over public safety. Effective Aug. 1, 2020.

• **Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Board membership expanded.** Section 12 amends Minn. Stat. § 626.841. It increases the number of POST Board members from 15 to 17, with the two additional appointments being members of the public appointed by the governor (this increases the number of members of the public on the POST Board from two to four). Effective Aug. 1, 2020.

• **Rules governing complaints provided.** Section 13 adds a subdivision to Minn. Stat. § 626.843. It provides that, if the POST Board establishes a subcommittee to investigate licensure actions, that subcommittee must have one voting board member appointed from the general public and three voting board members who are current or former peace officers. Effective Aug. 1, 2020.
• **Warrior-style training defined and prohibited.** Section 14 creates Minn. Stat. § 626.8434. It defines “warrior-style training” as “training for peace officers that dehumanizes people or encourages aggressive conduct by peace officers during encounters with others in a manner that deemphasizes the value of human life or constitutional rights, the result of which increases a peace officer’s likelihood or willingness to use deadly force.” It prohibits the POST Board from approving law enforcement training courses that incorporate warrior training and from granting continuing education credit or reimbursement payments to peace officers who attend courses that include warrior training. It also prohibits chief law enforcement officers from providing warrior training to peace officers. *Effective Aug. 1, 2020.*

• **Ensuring Police Excellence and Improving Community Relations Advisory Council established.** Section 15 creates Minn. Stat. § 626.8435. It establishes the Ensuring Police Excellence and Improving Community Relations Advisory Council under the POST Board. The 15-member Council includes representatives from the law enforcement community, the public, and members appointed by the legislature. It provides that the duties of the Council are to assist the board in maintaining policies and regulating peace officers in a manner that ensures the protection of civil and human rights, provide for citizen involvement in policing policies and supervision, and promoting positive interactions between peace officers and the community. It requires the POST Board’s chair to place the Council’s recommendations on the POST Board’s agenda within four months of receiving the recommendations. It directs the Council to submit a report by Feb. 15 of each year to the chairs and ranking members of the legislative committees and divisions with jurisdiction over criminal justice policy and the POST Board. The report must include the recommendations made by the Council to the POST Board and how the POST Board acted on those recommendations. It requires the POST Board to convene the first meeting of the Council by Oct. 15, 2020. (Note: incorporated changes from 3rd Special Session.) *Effective July 24, 2020.*

• **Peace officer database establishment required.** Section 16 adds a subdivision to Minn. Stat. § 626.845. It directs the POST Board, in consultation with representatives from the law enforcement community, to create a database to serve as a central repository for peace officer data received as required in section 20 of the Police Accountability Act (as summarized below). It requires data on individual officers to be encrypted. *Effective July 24, 2020.*

• **Updated policies and record-keeping required.** Sections 17 through 19 require the POST Board to adopt updated model policies on peace officer use of force. Chief law enforcement officers must update agency policies to conform with the model policies and must keep records of compliance.

• **Updated policies required.** Section 17 adds a subdivision to Minn. Stat. § 626.8452. It requires the POST Board, in consultation with interested parties, to adopt an updated model policy on peace officer use of force by Sept. 1, 2020. It provides that the model policy must recognize and respect the sanctity and value of all human life and the need to treat all people with dignity and without prejudice. It requires the updated policy to include a duty for peace officers to: (1) intercede when other officers are using force that is beyond what is objectively reasonable; (2) report the illegal use of force by other officers; and (3) only use deadly force, including choke holds and other techniques limited under Minn. Stat. § 609.06, subd. 3, as authorized under law and after considering less lethal measures. It directs the POST Board to incorporate recent changes to limitations on the use of force and use of deadly force statutes even if those statutes have a delayed effective date. It requires the chief law enforcement officer of every state and local law enforcement agency to update the agency’s policy on use of force by Dec. 15, 2020, so that it is consistent with the board’s updated policy. It directs the board to assist local law enforcement agencies in developing and implementing the updated policies. *Effective Aug. 1, 2020.*

• **Record-keeping required.** Section 18 amends Minn. Stat. § 626.8452, subd. 4. It requires the head of every local and state law enforcement agency to keep records of compliance with the updated policies on peace officer use of force. *Effective Aug. 1, 2020.*

• **POST Board authorized to inspect policies.** Section 19 amends Minn. Stat. § 626.8452, subd. 5. It provides that the POST Board has authority to inspect state and local law enforcement policies to ensure compliance with the requirement to establish and update policies on the use of force and use of deadly force. It permits the POST Board to conduct inspections based upon complaints or through a random selection process. *Effective Aug. 1, 2020.*

• **Report of alleged misconduct database established and report required.** Section 20 amends Minn. Stat. § 626.8457, subd. 3. It requires the chief law enforcement officer of each law enforcement agency to submit, in real time, certain individual peace officer data classified as public to the POST Board, beginning July 1, 2021. It directs the POST Board to determine what data is necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of required training, assist the Ensuring Police Excellence and Improving Community Relations Advisory Council in accomplishing the Council’s duties, and permits the POST Board and Council to identify patterns of behavior that suggest an officer is in crisis or likely to violate a mandatory policy. It requires chief law enforcement officers to
update the submitted data. It directs the POST Board to prepare a report summarizing the data received. It requires that the report be posted on the POST Board’s website and submitted to the legislative committees and divisions with jurisdiction over criminal justice policy. (Note: incorporated changes from 3rd Special Session.) Effective Aug. 1, 2020.

- **Training in crisis response, conflict management, and cultural diversity required.** Section 21 amends Minn. Stat. § 626.8469. It requires that six of the required 16 hours of training for peace officers in crisis intervention, conflict management, and recognizing and valuing community diversity include training standards on crisis intervention and mental illness crisis training. It requires that four of the required 16 hours of training include training on safer interactions between peace officers and persons with autism. It requires the POST Board, in consultation with the commissioner of the Department of Human Services and mental health stakeholders, to create a list of approved entities and training courses to instruct peace officers in techniques for responding to a mental illness crisis. It requires the course to include instruction on ten specific subjects and on responding to situations where children and families of individuals with mental illness are present during a crisis. It requires the head of every local and state law enforcement agency to maintain written records on the agency’s compliance with the requirements and establishes requirements for those records. It directs the POST Board to include an evaluation of the effectiveness of the training in reducing officer use of force and diverting people experiencing a mental illness crisis from arrest. Beginning July 1, 2021, the training must be provided by an approved entity. The POST Board must create a list of approved entities and training courses and make the list available to the chief law enforcement officer of every state and local law enforcement agency. Each peace officer with a license renewal date before June 30, 2022, and who received the training mandated before July 1, 2021, is not required to receive this training by an approved entity until the officer’s next full three-year licensing cycle. For every peace officer and part-time peace officer with a license renewal date of June 30, 2022, or later, the training must include a minimum of six hours for crisis intervention and mental illness crisis training that meets the standards established and include a minimum of four hours to ensure safer interactions between peace officers and persons with autism. (Note: incorporated changes from 3rd Special Session.) Effective Aug. 1, 2020.

- **Autism training required.** Section 22 creates Minn. Stat. § 626.8474. It requires that by Jan. 1, 2021, the POST Board must develop learning objectives for courses that train peace officers to work with citizens with autism. It requires current and future peace officers to complete training that satisfies the learning objectives developed by the POST Board. It provides that the additional training is part of the required 16 hours of training for peace officers in crisis intervention, conflict management, and recognizing and valuing community diversity. It requires the head of every local and state law enforcement agency to maintain written records on the agency’s compliance with the requirements and establishes requirements for those records. A person is not eligible to take the peace officer licensing examination after July 1, 2022, unless the individual has received the training described. (Note: incorporated changes from 3rd Special Session.) Effective Aug. 1, 2020.

- **Duty to intercede and report provided.** Section 23 creates Minn. Stat. § 626.8475. It establishes a duty for peace officers to intercede when another officer is using excessive force and report incidents of excessive force to supervisors. Failure of a peace officer to intercede or report excessive force subjects the officer to POST Board discipline. Effective Aug. 1, 2020.

- **Peace officer grievance arbitration selection procedure established.** Section 24 creates Minn. Stat. § 626.892. It creates a new six-person arbitrator roster appointed by the commissioner of the Bureau of Mediation Services (BMS), in consultation with stakeholders, to hear grievance arbitrations for written discipline, discharge, and termination of peace officers that arise under collective bargaining agreements covering peace officers. It does not apply to any other public employees. Fees charged by the roster are set annually by the commissioner of the BMS. Appointees must be qualified to hear peace officer grievance arbitrations and cannot hear any other labor arbitrations. It sets initial terms for appointments to expire in Jan. 2023, 2024, or 2025, and provides for three-year terms after that. It allows reappointments. It applies current rules for arbitration rosters and proceedings, including status, contract, and standards for arbitrators. It requires training for arbitrators, including initial training on racism, implicit bias, diversity, cultural competency, and the daily experience of peace officers. It requires the BMS commissioner to assign an arbitrator or panel on a rotating basis, alphabetically by arbitrator last name, and without participation from the parties. Arbitration decisions are final, subject to the appeal process under the Uniform Arbitration Act. Changes to the selection procedure for peace officer grievance arbitrations under this section supersede contrary existing law for arbitrator selection. Parties cannot agree to a different selection procedure in future collective bargaining agreements covering peace officers. Current rules and Minn. Stat. chs. 179A and 572B only apply if consistent with this section. Effective Sept. 1, 2020.
• **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Task Force provisions modified.** Sections 25, 27, and 28 pertain to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Task Force.


• **Appropriations provided.** Sections 26 through 35 contain several appropriations that may be of interest to cities:

  • **Peace officer training assistance extended.** Section 26 amends Laws 2019, First Special Session ch. 5, section 13, subd. 4. It extends the sunset on an annual appropriation of $6 million to the POST Board for supporting and strengthening law enforcement training from fiscal year 2022 to fiscal year 2024. *Effective Aug. 1, 2020.*

  • **BMS funding for law enforcement arbitration provided.** Section 29 is a session law that appropriates $120,000 in fiscal year 2021 to the BMS for costs associated with peace officer grievance procedures. The base for the appropriation is $47,000 in fiscal year 2022 and thereafter. *Effective Aug. 2020.*

  • **Independent Use of Force Investigations Unit in BCA appropriation provided.** Section 30 is a session law that appropriates $3.365 million in fiscal year 2021 to fund the operations of the independent Use of Force Investigations Unit in the BCA. The base for the appropriation is $3.272 million in fiscal years 2022 and 2023, and $0 in fiscal year 2024. *Effective Aug. 20, 2020.*

  • **Autism training appropriation provided.** Section 31 is a session law that appropriates $8,000 in fiscal year 2021 to the BCA for training peace officers in autism awareness and response. *Effective Aug. 20, 2020.*

  • **Database appropriation provided.** Section 32 is a session law that appropriates $3.5 million in fiscal year 2021 to the POST Board to build, implement, and operate a database for peace officer data. The base for the appropriation is $500,000 in fiscal year 2022 and thereafter. *Effective July 24, 2020.*

• **Ensuring Police Excellence and Improving Community Relations Advisory Council appropriation provided.** Section 33 is a session law that appropriates $23,000 in fiscal year 2021 to the POST Board for costs associated with providing support for the Ensuring Police Excellence and Improving Community Relations Advisory Council. The base for the appropriation is $20,000 in fiscal year 2022 and thereafter. *Effective July 24, 2020.*

• **Data system staffing appropriation provided.** Section 34 is a session law that appropriates $96,000 in fiscal year 2021 to the POST Board for costs associated with staffing the database that receives data on peace officers. The base for the appropriation is $128,000 in fiscal year 2022 and thereafter. *Effective July 24, 2020.*

• **Peace officer crisis intervention and mental illness crisis training appropriation provided.** Section 35 is a session law that appropriates $145,000 in fiscal year 2021 from the general fund to the POST Board to meet the new requirements for the POST Board in relation to training in crisis intervention and mental illness crises; conflict management and mediation; and recognizing and valuing community diversity and cultural differences. The base for the appropriation is $137,000 in fiscal year 2022 and thereafter. (Note: incorporated changes from 3rd Special Session.) *Effective July 24, 2020.*

*Effective dates vary and are noted by section. (AF)*

Omnibus Transportation Policy Act

Chapter 100 (HF 462*/SF 1014) is the omnibus transportation policy act. Summarized below are provisions that may be of interest to cities.

• **Notification by road authority to private road owner required.** Section 1 adds a provision to Minn. Stat. § 160.05, subd. 1. It provides that before a road authority may make any repairs or conduct any work on a private road, the road authority must notify the owner of the road of the intent to make repairs or conduct work on the private road. The notice must be sent to the owner by certified mail. The notice must specify the segment of road that is the subject of the notice and state the duration of the repairs or work. It does not apply to a road segment for which: (1) repair or work started before Aug. 1, 2020 or (2) a road authority has continuously maintained since before Aug. 1, 2020. *Effective Aug. 1, 2020.*
• Escort vehicles for overdimensional loads requirements provided. Section 11 creates Minn. Stat. § 169.812. It provides requirements related to escort vehicles for overdimensional loads.

• Escorts based on width regulations provided. The section provides that no escort vehicle is required if the width of an overdimensional load is 15 feet or less as measured at the bottom of the load or is 16 feet or less as measured at the top of the load. Only one rear escort vehicle is required on a multilane divided roadway if the width of an overdimensional load is more than 15 feet as measured at the bottom of the load or is more than 16 feet as measured at the top of the load. Only one lead escort vehicle and one rear escort vehicle is required on any undivided roadway if the width of an overdimensional load is more than 15 feet as measured at the bottom of the load or is more than 16 feet as measured at the top of the load. One lead licensed peace officer is required when any part of an overdimensional load or a vehicle transporting an overdimensional load extends beyond the left of the centerline on an undivided roadway. The Commissioner of the Department of Transportation may require additional escorts when deemed necessary to protect public safety or to ensure against undue damage to the road foundations, surfaces, or structures. The Commissioner must specify in the permit (1) the number of additional escorts required and (2) whether the operators of the escort vehicles must be licensed peace officers or may be escort drivers.

• Escorts based on length regulations provided. When a vehicle transporting an overdimensional load is operated on a multilane divided roadway, only one rear escort vehicle is required if the overdimensional load has an overall length exceeding 110 feet, or only one lead escort vehicle and one rear escort vehicle is required if the overdimensional load has an overall length exceeding 150 feet. One lead escort vehicle and one rear escort vehicle is required on any undivided roadway if the overall length of the overdimensional load exceeds 110 feet. The Commissioner of the Department of Transportation may require additional escorts when deemed necessary to protect public safety or to ensure against undue damage to the road foundations, surfaces, or structures. The Commissioner must specify in the permit (1) the number of additional escorts required and (2) whether the operators of the escort vehicles must be licensed peace officers or may be escort drivers. Effective May 28, 2020.

• Mental health identifier authorized. Section 15 adds a subdivision to Minn. Stat. § 171.07. It provides that upon the written request of the applicant, the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety must issue a driver’s license or Minnesota identification card bearing a graphic or written identifier for a mental health condition. The applicant must submit the written request for the identifier at the time the photograph or electronically produced image is taken. The Commissioner must not include any specific medical information on the driver’s license or Minnesota identification card. Effective Aug. 1, 2020.

• Law enforcement salary survey. Section 20 requires the Legislative Auditor conduct a compensation and benefit survey of law enforcement officers. See summary under Employment. Effective dates vary and are noted by section. (AF)
League of Minnesota Cities Intergovernmental Relations Department

The League’s Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) staff work on legislative issues that matter to cities. Feel free to contact our IGR staff members with any questions, concerns, or suggestions regarding legislative issues.

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