

Legislative Update: Spring Short Course 2020, Minnesota Association of Townships

Deadlines

Late Start – February 11; Bonding Session

1st deadline - March 20, 2019: Committees must act favorably on bills in the house of origin.

2nd deadline - March 27, 2019: Committees must act favorably on bills, or companions of bills, that met the first deadline in the other house.

3rd deadline - April 3, 2019: Committees must act favorably on major appropriation and finance bills.

Session Adjourns: May 18, 2019.

MAT Legislative Priorities

- Transportation Funding - \$20 million biennial increase dedicated to townships; Bonding \$ to upgrade roads to 10-ton capacity.
- Annexation Equality – Clarification of annexation by contract (“orderly annexation”); Provisions for detachment.
- Broadband Funding – Fund the Border-to-Border Grant Program \$70 million per biennium; maintain unserved areas as the top priority.

MAT Priority Bills

Annexation

- [HF1139/SF1179](#) (Dehn/Anderson, B.) – Protects orderly annexation agreements. Prohibits a city not a party to an orderly annexation agreement from annexing land subject to the orderly agreement.

Status: Referred to committees of jurisdiction in both House and Senate; Amendment to provide for detachment prepared; hearings pending.

Transportation Funding

- [HF1577/SF1671](#) (Wolgamott/Lang) – Town road and bridge funding account created, and \$20 million transferred from the General Fund. (Independent of the gas tax).

Status: Referred to committees of jurisdiction in both House and Senate; no action expected in non-budget year.

- [HF1911/SF1279](#) (Wolgamott/Jasinski); [HF780/SF1081](#) (O’Driscoll/Howe) – Local cost-share assistance account established; local roads and bridges funding provided; bonding issued.

Status: Referred to Transportation Finance Committee.

Transportation Funding

- [HF3131/SF3535](#) (B.Johnson/Jasinski) - \$5 million transportation funding bill for township roads and bridges.

Status: Referred to Transportation Finance Committee.

- [SFxxxx](#) (Jasinski) – Creates a grant program using bonding dollars to be used by townships to upgrade town roads to 10-ton capacity.

Status: Being introduced.

Broadband

- [HF3029/SF3049](#) (Ecklund/Draheim) – Broadband grant program money appropriated; annual \$30 million statutory appropriation. Priority on “unserved” areas remains.

Status: Heard in House Committee 2/24; possible inclusion in omnibus bill.

Other Bills of Interest

Transportation Issues

- [HF3247/SF3207](#) (Drazkowsi/Goggin) – All-terrain vehicles may operate on public roads rules modified, with permission of local authorities
Status: Referred to Transportation Finance Committee.
- [HF4057/SF3780](#) (Huot/Bigham) – Town roads speed limits modification, allowing for lower speeds.
Status: Referred to Transportation Finance Committee.
- [HF3526/SF2935](#) (Sundin/Rarick) – Requiring road authorities to notify owner of private road prior to work done.
Status: Passed out of Transportation Committee to Local Gov.
- [HF2377/SF2324](#) (Wolgomott/Howe) – Protect the viability of volunteer driver programs.
Status: Hearing in House Tax Committee 3/12.
- [SFxxxx](#) (Dahms) – Clarifying watershed districts pay costs to replace culverts when replacement is part of watershed project.
Status: Bill being drafted; referred to Drainage Work Group.

Truck Weight Limits

- [HF2499/SF144](#) (Lucero/Anderson, B.) – Exempt sewage septic tank trucks from vehicle weight limits.
Status: Referred to Transportation Finance Committee.

Local Government

- [HF2296/SF2442](#) (Tabke/Pratt) – Authorizing municipalities to charge a street impact fee.
Status: Hearing in House Gov. Ops. Committee 3/12.
- [HF3770/SF3624](#) (Koegel/Weber) – Wake surfing on state waters regulation.
Status: On senate floor.
- [HF3200/SF3026](#) (Freiberg/Rest) – Audio recordings of all open meetings requirement for local governments.
Status: Pulled from hearing agenda; pending.

Environment

- [HF3226/SF3633](#) (Brand/Frentz) – Japanese knotweed remediation appropriation: \$150,000 for FY2021.
Status: Referred to Agriculture Committee.

Elections

- [SF3275](#) (Kiffmeyer) – Technology and cybersecurity account establishment; technology and cybersecurity maintenance authorization; election day registrants provisional ballot casting requirement; registering to vote in conjunction with submitting an absentee ballot process modification; appropriating money.
Status: Passed State Gov. Finance & Elections Committee in Senate; referred to Finance Committee.
- [HF3429/SF3494](#) (Dehn/Kiffmeyer) – Election policy bill.
Status: Referred to State Gov. Finance & Policy and Elections Committee.

Taxes

- [HF4105/SF3776](#) (Green/Utke) – Town aid appropriation increase from \$10 million to \$20 million.
Status: Referred to Tax Committee.
- [SFxxxx](#) (Chamberlain) – Removing townships from Met Council jurisdiction.
Status: Being introduced.

For More Information on Legislation:

<https://www.leg.state.mn.us/>