



June 1, 2026

OVERVIEW OF THE 2026 REGULAR AND SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The 2026 Legislative Session convened on February 17, 2026. Even-year legislative sessions are supplemental budget and policy years, so lawmakers' to-do lists were already scaled back this session. After a year of special elections in 2025, the House maintained its rare 67-67 tie and the Senate maintained its 34-33 one-seat DFL majority.

The start of session opened with a remembrance and memorial for Speaker Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark, who were assassinated on June 14, 2025. Senator John Hoffman, who was also shot and severely injured on that day, returned to work in the Senate on the first day of the legislative session. This violent tragedy, paired with the Annunciation School shootings in August 2025, led to loud calls from Governor Tim Walz and DFL leaders for gun regulations throughout the legislative session.

During the legislative interim, the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Walz Administration faced growing scrutiny for their handling of waste, fraud, and abuse of public funds, particularly within Medicaid programs serving Minnesotans with disabilities. This culminated in Walz announcing on January 5 that he would not seek a third term as Governor. Actions by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to withhold and defer federal Medicaid funding due to fraud highlighted the need to address program integrity during the legislative session.

In January, the Trump Administration deployed hundreds of federal officers to the Twin Cities metro with the stated aims of cracking down on fraud and enforcing immigration laws. Operation Metro Surge resulted in the shootings of two Minneapolis residents, Renee Good and Alex Pretti, by federal personnel, sparking national calls for an end to the escalating violence and unrest. Operation Metro Surge sparked further division between DFL and GOP legislators as the start of the session neared.

This session, Speaker Lisa Demuth (R-Cold Spring) continued to serve as Speaker of the House, while Rep. Zack Stephenson (DFL-Coon Rapids) assumed the role of leader of the House DFL Caucus following Speaker Hortman's murder. Rep. Harry Niska (R-Andover) and Rep. Jamie Long (DFL-Minneapolis) continued in their roles as House Floor Leaders for their respective caucuses. The Republicans maintained functional control of the Minnesota House, although, with the tie, they were unable to pass legislation without support from House Democrats.

The Senate DFL Caucus retained Sen. Erin Murphy (DFL-St. Paul) as the Senate Majority Leader and re-elected Sen. Bobby Joe Champion (DFL-Minneapolis) as President of the Senate. The Senate Republican Caucus retained Sen. Mark Johnson (R-East Grand Forks) as its leader.

In the end, legislative leaders and Governor Walz agreed to a supplemental budget agreement late on the evening of Wednesday, May 13, totaling just over \$659 million in new spending. This agreement included \$75 million for IT modernization in human services systems, a \$205 million infusion of stabilization funding to the Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC), a temporary reduction in the motor vehicle registration tax, \$300 million in cuts in the human services budget area, and a \$1.24 billion capital investment package for infrastructure needs across the state. All these provisions passed the legislature by midnight on May 17 and were signed into law by the Governor. The Legislature adjourned *sine die* shortly after passage of all bills, late on May 17.

Legislators are expected to hit the campaign trail throughout the summer, with an unprecedented number of legislative seats with no incumbent running. All House and Senate seats are up for re-election in November, as well as all Constitutional Offices. Among Constitutional Officers, only Secretary of State Steve Simon is running for re-election. The regular 2027 session will begin on Tuesday, January 12, 2027.

LIST OF OMNIBUS BILLS - 2026

OMNIBUS BILLS	HF/SF	VOTE TOTALS
Cannabis Policy	SF4401	House: 92-42 Senate: 34-33
Cash Bonding Bill	HF719	House: 122-11 Senate: 60-7
Commerce Policy	HF4188	House: 121-13 Senate: 49-15
Education Finance	HF2433	House: 129-3 Senate: 53-14
Environment	HF3426	House: 117-15 Senate: 46-19
GO Bonding Bill	HF2484	House: 96-38 Senate: 50-17
Health and Human Services	SF4612	House: 108-26 Senate: 35-32
Health Professional Scope and Licensing	HF3825	House: 123-10 Senate: 42-24
Higher Education	HF4252	House: 101-33 Senate: 52-14
Housing	HF1141	House: 105-28 Senate: 42-25
Human Services Finance and Program Integrity	SF4476	House: 108-26 Senate: 35-31



OMNIBUS BILLS	HF/SF	VOTE TOTALS
Human Services Policy	SF476	House: 93-39 Senate: 41-26
Human Services IT Modernization	SF334	House: 134-0 Senate: 67-0
Legacy	HF2563	House: 113-21 Senate: 37-30
Liquor	SF2511	House: 129-1 Senate: 56-10
Office of Inspector General	SF856	House: 127-5 Senate: 66-0
Permanent School Fund Investment and Constitutional Amendment	HF3900	House: 134-0 Senate: 43-24
Public Safety and Capitol Security Finance	SF3432	House: 100-34 Senate: 59-8
Public Safety Policy	SF4760	House: 100-32 Senate: 57-9
State Government	HF4591	House: 113-20 Senate: 53-13
Taxes	HF2438	House: 126-8 Senate: 52-15
Veterans	SF4807	House: 133-0 Senate: 58-8

MINNESOTA LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW

During the 2026 Legislative Session, the team at Park Street Public engaged in the following legislation at the direction of MINNDEPENDENT:

- Support for safe schools legislation and funding for nonpublic schools
- Monitor and oppose legislation imposing educational mandates on nonpublic schools

SAFE SCHOOLS FUNDING

During the 2026 Legislative Session, the Park Street Public (PSP) team had legislation drafted and introduced legislation to provide state safe schools funding for nonpublic schools. Currently, the state's safe schools revenue program is only available to school districts, and not accessible to intermediate school districts, charter schools, nonpublic schools or tribal schools. Multiple versions of this bill were introduced, including:

- [HF3493 \(Lawrence\)/SF5111 \(Mathews\)](#)
- [HF3494 \(Lawrence\)/SF3930 \(Rarick\)](#)
- [HF5015 \(Lawrence\)](#)
- [SF5000 \(Kunesh\)](#)



The House and Senate held hearings on safe schools funding, including House Education Finance hearings on HF3493 (Lawrence) and HF5015 (Lawrence). HF3493 was laid over for possible inclusion earlier in session and later in session HF5015 was voted down by the committee, with House Republicans voting in favor and House DFLers voting no. MINNDEPENDENT weighed in support for the legislation, and Tim Benz provided testimony.

In the Senate, Sen. Kunesch, Chair of the Senate Education Committee, held a hearing on SF5000, a bill she introduced that provided one-time safe schools funding to school districts, charter, nonpublic, and tribal schools. The bill provided per student funding for school districts and charter schools, and a grant program for nonpublic and tribal schools.

MINNDEPENDENT declined to publicly engage on SF5000 in the Senate Education Committee due to insufficient funding for nonpublic schools compared to school districts and charter schools. Additionally, the legislation proposed the Minnesota Department of Education's distribute funding to nonpublic schools that would have excluded numerous nonpublic schools, including many in the metro area.

After the hearing, Tim Benz and the team at PSP met with Sen. Kunesch to give input on the bill, and eventually SF5000 was rolled into a larger omnibus bill. In the Senate Finance Committee hearing, the safe schools program for nonpublic schools was moved from the Minnesota Department of Education to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety. The larger supplemental funding bill passed the Minnesota Senate, but the House did not move a bill.

While there was a final agreement to include safe schools funding for nonpublic schools, the Education omnibus bill that emerged from negotiations included only minimal funding for all schools. The final bill included a \$4 million appropriation for a grant program to implement the anonymous threat program, with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety implementing the grant. This funding is available to school districts, charter schools, nonpublic and tribal schools.

- [HF2433 \(Youakim\)](#) – Omnibus Education Finance bill

In addition, the Health & Human Services bill included \$12.252 million in FY27 (starting July 1, 2026) for School Linked Behavior Health grants. Nonpublic schools are eligible for funding, along with school districts, charters, and tribal schools.

- [SF4612 \(Wiklund\)](#) – See appropriation and language starting on Line 314.8.

EDUCATIONAL MANDATES

No education mandates on nonpublic schools were enacted during the 2026 Legislative Session.

OTHER LEGISLATION

- **Gun Violence Prevention Legislation:** The Senate passed a package of bills related to reducing gun violence in the aftermath of the tragedy at Annunciation School. There was one provision that would have removed the discretion of a principal to allow an individual to carry a firearm on school property. This provision was later changed after feedback from MINNDEPENDENT and other education organizations, restoring this provision for nonpublic schools and changing this authority from principal to superintendent



for public schools. The provision, and the overall gun violence prevention package, did not pass the legislature. See [SF4067 \(Mohamed\)](#).

- **Child Care Modernization Act:** The legislature spent a significant amount of time focused on efforts to halt fraud in Medicaid, SNAP, and child care programs. In the closing hours of session, legislature passed the Health and Human Services Finance bill included licensing and regulatory requirements for private child care facilities including public and nonpublic schools operating preschool programs. See Article 12 found in the HHS Omnibus bill - [SF4612 \(Wiklund\)](#)
- **School Storm Shelters:** [HF4028 \(Bakeberg\)/SF3750 \(Kunesh\)](#) was approved by the Senate State and Local Government Committee but did not advance out of the Labor Committee and did not move in the House. MINNDEPENDENT supported the legislation.

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT POLICY

The legislature ultimately did not pass a Labor and Jobs bill this year, leaving only two separate provisions impacting the labor and employment space enacted in the 2026 session.

The first impacts all employers: [SF 3210](#) | [CH 99](#), which provides protections for the process of seeking an accommodation within the Minnesota Human Rights Act for individuals with disabilities. The new law clarifies that a failure to engage in the process to determine whether an accommodation exists may itself be an unfair discriminatory practice.

The second labor provision was included in the Legacy Finance bill, which extends unemployment insurance benefits for iron ore workers impacted by layoffs until March 2027.

Several other proposals did not ultimately advance to passage, including requirements for suitable seating, prohibiting “stay-or-pay” policies, and regulation of artificial intelligence in the workplace through electronic monitoring systems and automated decision-making.

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