

MSBA Capitol Connection

May 7, 2010

Minnesota Supreme Court Decision Shakes Up Legislature

In a [4-3 decision](#) issued Wednesday morning, the Minnesota Supreme Court ruled that Gov. Pawlenty had overused his unallotment authority in order to balance the budget for the current biennium. Now lawmakers could be facing a deficit of more than \$3 billion. The governor has vowed that tax increases will not be a part of the budget solution, and he urged the legislature to ratify his unallotments.

New Judicial Selection Reform Bill Introduced

Lawyer-legislator Rep. Ryan Winkler (DFL-Golden Valley) has introduced [HF3829](#), a bill that mirrors the Senate judicial selection reform bill (SF70). HF3829 has been referred to the House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee. Click [here](#) for more on this story.

Family Law Section Bill Passes House

[HF890](#), a bill from the Family Law Section passed the House Wednesday night on a 86-35 vote. The bill, which is carried by lawyer-legislator Rep. Steve Simon (DFL-St. Louis Park), streamlines and clarifies legal procedures related to assisted reproductive technology.

Busy Week For Legislators

Legislators worked seemingly nonstop throughout the week, often late into the night, debating and voting on bills on the floor of both chambers. Here are some highlights of interest to lawyers. Click [here](#) to find the full text for any bill.

- SF2226 (coercion against potential political candidates prohibition). This bill passed the House and was presented to the governor.
- SF2880 (state guardian ad litem board establishment). This bill was amended and passed in the House, and the Senate concurred with the amended version.
- SF2759 (state building code municipal enforcement provisions modifications). This bill was amended and passed in the House, and the Senate concurred with the amended version.
- HF2612 (civil commitment venue clarified). This bill passed the House and was given tentative approval in the Senate.
- SF2990 (service animal intentional harm resulting in inability to perform duties penalties imposition; animal fighting criminal penalties provision modification). This bill passed the House and was presented to the governor.
- SF2437 (domestic abuse and crime of stalking provisions modifications; electronic monitoring pilot project; data practices requirements exemptions; maximum bail increase; domestic abuse protection orders expansion to pets and companion animals). The

conference committee report for this bill was adopted by both chambers and the bill was presented to the governor.

- SF2713 (civilly committed sex offenders, sexually dangerous persons and sexual psychopathic personalities provisions modifications; judicial holds in civil commitment cases provisions modifications). The conference committee report for this bill was adopted by both chambers and the bill was presented to the governor.
- SF2370 (illegally tinted motor vehicle windows sale prohibition). The conference committee report for this bill was adopted by both chambers.
- HF2668 (expungement procedures modified, fee charging and recovery procedures provided, and certain rights provided to tenants of foreclosed properties). The conference committee report for this bill was adopted by both chambers.
- SF3055 (Tobacco Modernization and Compliance Act of 2010). This bill passed the House and was returned to the Senate.
- HF3660 (department of corrections; settlement provided for certain claims against the state for injuries suffered, and money appropriated). This bill passed the House.
- SF271 (state employees additional whistleblower protection). This bill passed the House. A conference committee has been formed to iron out differences with the Senate version.
- SF2709 (out-of-state offenders housed in county and regional jails authorization; inmate room and board payment time credited for time served inclusion). An amended version of this bill passed the House, and the Senate concurred with the House version.
- SF2695 (pregnant women mandatory drug reporting requirements modifications). An amended version of this bill passed the House. A conference committee has been formed.
- SF1761 (oral chemotherapy cancer treatment health plan coverage regulations). An amended version of this bill passed the House, and the Senate concurred with the House version.
- SF345 (enhanced drivers license and identification card creation). An amended version of this bill passed the House, and the Senate concurred with the House version.
- SF3128 (lead certification requirements for renovation of residential housing constructed prior to 1978; licensing requirements modifications). The conference committee report for this bill was adopted by both chambers.
- SF1886 (insurance claims for residential roofing goods and services regulation and roofing contracts right to cancel). An amended version of this bill passed the House, and the Senate concurred with the House version.
- SF2971 (eminent domain authority use by public service corporations clarification). An amended version of this bill passed the House. The Senate requested a conference committee.
- HF3106 (first-degree driving while impaired crime amended to include prior felony convictions from other states, and implied consent, driving while impaired, and ignition interlock provisions modified). The Senate passed an amended version of this bill; a conference committee has been formed.
- SF3019 (publicly owned nursing facilities rate increase; local share of nonfederal medical assistance costs responsibility requirement; federal approval implementation requirement; programs for all-inclusive care for the elderly (PACE) authorization modifications and appropriations). This bill passed the Senate.
- SF80 (omnibus campaign finance bill). The Senate adopted the conference committee report for this bill.
- SF2519 (public utility disclosure of travel, entertainment and expenses included in a rate change request requirement). The Senate adopted the conference committee report for this bill.
- SF2846 (large motor vehicles on public streets and highways regulations modifications; motor vehicle carriers transporting milk gross annual permit issuance authority for overweight vehicles). Both chambers adopted the conference committee report for this bill.
- HF3318 (Uniform Unsworn Foreign Declarations Act). The Senate adopted the conference committee report for this bill and it was presented to the governor.

Check Out the MSBA's Top 10 Tools: [Top10](#)