

Issue: MN Opposition Research

## Opposition Research

# Legislative Record for Minnesota House Republicans

A look at an incumbent's votes is crucial for understanding the legislator's priorities and positions. Their web sites and public statements can be at odds with how they actually vote. A discussion of some of the general voting themes for House Republicans follows. (In the discussion below, when a bill has both a House and Senate version, both bill numbers are referenced, separated by a slash.)

### Abortion

Minnesota House Republicans have supported measures that would make it more difficult for women to obtain an abortion. For example, Republicans claim that requiring doctors to offer women an ultrasound before an abortion provides additional information to women. Democrats, the Minnesota Medical Association and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists disagree and oppose such measures. In addition, one bill – HF812/SF704 – targeted clinic workers by requiring the identification of workers without any process to protect their privacy. Another bill – HF 3453/SF 3101 – would have required insurance companies to provide no-cost birth control. That bill had no Republican authors, and because it did not have any hearings, it never came to a vote.

### Education

An educated populace is key to job growth and a healthy economy. Yet House Republicans have repeatedly voted for bills that would weaken education at both the K-12 and higher education levels. They've supported bills that do not adequately fund education, such as HF 890/SF 718 in 2017 and HF 947/SF 945 in 2018. These two bills were vetoed by Governor Dayton because the lack of adequate education funding would have resulted in teacher layoffs, larger class sizes and less financial aid for college students. They've voted to ease teacher licensing requirements, which would result in less qualified teachers in the classroom. That bill was HF 140/SF 4. Republicans are also willing to divert money for public schools by giving tax credits to businesses who provide scholarships to private and religious schools.

State programs, such MnDrive and NRRI, are partnerships between the University of Minnesota and industry that conduct research into emerging technologies in order to turn ideas into businesses. Many Republicans who state that they want to strengthen business did not support these programs (HF 2477/SF 2214).

The contentious relationship between Democratic Governor Dayton and the Republican majority in the legislature exploded in 2017, primarily around the issues of tax revenue and the underfunding of public education. The major tax and budget bill proposed by the Republican-controlled legislature in 2017 had large tax cuts for corporations but very little tax relief for working families. Reduced revenue due to the tax cuts would result in inadequate funding of public schools. In retaliation for underfunding education, Governor Dayton used a line item veto to withhold funding for state legislature operations. This resulted in a lawsuit "Minnesota Legislature v. Dayton." Although the governor won on appeal, this worsened already poor relations between the governor and the legislature.

The 2018 legislative session started with budget negotiations, with Governor Dayton requesting \$138 million in school funding. At the end of the session, the bill was vetoed by Governor Dayton because 80% of

the source of provisional education funding was previously allocated and most of the rest was from cash reserves.

The agenda of the Republican-led legislature has been to cut taxes and, if necessary, appropriate funds for education from other programs without a plan for future sources of revenue.

## Energy

Providing a rebate to Minnesotans who install solar panels manufactured in Minnesota would aid both business and the environment. However, that's not how most House Republicans saw it, as they were willing to weaken the rebate program by decreasing payments to the rebate fund. One contributor to this fund was Xcel Energy and HF 235/SF 214 would have allowed Xcel to phase out its contributions to the rebate fund.

A common thread among Minnesota Republicans is their willingness to lessen oversight functions of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). One Republican-sponsored bill – HF 234/SF 141 – would have removed the PUC's authority to review fees imposed by utilities. That law was vetoed, but another that passed – HF 113/SF 85 – allows Xcel Energy to replace a coal plant with a natural gas plant without approval from the PUC. Republicans also supported legislation that would have permitted a Canadian company to construct a pipeline without any oversight by the PUC or input from other stakeholders.

## Environment

Republicans are willing to decrease environmental protections and make it more difficult (or even impossible) for state environmental agencies to fulfill their responsibilities. Republicans have promoted legislation that would hobble the oversight functions of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture by not providing adequate funding.

An in-depth examination of one Republican-sponsored bill -- HF 1433 -- is illustrative, even though it did not become law. This bill would have imposed extensive and time-consuming bureaucratic hurdles to state agencies that wanted to adopt any new environmental rules. For example, an agency would be required to maintain a list of all people who have expressed interest in receiving notice of the rulemaking proceedings. HF 1433 would have given legislative committees the authority to prevent the state agency from holding public hearings about a proposed rule. Further, when considering the economic impact of a new rule, only the costs but not the benefits could be considered. There are already procedures in place that allow the House and Senate to object if agency rules are beyond the scope or authority of the agency, but HF 1433 would have given the legislature additional legal grounds for objecting to an agency rule. Even then, after all hurdles had been surmounted, a new rule could only take effect after being enacted as law by the legislature.

Other Republican-sponsored legislation – HF 3280/SF 2983 – would have forced the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to vacate the sulfate pollution standards in waters with wild rice. Sulfate ends up in waters after being released by industry and wastewater treatment plants. Although the sulfate standard is being reviewed and is set for modification, the proposed bill was an attempt to bypass scientific review.

## Gerrymandering

House Republicans have a history of trying to gerrymander districts for partisan advantage. In 2011, Sarah Anderson was the chair of the redistricting committee and authored the redistricting bill. In one hearing, she was asked eight times by Representative Melissa Hortman if the Republicans considered political gain when drawing district lines. Anderson never answered. Anderson's new districts did result in an electoral

landscape that was much more favorable to Republicans than to DFLers: there were seven races where two DFL incumbents had to face off against each other, compared to one Republican to Republican match up.

Although DFL members proposed amendments that would have required three public hearings and five days of public review before passage of a final redistricting plan, this was shot down by Anderson and her fellow Republicans. Furthermore, the redistricting plan was scheduled for a committee vote only 24 hours after being released, thus not allowing any time for discussion.

In 2017, Anderson again tried to entrench partisan redistricting by sponsoring HF 314, which would have *required* that redistricting be done by the legislature. A competing bill, sponsored by a Democrat would have put a non-partisan panel in charge of redistricting. That bill did not receive any hearings.

## Gun Control

Republicans and Democrats in the Minnesota state House and Senate are at loggerheads over gun control. Republicans are opposed to restrictions on guns. When Democrats introduce gun control legislation, the bills do not receive a hearing in committee, and thus are doomed.

House Republicans may make no mention of guns or guns rights issues on their Facebook or Twitter accounts, yet gun rights are an important issue for many of them. In 2018, two gun control bills were introduced just two weeks before the end of the legislative session – long after the deadline for the bills to be considered by committees. There was speculation that this was a ploy to portray by the sponsors to position themselves as moderate on gun control.

During the 2017 session, DFLers introduced at least ten bills that would have enacted some sensible gun controls. One of these bills would have raised the age to 21 to purchase or possess an assault type weapon. Another would have allowed the state to collect information about ownership of guns. One of the DFL-sponsored bills requiring criminal background checks for all gun sales did have two Republican co-authors. All of these bills died in committee. Another two gun control bills that died were sponsored by Republicans, but these were introduced a day before the committee deadline for hearing bills in this legislative session.

In contrast, there were five bills sponsored by Republicans that would have weakened controls over guns, including a 'stand your ground' bill. All five of these bills died in committee.

## Health

Republicans are willing to weaken the health insurance marketplace by allowing high deductible plans that do not adequately cover basic care. This 2017 proposal from Republican Steve Drazkowski would have allowed insurers to drop coverage for cancer, addiction services, diabetes and much more. His amendment did not make it into the final bill. Another bill sponsored by Republicans would have allowed insurers to drop customers at renewal time even if the customer had paid all premiums.

## Preemption

Preemption of local control occurs when laws are passed at the state level which prevent cities from enacting their own ordinances or laws. In other words, local laws are preempted by state laws. Preemption laws are usually the result of conservative state legislators acting to rein in progressive cities which are trying to solve problems not being addressed at the state or national level. Conservatives often state their desire to limit the role of government, and yet it is conservatives who want to use preemption to insert state government into local affairs. Close to 50 preemption bills have been introduced in the Minnesota legislature in the last couple of years, and almost all of those have been introduced by Republicans.

State preemption laws are overwhelmingly sponsored by Republican politicians to rein in progressive local leaders. For example, proponents of preemption laws state that increased minimum wages will reduce job growth. Such claims have been debunked by many sources including the White House Council of Economic Advisors. Another study examined neighboring counties in different states, where one county had a higher minimum wage. It found that job growth rates were essentially the same.

In 2017, a preemption bill about paid sick leave made it to Governor Dayton's desk. Although this bill was vetoed by Governor Dayton, it would have preempted ordinances passed both in Minneapolis and St. Paul that gave workers paid sick leave. This bill was introduced by Pat Garofalo, a co-chair of the Minnesota state ALEC group. (ALEC is the American Legislative Exchange Council and is the anti-consumer and anti-labor group controlled by the Koch brothers.) Minnesota has seen preemption bills that would prevent cities from banning polystyrene containers, regulating ride sharing services like Uber and even from renaming a lake. Republicans also wanted to interfere with the ranked choice voting system in the Twin Cities (HF 3690/SF 3325).

Another trend revealed by Republican-sponsored bills is the promotion of reverse referendums. In a reverse referendum, decisions made by city councils and mayors must be put to a vote by the public. The problem with this is that city councils are elected to study the issues and make informed decisions, something which the average voter cannot be expected to do. One such bill was HF 654, sponsored by Steve Draskowski, a member of ALEC.

## Transportation

There is a consensus in Minnesota that transportation needs to be improved. In spite of this, Republican legislators have repeatedly shortchanged transportation funding, with stopgap measures put in place only after pressure from the Democratic governor. The Transportation and Bonding Bill (HF 5) which was passed in a special session in 2017 only partially funded the \$600 million per year required for upkeep of roads and bridges. Because the bill did not allocate an adequate amount of funding, some funding had to be allocated from the general fund. An omnibus transportation bill – HF 861/SF 1060 (in 2017) -- would have cut rail and bus service, along with increasing fares.

## Republican Legislative Tactics

With Republicans in control of both the House and Senate, a lot is known about their strategies to promote their agenda. Since Minnesota's governor is a Democrat, Republicans must write a bill that will get the governor's signature to pass legislation. However, some of their methods for doing so are less than forthright.

### Many unrelated topics in one bill

The Minnesota state constitution says in Article 4, Section 17 "No law shall embrace more than one subject, which shall be expressed in its title." The Legislative Evaluation Assembly of Minnesota, which is a non-partisan and non-profit organization, considers combining multiple topics into one bill to be bad for democracy. They claim that policy that wouldn't pass on its own is more likely to pass as part of a larger bill.

There are many examples of Minnesota Republicans combining unrelated topics into one bill. By putting their favored policy in bills that have must-pass provisions, Republicans are gambling that the Governor will not veto the bills.

At the very end of the 2018 legislative session, two huge bills – a budget bill and a tax bill -- were sent to the governor. The budget bill was 989 pages long and contained, among many other topics, funding for opioid treatment and for improving school safety. The tax bill contained a provision for emergency school funding. However, the governor vetoed both and one of his reasons was that the bills were too large and contained multiple and unrelated policy provisions.

Another example is HF 4 in 2017, which was a 400-page omnibus tax bill that included provisions related to the Super Bowl, the World's Fair and fireworks. In SF 1, a 2017 budget bill, the Republicans added a provision that the state Department of Revenue would only be funded if the bill was signed. Governor Dayton referred to that as a poison pill, while the House Speaker, Kurt Daudt referred to that provision as an "insurance policy."

Yet another poison pill example relates to regulation of nitrates in drinking water. Nitrates are an ingredient in fertilizers and can cause health problems. More than 50 Minnesota communities have unhealthy levels of nitrates in their drinking water. To improve water quality, a new groundwater protection rule was ready to take effect – after many years of public meetings and comments from the public. However, during the 2018 legislative session, a procedural maneuver by Republicans has delayed the rule from taking effect. Democrats believe this maneuver was an attempt to force Governor Dayton to sign an agricultural policy bill.

### **Inadequate time to review bills**

Republicans have introduced bills so late in the session that there was no time for a review. This happened in 2016 when a bonding bill was introduced at the very end of the legislative session – five months after Governor Dayton presented his plan. The result was that the bonding bill died. (When money is needed to fund a big public works project, the state can obtain the necessary funds by issuing bonds. Bonds can be considered to be a loan to the state and the state will pay back bondholders over time.)

As mentioned earlier, during the redistricting process in 2011, the redistricting plan was scheduled for a committee vote only 24 hours after being released, thus not allowing any time for discussion.

### **Inappropriate transfers of funds**

Decades ago when the state lottery was approved, some of the proceeds were designated for environmental protection. State law prohibits funds from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) from being used "as a substitute for traditional sources of funding environmental and natural resources activities." Fast forward to the 2018 legislative session, during which the governor proposed \$1.5 billion for the bonding bill. Republicans wanted to borrow only \$825 million, which they considered more fiscally responsible. However, their bonding bill had a provision that would allow dipping into other sources of funds, including the ENRTF. The interest rates for paying off appropriation bonds – such as the borrowing from the ENRTF – are likely to be higher than the general obligation bonds, costing tax payers more. In spite of his concerns, Governor Dayton signed bill HF 4425.

Also in 2018, the House tried to divert funds from the Viking Stadium reserve account to fund the construction of three veterans' homes. The purpose of the stadium reserve account is to pay the state's portion of the stadium debt in case of revenue shortfalls. While the governor supports the veterans' homes, he wants the money to come from the state bonding bill. Republicans claimed that Dayton was choosing possible stadium needs over those of veterans. These are only two examples of the Republican tendency to divert money intended for one purpose to another purpose.

## Key Bills

The first table contains bills or amendments that had a vote. The second table contains legislation that did not receive a vote. None of the bills voted on are known to be ALEC bills.

Topic	Year	Bill	Synopsis	Vote Tally in House	Final Status
Abortion	2018	HF 3194 SF 2849	<p>This bill would have required a physician to notify a pregnant woman of her opportunity to view or decline to view an ultrasound of her unborn child.</p> <p>The governor's veto letter read, "The bill interferes with the doctor-patient relationship, legislating the private conversations that occur about a legal medical procedure. In addition, providers are already fulfilling their legal, ethical, and professional duties to fully inform their patients of the benefits, risks, and alternatives of any medical procedure."</p>	79 yea 48 nay	veto
Abortion	2017	HF809 SF 702	<p>Prohibition of State Funding for Abortion Services</p> <p>Current law already states that state funding may only be used for abortions in cases of rape or incest, or for health or therapeutic reasons, or when a woman's life is in danger. In the governor's veto letter, he said the bill infringes upon women's basic right to health and safety and would interfere with critical medical decisions that should be made between a woman and her doctor.</p>	77 yea 54 nay	veto
Abortion	2017	HF 812 SF 704	<p>Establishes Abortion Facility License Requirements</p> <p>This bill would have imposed new requirements on clinics that perform ten or more abortions per month. Its supporters cite lack of statutory authority for the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to regulate or license clinics. However, MDH states that current professional licensing standards provide sufficient oversight to protect the health and safety of Minnesotans. Furthermore, the licensure application process outlined in the bill would have required MDH to collect information about clinic workers but failed to protect the privacy of those workers. This requirement appears to target health professionals who provide abortion services.</p>	79 yea 53 nay	veto
Budget	2016	HF 2749	<p>Omnibus Supplemental Budget Bill</p> <p>This bill provided \$56 million in additional funding for E-12 education but no funding for higher education.</p>	84 yea 46 nay	passed
Budget	2016	HF 3467	<p>Omnibus Capital Investment Bill</p> <p>The House version of this bill included \$161 million for the University of Minnesota and \$174 million for Minnesota State Colleges and University. The final version of the bill in the</p>	72 yea 47 nay	failed in Senate

			<p>Senate cut funding down to \$66,567,00 to U Minnesota, \$120,611,000 to Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.</p> <p>Economists estimated that, had the bill passed, it would have cost close to 40,000 jobs.</p>		
Education	2017	HF 140 SF 4	<p>This bill would have revamped teacher licensure requirements and made it easier for unlicensed teachers to teach indefinitely. The funding necessary to implement the new licensing was not guaranteed in the bill.</p>	76 yea 54 nay	veto
Education	2017	HF 2477 SF 2214	<p>Omnibus Higher Education Policy and Finance bill</p> <p>The higher education bill provided only 39% of the \$318 million requested by the governor to invest in student postsecondary education. This bill provided less funding than requested by the governor for financial aid. It also underfunded MnDrive and the National Resources Research Institute (NRRI). MnDrive is a partnership between the University of Minnesota and Minnesota industry to promote research in areas that would strengthen emerging industries. The NRRI does research to unite the goals of jobs, a healthy environment and a stable economy.</p>	75 yea 54 nay	veto
Education	2017	HF 4 SF 2255	<p>Omnibus Tax Bill</p> <p>A provision in this bill would have provided tax breaks to businesses and individuals who provide scholarships to low-income students at private schools. Dayton referred to these "scholarships" as vouchers, enabling public money to be spent on private and religious schools. This provision was not included in the final bill.</p>	76 yea 57 nay	pseud o vouc hers did not beco me law
Education	2017	HF 890 SF 718	<p>Omnibus Education Finance Bill</p> <p>The bill would have made a variety of cuts to education funding, and would have resulted in significant teacher and staff layoffs in school districts across the state. It would have meant larger class sizes, loss of programs, and higher property taxes. It would have eliminated voluntary prekindergarten as an option for families. Furthermore, it would have created a new layer of bureaucracy: an Office of Early Education.</p>	72 yea 59 nay	veto
Education Funding	2015	HF 844 SF 811	<p>Omnibus K-12 education policy and finance bill</p> <p>Although the bill included a 1.5% and 2% increase in per pupil allotment for FY16 and FY17, respectively, it provided for no funding for pre-k schooling. This bill was vetoed by the governor because he felt it did not provide adequate funding for education at a time when the state had a \$1.9 billion surplus.</p> <p>The special session Education Finance bill, HF 1, rectified many of these shortcomings and became law.</p>	71 yea 59 nay	veto

Education Funding	2018	HF 947 SF 945	<p>This Omnibus School Aid and Tax did not adequately fund schools and included tax cuts for businesses.</p> <p>The governor stated that in this bill "Republicans misleadingly claim to provide \$225 million in this bill for schools, but 80% of the funding is from existing sources that have already been allocated and budgeted for staff training and community education. The other \$50 million is from the State's budget reserve. Instead of providing critical new funding, this bill simply shifts funding by allowing school districts to transfer money out of community education and professional development programs."</p> <p>Regarding the bill's tax provisions, Governor Dayton said "this bill prioritizes corporations and wealthy individuals over Minnesota families."</p>	85 yea 42 nay	veto
Energy, Consumer	2017	HF 113 SF 85	This bill allows Xcel Energy to replace the old Sherco coal plant with a new natural gas plant – without approval from the PUC. This bill will enable Xcel to shift future costs onto consumers without PUC oversight. Because Xcel has a monopoly on the state energy system, the PUC is important for oversight.	80 yea 45 nay	became law
Energy, Consumer	2017	HF 234 SF 141	This bill would have amended the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) regulation of utilities. This bill would have removed the PUC's authority to review fees imposed by municipal electric utilities and rural electric cooperatives. The governor's veto letter stated that this legislation would have negatively impacted Minnesota's progress toward more renewable and efficient energy. Also, it would have created uncertainty for all municipal and cooperative electric utility customers seeking to produce their own renewable and efficient energy.	89 yea 37 nay	veto
Energy, Business, Consumer	2017	HF 235 SF 214	HF 235 weakens an in-state solar initiative funded through the Renewable Development Fund (RDF). Minnesota homeowners and small businesses who install solar panels made in Minnesota are given RDF-funded tax rebates. Currently, Xcel Energy contributes to this fund but this bill would allow Xcel to phase out payments to the RDF and will hobble the fund's ability to support renewable energy.	76 yea 49 nay	died in Senate
Environment	2015	HF 843 SF 804	<p>Omnibus Employment, Economic Development and Energy Bill.</p> <p>According to Clean Water Action, "HF 843 contains provisions that set back Minnesota's energy policies by including large hydro in the Renewable Energy Standard and repealing the Conservation Improvement Program at the end of 2016. The Conservation Improvement Program importantly oversees programs to ensure that ratepayer dollars are used effectively and that energy savings are reported as accurately as possible. The bill would have also made changes to Minnesota's solar</p>	73 yea 56 nay	died in Senate

			policy by weakening the 1.5% by 2020 solar energy standard, eliminating the 10% by 2030 solar goal and value of solar tariff for community solar gardens, and reducing overall amounts for solar incentives. It would have repealed Minnesota's nuclear moratorium and reduced or eliminated Minnesota's science-based climate reduction goals and carbon offset standard "		
Environment	2015	amendment to HF 846	The Toxic Free Kids Act would have required manufacturers to disclose the use of nine toxic chemicals in products marketed to children.	62 yea 68 nay	NA
Environment	2015	HF 846 SF 1764	<p>Omnibus Environment and Natural Resources Appropriations bill</p> <p>This bill had many provisions that would roll back clean water protections. Among its provisions were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an exemption sulfide mining waste from solid waste rules</li> <li>• granting polluters amnesty from enforcement and penalties</li> <li>• allowing deceptive labeling for pollinator-friendly plants</li> <li>• suspension of the sulfate standard that protects wild rice</li> <li>• enabling raids on clean water funds</li> <li>• abolishing of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Citizens' Board</li> <li>• weakening of wetlands protections that open the door to increased sulfide mining</li> </ul> <p>A renegotiated bill (SF5) was later passed in a special session with many of the same provisions.</p>	83 yea 50 nay	veto
Environment Education Funding	2016	HF 2993 SF 2963	<p>Environment and natural resources trust fund appropriation, certain fund money use requirements establishment and University of Minnesota reimbursement procedures creation; Legislature-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) provisions modifications.</p> <p>Governor Dayton was disappointed that many environmental appropriations were omitted or were reduced, such as the 23 projects recommended by the LCCMR board.</p>	91 yea 40 nay	line item veto
Environment	2018	HF 2887	This bill prohibits the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) from adopting the Groundwater Protection Measures proposed by MDA.	69 yea 56 nay	died in Senate
Environment	2018	HF 2940 chapter 147 SF 2637	<p>Controlling the Pollution Control Agency</p> <p>This bill would have prohibited the Pollution Control Agency from increasing fees for certain water-related activities without legislative approval. The governor vetoed this bill because a Water Fee Advisory Committee already exists. This Committee advises the Commissioner on setting fees. The governor felt this bill was legislative overreach.</p>	77 yea 41 nay	veto
Environment	2018	HF 3280	Wild Rice Water Quality Standards	79 yea 48 nay	veto

		SF 2983	This bill would have overturned the existing wild rice water quality standards that regulate sulfate pollution in waters that contain wild rice. In his veto letter, Governor Dayton wrote that the bill "is an extreme overreach that eliminates important protections for wild rice, attempts to exempt Minnesota from the federal Clean Water Act, and ensures ongoing litigation that will prolong, not relieve, the current regulatory uncertainties."		
Environment	2018	HF 3421	This amendment would have repealed a statute that forbids the Department of Natural Resources from "taking any action to address lead ammunition on state lands." There now exist numerous lead-free alternatives to lead ammunition at comparable prices.	43 yea 83 nay	did not pass
Environment	2018	HF 3759 SF 3510	<p>Pipeline Construction and Route Authorized</p> <p>This bill would have bypassed the PUC and allowed Enbridge Energy, a Canadian company to construct the pipeline "at its sole discretion" along the route proposed in its application.</p> <p>The veto statement read, "This bill preempts the long-standing Public Utilities Commission process, which has been established in law, and which has been used for years to make those complex and controversial decisions. Thousands of Minnesotans, represented by tribal governments, labor unions, environmental organizations, and other stakeholders have participated in this process with Enbridge and state agencies to provide input to the PUC for this important decision. The PUC is the appropriate venue to consider all of the data, science, and technical expertise that have been developed and shared about this project to make a determination about whether the project is needed for the benefit of our state. This bill requires the PUC to permit Enbridge to construct the Line 3 pipeline on the company's predefined route, disregarding input from many stakeholders and circumventing the Commission's authority."</p>	74 yea 53 nay	veto
Environment	2018	HF 4133 SF 3536	<p>Omnibus Agricultural Policy Bill</p> <p>The bill covered many topics, including prohibiting the Department of Agriculture from adopting the Groundwater Protection Rule. This was a poison pill to try to force the governor to sign it. The governor refused, saying it would have "interfered with the rights of Minnesotans, particularly people living in rural areas, to clean and safe drinking water."</p>	85 yea 37 nay	veto
Environment	2018	SF 3656	This amendment would have forbidden the use of "neonics", which are a type of pesticides harmful to honey bees, in state Wildlife Management Areas.	60 yea 65 nay	did not pass

Environment	2017	HF 888 SF 723	Omnibus Environment and Natural Resources Finance Bill This bill would have rolled back environmental protections. Policy provisions in this bill would have obstructed or prohibited state environmental agencies from carrying out their duties. This bill was renegotiated and passed as HF 771/SF 844.	79 yea 55 nay	veto
Environment	2016	amend ment to HF 843	This amendment to HF 843 asked the Minnesota legislature to acknowledge that climate change is real and caused by humans.	58 yea 71 nay	did not beco me law
Environment, Economy, Food Safety	2017	HF 895 SF 780	Omnibus Agriculture Bill.  This bill did not include any investment in the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), which is necessary to ensure the integrity of the food supply, the health of the environment, and the strength of the agricultural economy. It also had provisions conflicting with federal law on pesticides and would have rolled back the MDA's enforcement authority for pesticides.  This bill was renegotiated and signed into law as HF 1545/SF 1545.	78 yea 53 nay	veto
First Amendment rights	2018	HF 3463 SF346 3	According to the House Research Summary, this bill would have extended "civil and criminal liability to a group or organization that recruits, trains, aids, hires or conspires with an individual to commit criminal trespass or damage to property at airports, railroads, utility, or oil or gas pipelines."  Governor Dayton vetoed this bill; he does not support holding people responsible for the actions of others.	77 yea 46 nay	veto
First Amendment Public safety	2018	HF 390, chapt. 150	This bill would have increased the penalty for obstructing traffic access to an airport and obstructing public transit from a misdemeanor to a gross misdemeanor.  The governor vetoed this bill because its language was overly vague and subjective. The governor further pointed out that existing laws give law enforcement all the necessary authority to ensure public safety.	71 yea 55 nay	veto
Funding	2017	HF 691 SF 605	This bill would have cut more than 2,000 state jobs and cut numerous state agencies. The agency cuts would have resulted in more underfunded legislative mandates -- despite the state's \$1.65 billion budget surplus in 2017.	75 yea 56 nay	veto
Funding	2017	HF1  special session	If the tax bill were not enacted in 2018 and 2019, HF1 included a poison pill attempting to eliminate all funding for the Minnesota Department of Revenue. The bill included a big estate tax cut for millionaires and \$650 million of total tax reductions, including a number of targeted income tax credits, and sales tax exemptions for individuals and businesses.	95 yea 29 nay	beca me law

Funding, Environment, Economic Development Preemption	2017	HF 2209 SF 1937	<p>Omnibus Job Growth and Energy Affordability Policy and Finance Bill</p> <p>In the governor's veto letter, he stated that the bill did not provide adequate funding for four departments: Employment and Economic Development, Labor and Industry, Commerce, and the Bureau of Mediation Services. It would limit chances for workforce and economic development and erode a decade's worth of clean energy progress.</p> <p>The bill included unrelated issues, like a ban on fire sprinkler requirements for some homes. It prohibited local governments from enacting bans on plastic, paper or reusable bags. This bill's topics were so varied it violated the Single Subject Rule in Minnesota's Constitution.</p>	75 yea 54 nay	veto
Health	2018	HF 3138	<p>Omnibus Health and Human Services Finance Bill</p> <p>This bill had provisions that would have expanded short-term limited-duration medical plans, which are not ACA-compliant.</p>	82 yea 43 nay	no vote in Senate
Health	2017	HF 5 SF 720	<p>This bill establishes a reinsurance program for the individual market which is administered by the Minnesota Comprehensive Health Association. This reinsurance program would give insurance companies a bailout with no guarantee it would lower rates or increase coverage options for Minnesota families. It appropriates half a billion dollars in state money to subsidize insurance companies operating in the individual market. This legislation has succeeded in lowering insurance rates, although it was financed with funds intended for another state health program.</p>	74 yea 57 nay	passed without governor's signature
Labor	2016	HF 3271 SF 2626	<p>This bill approved the contract for Minnesota Association of Professional Employees (MAPE). This bill was signed by the governor after removal of a poison pill. The poison pill in HF 3585 would have required all contract negotiation to be open to the public and would have restricted state workers for engaging in political activities on their own time.</p>	104 yea 25 nay	passed
Library Funding	2017	HF 1390 SF 1113	<p>This bill would have allowed counties to divert money collected to support the law libraries and use it to pay for court construction. This bill contradicts the current statute, which states that law library fees can only be used to support the law libraries.</p>	69 yea 62 nay	veto
Preemption	2017	HF 330 SF 201	<p>This bill would have required that two-thirds vote of the City Council members present to adopt interim ordinances related to housing proposals. This would weaken local control.</p>	90 yea 41 nay	veto
Preemption	2017	HF 600 SF 580	<p>This preemption bill would have prohibited local governments from enacting laws that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• set a minimum wage higher than the state minimum wage</li> <li>• require a private employer to provide paid or unpaid leave</li> </ul>	76 yea 53 nay	veto

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>regulate work hours or scheduling for employees at private companies</li> </ul>		
Public Safety	2017	HF 896 SF 803	<p>Omnibus judiciary and public safety appropriations bill.</p> <p>This bill did not provide adequate funding for public safety. Among the functions not adequately funded were the Disaster Assistance Contingency Fund – which local communities depend on in times of disaster -- and the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.</p> <p>This bill provided inadequate funding for public safety. Among the functions not adequately funded are the Disaster Assistance Contingency Fund that local communities depend on in times of disaster, and the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension</p>	75 yea 54 nay	veto
Public Safety	2016	HF 430 SF 498	The bill modified police body camera regulations such that body camera data is classified as 'private' unless it shows police activity that caused significant harm or if a firearm was discharged.	96 yea 34 nay	passed
Public Welfare	2017	HF 945 SF 800	<p>Omnibus Health and Human Services Bill</p> <p>This bill would cut \$505 million from the state's Health and Human Services system even though the state had -- and has -- a significant budget surplus. This was done as Minnesota is facing uncertainty about future federal health care funding. The bill also cut funding for the Department of Health, the state agency responsible for responding to public health emergencies.</p>	76 yea 56 nay	veto
Sexual Assault	2018	HF 2856	<p>Amends Sexual Assault laws</p> <p>This bill amends various laws related to sexual conduct, including those regarding police.</p>	92 yea 35 nay	voted down in Senate
Taxes Education	2018	HF 4385 SF 3982	<p>Omnibus Tax Bill</p> <p>This bill was primarily focused on making Minnesota's tax laws conform with changes in the federal tax law. Governor Dayton vetoed this tax bill because Republicans failed to agree on how to pay for Emergency School Aid.</p>	78 yea 50 nay	veto
Transportation	2017	HF 861 SF 1060	<p>Omnibus transportation finance bill.</p> <p>This bill would have resulted in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>increased fares combined with major cuts to bus service in Metro Transit's core service area</li> <li>\$120 million of cuts to general fund appropriations for regional transit</li> <li>cut weekend, late night and early morning service on various rail lines</li> <li>prohibit the construction of any new light rail lines</li> </ul>	75 yea 56 nay	veto

The following table lists bills that did not receive a vote. Although there was no vote, this legislation provides insight into the types of bills sponsored by Republicans and by Democrats.

Topic	Year	Bill	Synopsis	Party of sponsor
Abortion	2015	HF 1047 SF 904	Born Alive Protection Act. This bill would have made it illegal for a physician who, when performing an abortion delivers a live baby and then intentionally allows the baby to die. The lead author of the bill, Abigail Whelan, admitted she “did not know if any would-be aborted newborns have been improperly treated in Minnesota.”	Republican
Abortion	2014	HF 3172 HUP 9349	Republican Sarah Anderson voted to insert an amendment containing the text of the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Act into the omnibus supplemental appropriations bill. The amendment stated “that an unborn child can feel pain at 20 weeks, prohibit abortion at or after 20 weeks except in certain cases and establish criminal penalties for performing abortions in violation of the proposed act.”  This amendment was put in an appropriations bill but then cut before the bill passed.	Republican
Contraception	2018	HF 3453 SF 3101	This bill would require birth control to be covered by insurance at no cost.	DFL
Education	2017	HF 386 SF 256	This bill would have allowed tax credits for individuals and corporations who make donations to organizations that provide scholarships to private schools. It would lower the tax revenue available to public schools. By transferring state funds to private schools, this would be a step towards initiating a voucher school system.	Republican
Environment	2016	HF 2881 SF 2711	Working Lands Watershed Restoration Program.  This is a program to decrease agricultural pollution. Perennial crops help to achieve clean water goals in agricultural regions. The deeper roots of the perennials can help filter out pollutants. The program would have used market-based incentives for farmers not to take land out of production, but rather to plant perennial crops.	DFL
Environment	2018	HF 3606 SF 3135	This preemption bill would have prevented towns and counties from creating ordinances to regulate the sale or use of containers, such as those used for take-out food and drinks.	Republican
Environment	2018	HF 3708 SF 3504	This bill would have allowed Xcel Energy to bypass the Public Utilities Commission process normally used to approve investments and costs. This bill would have created a new, uncapped fee on customers’ bills to pay for those costs.	Republican

Environment Budget	2018	HF 4099 SF 3656	<p>Omnibus Supplemental Budget Bill</p> <p>This bill consists of four omnibus bills combined into one huge one. It contains several poison pills, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a prohibition barring the Department of Agriculture from adopting new nitrogen rules proposed by the governor unless these are approved by law. (The same nitrogen language is included in HF2887, passed by the House on April 16. The governor promised to veto that bill, had it reached his desk.)</li> <li>a requirement that state agencies reduce their collective budgets by \$9.65 million to help cover the cost of the beleaguered Licensing and Registration (MNLARS) program. This would have resulted in cuts to both state employee ranks and government services, resulting in a less-responsive government.</li> </ul>	Republican
Environment	2017	HF 1433 no Senate companion	<p>State Agency Rule Adoption and Environmental Procedures</p> <p>This bill was written by the MN Chamber of Commerce and would have imposed time-consuming and expensive hurdles that any state agency would have to overcome to adopt or even propose a rule. Even then, the rule could not take effect until it was enacted by the legislature.</p>	Republican
Family Planning	2015	HJP 3803 (SF 1458)	The Contraceptive Health Equity and Employee Rights Act (CHEER) amendment would have been part of SF 1458, which was the Omnibus Health and Human Services Appropriations bill.	DFL
Family Planning	2016	HF 3373 SF 3355	This bill would have made Planned Parenthood ineligible for federal funds through Title X funding.	Republican
Family Planning	2016	HF 2606	This bill would have required insurance coverage for 12 months of contraceptives.	DFL
Fees	2015	HF 3470 SF 3413	The reverse referendum requirement for franchise fees would have allowed citizens to petition for a referendum on most new or modified franchise fees.	Republican
Funding	2015	HF 2034	The bill would have reduced local government aid (LGA) to Minnesota's largest cities. This bill would have enacted a permanent per capita limit on the local government aid distributions to "first class cities" set at 112.5 percent of the average LGA per capita for all non-first class cities. The savings from the LGA cap would have been returned to the state's general fund and would not have increased LGA for all other cities. First class cities are those with more than 100,000 inhabitants and are Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth and Rochester. This would have resulted in cuts to Minneapolis and St. Paul of 50% and 54%, respectively. Duluth LGA would have been cut by 72%	Republican

Guns	2015	HF 3647	This bill would have required background checks when weapons change hands. An exception was made for family members.	Republican
Guns	2013	HF 1324	This bill included a variety of initiatives intended to keep firearms out of the hands of persons who are mentally ill or prohibited from possessing firearm. This bill was supported by the NRA as an alternative to DFL sponsored bills HF 237 and HF 46. Although the chief author of this bill was a Democrat, most of the authors were Republican.	bipartisan
Guns	2018	HF 3918 SF 3398	This bill would exempt from sales tax gun safes and related locking devices to safely store firearms.	Republican
Guns	2018	HF 1605 SF 1262	Gun Violence Restraining Order  This law would have allowed law enforcement and family members to petition a court to prohibit a specific person from possessing guns if they pose a significant danger to themselves or others. This is known as a gun violence protective order.	DFL
Guns	2018	HF 2781	This bill would have restricted the sale of bump stocks in Minnesota. A bump stock is a mechanism that, when applied to a semi-automatic weapon, can increase the rate of fire to nearly that of an illegal automatic weapon. Most recently, a bump stock was used in the Las Vegas concert shooting, contributing to the deaths of 58 Americans.	DFL
Guns	2018	HF 3022	Firearm and ammunition transfer and eligibility to possess firearm provisions modified, certain firearm and firearm accessory possession prohibited or limited, and criminal penalties provided.	DFL
Guns	2018	HF 1669	This bill would have required criminal background checks for all gun sales. Most of the authors of this bill were Democrats, with a few Republican supporters.	DFL / bipartisan
Guns	2018	HF 4171	This bill would have required reporting of lost or stolen firearms and would have imposed criminal penalties. It was introduced on March 22, 2018 which was the final day that a bill could have had committee action, and thus it did not progress through the legislative process.	Republican
Guns	2018	HF 1678 SF 1263	Taylor Hayden Gun Violence Act	DFL
Guns	2018	HF 4116	The law would have banned the sale or transfer of bump stocks but would have allowed current owners to hold onto them.  Introduced 3/21/2018, which was one day before the committee deadline.	Republican

Guns	2018	HF 2891 SF 2726	This bill would have allowed the state health department to collect firearm ownership information.	DFL
Guns	2018	HF 3038	This bill defines a "bump stock" as a trigger activator, thus completely banning the accessory under state law. This bill is nearly identical to other bump stock ban bills.	DFL
Guns	2018	HF 3954 SF 3651	This bill would have redefined "assault weapons" under Minnesota law to include most semi-automatic firearms. It would have prohibited their transfer or sale and would have limited where they may be possessed. It also would have created a voluntary buy-back program.	DFL
Guns	2018	HF 3516 SF 2959	This bill would have raised the minimum age to 21 to possess or purchase semiautomatic military-style assault weapon.	DFL
Guns	2018	HF 3029 SF 3131	This bill would have defined a bump stock as a trigger activator, which would result in a bump stock ban.	DFL
Guns	2017	HF 188 SF 650	This bill would have allowed carrying a firearm without a permit.	Republican
Guns	2017	HF 238 SF 292	This 'stand your ground' bill, would have allowed people to shoot to kill in their own home to prevent a felony. Outside of the home, it would have permitted shoot-to-kill actions if the shooter felt threatened.	Republican
Guns	2017	HF 469	This legislation would have created lifetime permits to carry handguns and would have reduced the application fee for permits.	Republican
Guns	2017	HF 309 SF 649	Constitutional Carry This bill would make permits to carry optional, allowing any law-abiding citizen the ability to carry a firearm as long as they do not fall under existing legislative prohibitions.	Republican
Guns	2017	HF 1590	This bill would have required permit-to-carry holders to keep law enforcement informed of all vehicles they own and operate. It would have allowed law enforcement to see permit-to-carry information when checking a license plate or vehicle registration.	DFL
Health	2017	HF 2026 SF 2164	This amendment to HF 1 would have allowed insurers in Minnesota to drop coverage for addiction services, cancer, diabetes, and many other ailments.	Republican
Health	2017	HF 2195 SF 1963	Current law mandates that individual health plans extend coverage as long as premiums are paid. These companion bills would have repealed that measure, allowing health insurers to not renew existing policies.	Republican

Immigration, Preemption	2017	HF 3830	This legislation would have required local law enforcement to enforce federal immigration laws and required immigrants to carry immigration documents and thus opening the door for racial profiling. Portions of this bill came from the Arizona anti-immigrant bill (SB 1070) which was written for the Corrections Corporation of America. The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) drafted the Arizona bill.	Republican
Labor	2016	HF 3585	This bill has many features of "right-to-work" legislation, which is considered to be anti-union. This bill would have required that any wage increases for several unions would have to be approved both by the Subcommittee and Employee Relations and the full legislature.	Republican
Labor	2016	HF 2963 SF 2558	This bill would have provided a paid family leave program for employers with more than 20 employees. To fund the program, businesses would have made contributions into an insurance pool.	DFL
Labor	2015	HF 459 SF 481	This bill would have required employers to provide a minimum of one hour of sick leave for every 30 hours worked.	DFL
Labor	2015	HF 1139 SF 1330	The Fair Scheduling Act would have required employers to provide employees with more predictable schedules.	DFL
Preemption	2015	HF 1241 SF 564	This local minimum wage preemption bill would have prevented local governments from passing their own minimum wage laws or other laws that require certain employee benefits.	Republican
Preemption	2018	HF 3032 SF 2704	This bill would limit cities and other local entities from regulating ride sharing services like Uber and Lyft.	Republican
Preemption	2017	HF 2107 SF 2157	This bill would have kept Local Government Aid from any city which imposed any special local labor regulations. This is a backdoor preemption bill to prevent local entities from passing ordinances to aid their constituents.	Republican
Preemption	2017	HF 1504 SF 1195	The bill would have prohibited cities from passing ordinances to ban or tax paper or plastic bags.	Republican
Preemption	2017	HF 654 SF 1590	This "reverse referendum" bill would have required a citizen vote before elected local officials can raise property taxes.	Republican
Preemption, Local Govt Aid	2017	HF 1664	This bill would have prevented cities that do not involve themselves with enforcing federal immigration regulations (i.e. sanctuary cities) from getting local government aid from the state. This is a backdoor preemption law, as it doesn't	Republican

			prevent cities from enacting ordinances related to policing, but it penalizes them if they do.	
Public Assistance	2015	HF 869 SF 734	The amount of aid provided by the current cash assistance program has not changed since 1986 and is only 32% of the federal poverty threshold. This bill would have increased the amount of assistance.	DFL
Public Safety First Amendment	2017	HF 322 SF 679	This bill would have enabled police to charge protesters for policing costs, related to "unlawful assemblies and public nuisances." The bill does not apportion costs, with the possible result that each person could be liable for the entire cost of policing.	Republican
Taxes	2015	HF 1671	Reverse referendum on city and county levy decisions This bill would have created a process to allow citizens to retroactively challenge a city council's decision on the property tax levy through a reverse referendum process.	Republican
Taxes	2018	HF 3162	This bill would have eliminated the corporate alternative minimum tax (AMT) for C corporations for tax years beginning in 2018.	Republican
Taxes	2017	HF 414 SF 1037	"This Old House" Bill was a plan to help mitigate the housing shortage by providing an incentive to renovate older properties by deferring the increase in taxes due to the repairs. This would have reestablished a version of this policy that existed from 1993 to 2003.	DFL
Voting	2017	HF 1586 SF 1225	Provisional balloting This bill would have implemented a provisional balloting system. Because voters required to cast a provisional ballot would later be required to visit a county authority to prove their eligibility to vote, this bill could have increased voter suppression. Although this language passed in the Senate as part of the Elections Omnibus bill, it was removed before the elections bill was sent to the governor.	Republican
Voting	2017	HF 245 SF 323, HF 703 SF 796	These bills would have automatically registered voters when applying for a driver's license.	DFL
Voting Rights	2015	HF 1449 SF 1346	This bill provided for automatic voter registration when applying for a driver's license.	DFL
Voting, Preemption	2017	HF 3690 SF 3325	This bill would roll back ranked choice voting in the Twin Cities and would prohibit other cities from adopting ranked choice voting.	Republican

Voting, redistricting	2017	HF 314 SF 86	This bill would have prevented non-partisan entities from drawing district boundaries, requiring the legislature to do so.	Republican
Voting, Redistricting	2017	HF 246 SF 370	Passage of this bill would have charged a non-partisan panel with redistricting.	DFL

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