

## 2026 legislative session summary

### Regular session laws

#### **Workers' Compensation Advisory Council (WCAC) Bill [SF3720/Ch. 103](#) (McEwen/Baker)**

The WCAC bill makes several updates across chapters 79 and 176, including the following.

- Sections 1 through 6 include updates to the Workers' Compensation Reinsurance Association's (WCRA's) process for excess surplus distributions and deficiency assessments. It also makes other technical changes to the WCRA governing statutes, specifically in sections 79.34 through 79.38. The changes were reviewed by the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) and the Minnesota Department of Commerce prior to presentation to WCAC. These changes are all effective May 19, 2026.
- Section 7 authorizes the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals (WCCA) to assign an active workers' compensation judge from the Court of Administrative Hearings if WCCA does not have a quorum available to hear a case after drawing from the reserve pool. It is effective the day following final enactment, May 19, 2026.
- Section 8 adds psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners to the list of providers that can diagnose workers'-compensation-related post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) under Minnesota Statutes section 176.011, subdivision 15(d). This section is effective for dates of injury on or after Oct. 1, 2026.
- Section 9 updates a notification requirement for employee attorney retainer agreements under section 176.081. This amendment is a technical correction to coincide with 2024 legislative amendments that updated maximum fees for attorneys in this section of law. This section is effective the day following final enactment and applies to dates of injury on or after Oct. 1, 2024.
- Section 10 updates the dollar amount multipliers for permanent partial disability (PPD) impairment ratings in Minn. Stat. section 176.101, subd. 2a, paragraph (b), effective for dates of injury occurring on or after Oct. 1, 2026. The amounts for each rating band are raised to account for an estimated \$11 million increase to PPD benefits as agreed upon by WCAC.
- Section 11 clarifies that a witness for an employer's examination must be an "unpaid" witness. Additionally, each party must defray the cost of that party's witness. Effective May 19, 2026.
- Section 12 amends the timeframe for an employer or insurer that has commenced payment of compensation, lengthening the timeframe to change a liability determination to deny a previously admitted claim from 60 days to 90 days. This section is effective for dates of injury on or after Oct. 1, 2026.
- Section 13 includes a technical clarification regarding issuing decisions based on stipulated facts in section 176.322. Technical updates in 2024 inadvertently removed the commissioner's authority in this section. These amendments clarify that the commissioner maintains the authority to issue an order for subrogation based on stipulated facts as allowed under rule. Effective May 19, 2026.

- Section 14 repeals Minn. Stat. 79.34, subd. 2a, and 79.363, effective Aug. 1, 2026.

### **Pensions Omnibus [HF4074/Ch. 67](#) (Nash/Clark)**

Article 12, section 2, establishes the Work Group on Duty Disability and the Public Safety Officer's Benefit Account. It directs both the DLI commissioner and the assistant commissioner of workers' compensation to serve or assign a designee to the work group. The work group is tasked with making recommendations to reform duty disability for members of the police and fire plan and, as part of this work, reviewing the reports, *Adequacy of Disability Benefits for Minnesota Police Officers: Final Report* and *Evaluating PTSD Claims in Minnesota's Workers' Compensation System: Findings and Recommendations*. This section is effective May 20, 2026, and the work group must have its first meeting by June 30, 2026. The work group must prepare and submit proposed legislation that implements the recommendations of the work group to the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement by March 1, 2027, or the date all members of the commission have been appointed for the 2027-2028 biennium, whichever is later.

### **Safe at Home Act Updates [HF3676/Ch. 67](#) (Nash/Clark)**

Section 6 of SF3676 requires the head of each agency in the executive branch to designate a Safe at Home coordinator who shall serve as the initial contact for the staff of the Safe at Home Program under chapter 5B. This section details duties of the coordinator and requires that the designation be made by Aug. 1, 2026, which matches the effective date of the bill.

### **Grants Management Provisions [HF3629/Ch.122](#) (Bahner/Hemmingsen-Jaeger)**

Section 1 of the bill contains provisions establishing processes for any state agency to withhold payments to a program participant when there is a credible allegation of fraud. The bill is effective Aug. 1, 2026.

### **Office of Inspector General Bill [SF856/Ch. 92](#) (Gustafson/Norris)**

This law establishes an Office of the Inspector General (OIG) in the executive branch. The inspector general serves as an independent, nonpartisan entity responsible for ensuring accountability, transparency and integrity in the operations of state executive branch agencies and programs. The inspector general has authority to investigate fraud and misuse of public funds across all programs administered by agencies and may refer matters for civil, criminal or administrative action to the newly created Anti-Fraud and Waste Bureau, the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, the Attorney General, the U.S. Department of Justice or other appropriate authorities.

Section 10 of the bill includes agency obligations:

- The head of each agency must prominently highlight on the agency's website the fraud reporting tools administered by OIG under this chapter and by the Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA) under chapter 3.
- As part of any grant agreement between the state and a nonprofit organization, the agreement must require the nonprofit organization to prominently highlight on the organization's website the fraud reporting tools administered by OIG under this chapter and by OLA under chapter 3.

Provisions in this bill are effective Jan. 1, 2027.

## **State Government Finance and Policy [HF4591/Ch.119](#) (Nash/Gustafson)**

The state government bill contains provisions impacting all state agencies. Relevant to DLI, these provisions include:

- Article 2, section 7, contains requirements related to cash payments and includes a requirement that agencies that engage in cash transactions establish a policy for rounding of payments and post it. This section is effective May 28, 2026.
- Article 2, section 8, includes language directing the commissioner of the Department of Administration to create policies and procedures establishing grantee fraud risk rating systems, effective Feb. 1, 2028. The policies and procedures established under this section will be applicable to all state agencies.

[Remove this extra line space.]

## **Cannabis Policy Omnibus [SF4401/Ch. 123](#) (Dibble/Hanson, J.)**

Section 15 updates local government certification requirements that a proposed cannabis business meet the requirements of the State Building Code and State Fire Code as a condition of licensure by the Office of Cannabis Management (OCM). Section 22 also updates a provision stating that a cannabis business is ineligible for an OCM licensee if it has a willful labor violation from DLI or OSHA within the past five years. Section 22 is effective May 27, 2026.

## **Health and Human Services Omnibus [SF4612/Ch. 127](#) (Wiklund/Bierman)**

Article 12, Child Care Licensing Modernization, and Article 13, Family Child Care Licensing Modernization, contain various requirements establishing building code compliance is necessary as a condition of childcare licensure. These articles are effective July 1, 2027.

## **Human Services Omnibus [SF4476/Ch. 121](#) (Hoffman/Schomacker)**

Article 9, section 47, establishes the Nursing Facility Workforce Wage Supplement Program, which provides onetime payments of up to \$200 or \$400 to eligible nursing home workers of covered employers as defined in Nursing Home Workforce Standards Board statutes section 181.211. The Department of Human Services (DHS) is responsible for administering the program. This section is effective May 28, 2026, and expires June 30, 2028.

## **Higher Education Finance and Policy [HF4252/Ch. 116](#) (Wolgamott/Fateh)**

Section 20 modifies what constitutes “eligible training” in the Dual-Training Pipeline program, broadening it to not only include training that is instructor-led for a majority of the training but also training that leads to an accredited certificate, diploma or degree issued by a postsecondary institution. This section is effective July 1, 2026.

## **Bonding Bill [HF719/Ch.130](#) (Franson/Pappas)**

Article 2, section 11, of the bill contains a provision exempting the construction of an eight-foot security fence at the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Maryland Building site from the requirement to have a building permit. This section is effective July 1, 2026.