



HousingMinnesota Capitol Update

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Distributed weekly during the legislative session and periodically outside of session, the Capitol Update provides information about bill introductions, committee hearings, policy analysis and political chatter. Contact us with items to include in future issues.

Capitol Notes

Bonding Bills on Fast Track

The Senate Finance Division that oversees economic development is expected to make its bonding recommendations to the Capital Investment Committee this week. It appears that the House committee will take action next week. A number of homeless bonding proposals are awaiting action and advocates are encouraging members to make a substantial commitment to these efforts. The Administration has proposed \$25 million for the state's plan to end long-term homeless. HousingMinnesota and a number of other organizations are requesting an additional \$8 million to make up for under funding last year. There is an additional \$10 million request for transitional housing on the table. It is our understanding that neither of these committees have targets, limiting their recommendations. Therefore, a push for higher numbers is encouraged. As the process progresses, more and more financial constraints will be placed on committees. Substantial recommendations early are critical to ensuring full funding. To weigh in on this important proposal, please contact members of the Senate Environment, Agriculture and Economic Development Budget Division and House Jobs and Economic Opportunity Policy and Finance Committee. You can find a committee lists at http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/committees/committee_bio.php?cmte_id=2001 and <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/comm/committee.asp?comm=16>.

Eminent Domain Rears Ugly Head – Affordable Housing Threatened

Eminent Domain is a complex and contentious issue and appears to be on a very fluid fast track. One major issue is whether a local government can use its power to take property from one private entity to resell or give to another private entity for a different use. For housing advocates, the devil is in the definitions. Terms like “blighted area”, “dilapidated building” and “structurally substandard” in the end will determine the impact on affordable housing. Local government representatives have expressed a concern that unless some significant changes are made the final bill could significantly impact housing development. HousingMinnesota will monitor the progress of the legislation over the next few weeks and keep readers abreast of changes and/or concerns.

Committee Hearings – Week of 3/13/06

House

Monday, March 13

Local Government

12:30 PM, Rm 10 State Office Building
HF2846 (Johnson, J): Eminent domain

Wednesday, March 15

Local Government

12:30 PM, Rm 10 State Office Building
HF2846 (Johnson, J): Eminent domain
Continuation from Monday (if needed).

Wednesday, March 15

Public Safety Policy and Finance

10:15 AM, Basement State Office Building
HFXXXX (Smith) Battered Women's Organizations' policy initiatives on protective orders.
Committee may reconvene at 4:30 p.m. in Basement State Office Building

Wednesday, March 15

Property and Local Tax Division

10:15 AM, Rm 200 State Office Building
Department of Revenue presentation: Property tax report mandated by the 2005 tax bill

For more up to date committee schedules for the House, go to:
<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/comm/commemlist.asp>.

Senate

Monday, March 13

Public Safety Budget Division

Noon or after Session, Rm 112 Capitol

S.F. 2915 –Pappas: Sexually exploited youth

S.F. 2631 – Sams: Youth intervention program

Monday, March 13

State and Local Government Operations

Noon or one half hour after Session, Rm 123 Capitol

S.F. 2750 – Bakk: Eminent domain

May be continued in the evening in order to finish

Tuesday, March 14

Joint Health and Human Services Budget Division and Early Childhood Policy and Budget Division

9 AM, Room 123 Capitol

S.F. 3016-Berglin: TANF funding.

Tuesday, March 14

Environment, Agriculture and Economic Development Budget Division

12:30 PM, Rm 107 Capitol

S.F. 2669-Skoe: Appropriating money for the Challenge Program housing fund

S.F. 2435 – Wergin: Love Elk River transitional housing pilot project

Discussion of bonding recommendations to the Capitol Investment Committee

Wednesday, March 15

Jobs, Energy and Community Development Committee

3 PM, Room 15 Capitol

S.F. 2656-Anderson: Emergency heating assistance appropriation.

*For more up to date committee schedules for the Senate, go to:
<http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/committees/index.htm#header>.*

Bill Introductions

House

HF 3204 (Clark)/ S.F. 2741 Lourey – Runaway & Homeless Youth Act

Senate

SF 2887 (Dibble) – Regulating manufactured housing park conversions – notice requirements

Bits & Bytes

Committee and Jurisdictions

You'll note over time that we will end up shortening the names of committees i.e. JOBS COMMITTEE in the House is officially the *Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance Committee* and in the Senate *Jobs, Energy & Community Development Committee*. Both have jurisdiction over housing issues with one significant difference. In the Senate only housing policy is heard in the Jobs committee. Finance issues are heard in the *Environment, Agriculture & Economic Development Budget Division of Finance Committee*. The Senate Budget Division is comprised of some members from each of the three policy committees, it oversees on the budget side and makes recommendations to Finance Committee of which it is a division. In the House the Jobs committee reviews the budget implications of the policies under its jurisdiction and makes recommendations to the Ways & Means Committee. Confusing – maybe? Does one work better than the other? – It's a toss up. It's problematic during conference committee time. The bottom line: you always have to cover your bases if you are going to be successful.

Hope we haven't totally confused you! Feel free to send a note if you want more clarification. Trick question–which of above committees is known as the 'jobs, hogs & frogs' committee?!

For more information on affordable housing, the content of this document or if you have information to include in future issues, contact Joanna Dornfeld at (651) 649-1710 ext. 108, email jdornfeld@mhponline.org or see HousingMinnesota's website at www.housingminnesota.org.