



Mailing address
4707 Highway 61, N, #181, White Bear Lake, MN 55110
Phone: 651-815-0668 | **Email:** info@naifa-mn.org
Website: www.naifa-mn.org

Legislative Update | April 2, 2024

Last Friday, the legislature marked their policy committee deadlines. They are now focusing on finance bills, which of course could fold policy issues into their supplemental budget bills. They are now on their Easter break and won't return until Tuesday at noon. This will be followed by breaks for Eid and Passover later in April.

Bill Introductions

For the first time in state history, the Minnesota House and Senate have introduced more than 10,000 bills in a regular biennial session of the legislature. As of Tuesday, the House had introduced 5174 bills and the Senate introduced 5225, a staggering amount of legislation.

DI Mental Health Mandate (HF3836/SF3606)

After this was introduced in both House and Senate NAIFA member, Corey Anderson, and I had a call with the representative from the carriers about strategies for opposition. Only one other state mandates coverage for mental health on disability policies and they are now down to just two carriers who write the coverage. The bill was heard in the House Commerce Committee where an amendment was adopted to scale it back to a disclosure of limitation on the duration of mental health coverage at the time of the application. A written acknowledgement from the applicant must be maintained by the carrier.

This bill is now part of the House Commerce Omnibus Policy Bill.

Physician Assisted Suicide Bill with Problematic Life Insurance Provisions HF1930

This bill contains provisions that prohibit a carrier from using history of this topic in their underwriting. Another provision creates an exception to the suicide exclusion allowed in law for life insurance policies. NAIFA President, Brian Fleming, testified regarding these narrow concerns regarding the bill in the House Commerce Committee.

CE Bill for Active Membership in Trade Associations (like NAIFA) (HF5041/SF5044)

This bill, modeled after a similar law in Illinois, would give up to four hours of CE credit to active trade association members. In order to get the credits, you must serve on:

- 1) a board of directors of a state or national chapter of the association;
- (2) a formal committee of a state or national chapter of the association; or
- (3) a formal subcommittee or task force of a state or national chapter of the association.

While the legislation will not advance this year due to opposition by the Department of Commerce, they are open to discussions over the interim and it gives us a starting point to work from for next session.

Financial Literacy Coalition of Minnesota

NAIFA is again part of the Financial Literacy Coalition, which helped to pass a Personal Finance Graduation requirement in last year's Education Finance Omnibus Bill.

1. It did not specify that the class was worth .5 elective credits
2. It did not require any state or national standard adoption; and
3. It did not require any teacher training to properly teach the course

We are working with Rep. Sandra Feist and Senator Steve Cwodzinski to try to make the Minnesota law as clear and strong as it can be for the betterment of the state and its students.

Elections

Last week, voters in District 27B elected Bryan Lawrence, a farmer, small-business owner, and supervisor in Baldwin Township to replace former Speaker of the House Kurt Daudt (R-Crown). Rep. Daudt resigned his seat just prior to the 2024 legislative session. Rep.-Elect Lawrence (R-Baldwin Township) won with 84.5 percent of the vote.

Rep. Anne Neu-Brindley (R-North Branch), who had previously served Majority Leader, and Rep. Dean Urdahl (R-Grove City) have announced their retirements in the last two weeks. Both seats are likely to continue to be held by Republicans.

Tim Wilkin
President
Capitol Strategies, Inc.
645 Hampshire Drive
Mendota Heights, MN 55120
Cell 612-554-7273
Fax 888-542-2932