



Capitol Watch

Legislative Update From the Minnesota Grocers Association

Date: February 13, 2025

To: Jim Zupancich, Zup's Food Market

This Week

For the first time since the session began nearly a month ago, this week felt like a “normal” at the legislature. The Senate has already introduced 1,417 bills, while the House is quickly catching up with 786 bills of its own, making up for their late start. Committees are meeting and moving bills at a fast pace. Below are some key proposals that made progress this week.

HF11 – Paid Family Medical Leave Delay Bill

On Thursday morning, the House Labor and Workforce Development Committee reviewed a proposal to delay the implementation of the upcoming Paid Leave program by 12 months. [HF11](#), authored by Committee Chair Rep. [Dave Baker](#) (R – Willmar), was discussed in an overflowing hearing room. Members may recall that Rep. Baker graciously joined an MGA HR Share Group call late last year to address concerns about Paid Leave and Earned Sick and Safe Time (ESST) for the industry.

MGA Director of Government Relations [Steve Barthel](#) testified during the hearing, expressing support for delaying the Paid Leave program. He also urged lawmakers to make meaningful changes to the program, warning that failing to do so would impose a flawed system on both employers and employees statewide. You can watch the MGA testimony [HERE](#).

The hearing was not completed within the allotted committee time and will continue later Thursday evening. It is expected to be referred to the Ways and Means Committee. For further insights on HF11 and potential next steps, join us for our Capitol Check Out call on Friday morning.

HF5 – Delivery Fee Repeal

The MGA also had another opportunity to testify on Monday in the House Transportation Finance and Policy Committee in support of the repeal of the Retail Delivery Fee that was passed in 2023. Steve Barthel testified in January on this provision, before the Supreme Court ruled that those House proceedings were not valid. The Delivery Fee repeal is part of [HF5](#), introduced by Rep. [Jim Joy](#) (R-Hawley). In addition to the repeal of the delivery fee, the bill includes provisions to exempt all Social Security benefits from the state's individual income tax, freeze automatic increases to the state gas tax, and make other changes to transportation funding. The bill was passed on a party line vote and will now move on to the Taxes Committee for further consideration. You can watch the MGA testimony [HERE](#).

MGA 2025 Day on Hill – Last Call for Registration

The MGA's annual Day on the Hill is now less than two weeks. Join us on **Wednesday, February 26, 2025** for a day that will include informational briefings from the MGA Government Relations Team, meetings with legislators and agency leaders, and the exciting Bipartisan Bag-Off. MGA encourages members to bring as many of their teams as possible to this important day. The registration form can be found [HERE](#).

In order to help us secure legislative meetings and a head count for the legislative dinner, please submit your registration ASAP.

Bills of Interest

Among the bills that have been recently introduced are several that the MGA is engaging lawmakers on. These include:

- [SF188](#) (Sen. [Heather Gustafson](#), DFL – Vadnais Heights) - Ortho-phthalate testing results reporting of packaged food requirement.
- [SF671](#) (Sen. [Zaynab Mohamed](#), DFL - Minneapolis) - Increasing Minnesota's minimum wage to \$15/hour in 2025 and increasing to \$20/hour by 2029.

- [SF1052](#) (Sen. [Erin Maye Quade](#), DFL – Apple Valley) - Prohibiting subminimum wages (14(c)) for persons with disabilities.
- [SF1148](#) (Sen. [Zaynab Mohamed](#), DFL - Minneapolis) - Modifying unemployment insurance eligibility for applicants involved in a labor dispute.

Bill of the Week

Senator [John Marty](#) (DFL – Roseville) received a hearing in Senate Transportation this week for his bill that would ban the construction on any new billboards. [SF485](#) would create a statewide ban on new billboards in Minnesota, and amend current law to allow for the potential future elimination of existing billboards through amortization. Marty's stated goal is to preserve the state's natural beauty and support its tourism-based economy. There was surprisingly heated debate on the bill which was ultimately laid on the table and will be taken up at a later hearing.

MGA Capitol Check Out Call - Tomorrow - February 14

The MGA Government Relations Team invites you to join us for a discussion on the latest updates from St. Paul. Our bi-weekly Capitol Check Out calls will keep you informed on key developments from the 2025 legislative session. Each call lasts up to 30 minutes and will be recorded for easy sharing with your team.

Join us **Friday, February 14 at 9:30 a.m.** for our next call. These calls are now being held virtually via Microsoft Teams. Contact [Steve Barthel](#) to receive the meeting link and recurring calendar invite.

The recording of previous Capitol Checkout Calls are now available on the MGA YouTube page.

January 31, 2025 Capitol Check Out Recording - [HERE](#)

January 17, 2025 Capitol Check Out Recording - [HERE](#)

2025 Legislative Sponsorship Available

[2025 Legislative Sponsorship Contracts](#) are now available! Becoming an MGA Legislative Sponsor demonstrates that you are a committed partner in advancing the work of the MGA in St. Paul. Sponsors receive recognition throughout the year in all of our legislative updates, publications, and events. Thank you to those who have already submitted their sponsorships! (see below) If you have any questions about sponsorship, please contact [Steve Barthel](#).

Support the Food PAC of Minnesota

The Food PAC of MN is the Minnesota Grocers Association political action committee, which makes contributions to legislators and candidates from all political parties. As we move toward a packed 2026 election cycle it is vital that the Food PAC has the funds available to ensure that the voice of industry is heard. The MGA would not be asking if it was not vitally important to advance industry so [please donate today!](#) **Contributions are only accepted from personal funds.** Contact [Steve Barthel](#) with any questions.

[Patrick Garofalo](#), President and [Steve Barthel](#), Director of Government Relations, are here to assist. Do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

DISCLAIMER: *This information is provided by MGA as a service to its members. This information does not constitute legal advice. As legal advice must be tailored to the specific circumstances of each case and laws and regulations are frequently changing, nothing provided herein should be used as a substitute for the advice of counsel in the relevant jurisdiction.*



2025 MGA LEGISLATIVE SPONSORS

LEADERS

Coborn's Inc.

Jerry's Enterprises, Inc.

KEMPS

Kowalski's Companies, Inc.

Kwik Trip

Miner's Inc.

ADVOCATES

Associated Wholesale Grocers, Inc.

Crazy Fresh

Miller's Market

Radermacher Holdings, Inc.

S & R Quisberg, Inc.

SpartanNash

Teal's Markets

Willie's Supervalu

Zup's Food Markets