



Capitol Watch

Legislative Update From the Minnesota Grocers Association

Date: February 20, 2025

To: Andrew Fleming, ACOSTA - Sales & Marketing

This Week

Although the weather outside may be cold, legislative committee work at the Capitol is in full swing. We're into the grind of the legislative session with committees diligently working through extensive agendas, and the Capitol is buzzing with activity. One notable shift from the past two years is the scarcity of bills being brought to the House and Senate floors for full debate. As this update is being published, the House is engaged in its first bill debate of the session, while the Senate has yet to consider any bills of substantial significance. There seems to be a sense of realism among caucus leaders that there isn't much use in holding debates on controversial topics that aren't going to pass the other legislative chamber. This underscores the critical role of the November elections in restoring balance to the legislature.

MGA 2025 Day on Hill

A big thank you to everyone who has registered for next week's Day on the Hill! Registered participants can expect more details on schedules and timelines coming your way next week. The day will feature informational briefings from the MGA Government Relations Team, meetings with legislators, and the always exciting Bipartisan Bag-Off.

Due to ongoing construction and limited public space on the Capitol complex this year, the event will operate a bit differently than in the past. We appreciate everyone's flexibility as we navigate the shifting landscape of legislative activities. We're excited to host a valuable event and make a meaningful impact with legislators!

Carts to Careers – Senate Hearing

In an exciting development, one of MGA's top legislative priorities cleared its first hurdle this week. The Minnesota Grocers Association Foundation's (MGAF) Carts to Careers appropriation bill received a hearing in the Senate Jobs committee on Monday. [SF1276](#), authored by Sen. [Susan Pha](#), (DFL - Brooklyn Park) would allocated funds to support workforce development opportunities for MGA members. Carts to Careers received praise from the committee as a proven, successful program and was laid over for possible inclusion in the Senate Jobs omnibus bill which will be unveiled later in session.

Funds from Carts to Careers are used support the MGAF's successful Retailer Management Certificate Program, CDL driver training, meat-cutting courses, and other training opportunities. This year's bill also includes new language for hiring support for employers who hire workers with disabilities and those who have been previously incarcerated.

Thank you to [Kendra Nathe](#) of Teal's Market for testifying in committee on the value of the Retail Management Certificate Program and the impact it has had in furthering her career!



Note: If you have workforce development plans for your team members and are interested in accessing funds from the previous biennium's Carts to Careers appropriation, please contact the MGA. There are limited funds remaining and are allocated on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Bottle Bill Reemerges

Representative [Sydney Jordan](#) (DFL - Minneapolis) re-introduced her bill from last session that would create a beverage container deposit refund program. [HF420](#), known as the "bottle bill", was fiercely opposed by the MGA and a coalition of concerned organizations in 2024.

The MGA Government Relations Team wants to highlight the bottle bill as an example of why engagement matters. Due to the return of a balanced legislature, we don't anticipate this bill has much chance of advancing. If there is any action taken on the bill, be prepared to engage.

MGA Capitol Check Out Recording

The recordings this year's Capitol Checkout Calls are now available. Feel free to share with members of your teams.

February 14, 2025 Capitol Check Out Recording - [HERE](#)

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

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

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Support the Food PAC of Minnesota Online Donations Now Accepted!

Check out the MGA's refreshed website! <https://www.mngrocers.com/>

With the upgrade, PAC supporters can now make their contributions online [HERE](#). **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.

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