

One Minnesota Budget



Legislative Session 101 – Broadband Taskforce

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The Biennial Cycle

Year 1 (Budget Year)

- [Longer session](#) (January-May) (see Constitution, Article 4, Sec. 12).
- Required to pass a balanced budget (or we shut it DOWN!).
- Follows an election year.

Year 2 (Policy Year)

- Shorter session (February-May).
- Used primarily for non-budget policy changes.
- Capital Investment bill usually passes in the policy year.
- Supplemental budget items may be considered.

Bills

- Bills are instructions. They may fund programs, create statutes, establish regulatory schemes, etc.
- A bill may be very short (a few lines) or very long (cannabis legalization – 319 pages!).
- Bills may be amended throughout the legislative process.
- An identical version of a bill must pass in both the House and Senate in order to be presented to the Governor for final signature.
- Types of bills: companion bill, clone bill, omnibus bill, standalone bill, session law/statute.



Committees

- Comprised of select lawmakers from each party and cover a particular topic (workforce, education, transportation, etc.).
- There are 29 House committees and 20 Senate committees.
- This is where lawmakers and the public weigh in on bills through debate, testimony, and letters of support or opposition.
- Committee chairs are appointed by the House/Senate leadership (seniority a major factor).
- Committee members are also appointed by House/Senate leadership (usually guaranteeing a majority of members from the majority party).
- Broadband falls under the House Agriculture Finance & Policy Committee and the Senate Agriculture, Broadband, and Rural Development Committee.

Floor Hearings

- When a bill has passed through all of the necessary committees, it is heard on the floor where all members may debate.



The Rules of the Session

- Governor is required to present a budget early in session.
- February Forecast – a revenue estimate prepared by MMB giving a sense of how much money we can spend. Revised budget usually submitted afterward.
- Deadlines
 - First Deadline (mid March-ish) – committees must act favorable on bills in the house of origin.
 - Second Deadline (end of March – committees must act favorably on bills or companion bills that met the first deadline in the other house.
 - Third Deadline (early April) – committees must act favorably on major appropriation and finance bills.
- Targets
 - The House, Senate, and Governor how much in total to spend over two years and how much to dedicate to each area (education, workforce, transportation, etc.).
 - Committees work out the details of how that funding is used.

Broadband at the Legislature

- Broadband is most popular at the legislature during the budget year.
- OBD will often present an overview on broadband, the Governor's budget and policy recommendations, and be around for additional broadband hearings to field questions.
- Broadband is usually included in the Governor's Agriculture Omnibus, as a standalone bill, and in House/Senate Omnibus bills.
- DEED and the Taskforce often align on the budget and policy recommendations, but it is not required.
- Much of the job of OBD and the Taskforce is to educate lawmakers on broadband.
- Funding is the most common type of bill, but some policy modification bills do come up.
- Key lawmakers behind broadband: Sen. Aric Putnam, Sen. Torrey Westrom, Sen. Judy Seeberger, Rep. Samantha Vang, Rep. Kristi Pursell.
- Common broadband topics at the legislature.

In Action!



House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee 1/17/23

House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee 1/17/23

Bree Maki
Director, Office of Broadband Development
Department of Employment and Economic Development

Teddy Bekele
Chair, Governor's Broadband Task Force

MN House Tuesday, January 17, 2023

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Questions?