

Minnesota Government Update

Posted by [John A. Knapp](#) on April 25, 2011

Easter Break

The Minnesota Legislature spent the last week on Easter/Passover break, which will end the morning of Tuesday, April 26. Legislators took this time to go back to their districts and meet with constituents and community leaders. After weeks of long committee hearings and floor sessions, the legislators used this time to rest and reboot for the final push of session. The end of this week, Friday April 29, is the first committee deadline. By Friday, a bill must have traveled to all necessary policy committees in either the House or the Senate to remain a viable bill to be passed this session. The next committee deadline is May 6 and at that time a bill must have passed through all policy committees in both the House and Senate in order to remain a live bill. The session, constitutionally, must end by May 23, but there remains high skepticism that legislative leaders and Governor Dayton will come to an overall budget agreement by that time.

Omnibus Policy Bills

If you thought the omnibus bill craziness was over, think again. Several committees are putting together omnibus policy bills to send the Governor's way. Environment, liquor, and health and human services omnibus bills are in the making. Governor Dayton had previously requested that no policy provisions be included in the omnibus finance bills. According to Dayton, any policy changes the Legislature would like to make should be sent separately to his office.