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**2022 legislative session begins**

The first week of the 2022 legislative session went off without many fireworks. There were the normal competing press conferences and debates on overall priorities, but the House and Senate mostly used this week to get settled back into the flow of the session.

The House will continue to operate remotely during the 2022 session. Representatives can participate in floor sessions in person or remotely. The public can access members in front of the House chamber, but other access is limited. The State Office Building, which houses representatives' offices, and the tunnel to the Capitol, is closed to the public so committee hearings and individual meetings with representatives will be held remotely.

The Senate is operating differently. The public can attend committee hearings but there is limited seating in the committee rooms due to COVID protocols. Depending on the senator, the public may have the option to meet in person. Some senators are meeting in person with the option to meet remotely, but others continue to only meet remotely due to the pandemic. In addition, the public will be able to access senators in front of the House chamber.

**Education priorities announced**

Last week, the Governor, released his administration’s [budget priorities](https://mn.gov/mmb-stat/documents/budget/operating-budget/gov-rec/jan22/gov22rec-budget-agency-item.pdf). I’ve prepared a short summary of these recommendations (attached) but more details will not be available until these recommendations are introduced as legislation.

The governor is put significant investments into K12 and higher including student support staff, funding for programs to support student mental health, increased investments in the state grant program and support for the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota State systems

**Committee hearings**

This week and next, committee hearings are focused on overviews and using the time to help members get up to speed on the issues that will come before them this session.

**Committee deadlines announced/dates to remember**

Each session, deadlines are set that bills must meet to continue in the legislative process. For the 2022 session, the deadlines are as follow:

* Friday, March 25 — Committees must act favorably on bills in the house of origin.
* Friday, April 1 — Committees must act favorably on bills, or companions of bills, which met the first deadline in the other body.
* Friday, April 8 — Committees must act favorably on major appropriation and finance bills.

The final committee deadline comes a day before the annual Easter/Passover break, scheduled for April 9-18. May 23 is the constitutional adjournment date.

**Bill introductions of interest**

[H. F. 2859,](http://www.revisor.mn.gov/bin/getbill.php?number=HF2859&version=latest&session=92&session_number=0&session_year=2021) A bill for an act relating to higher education; decreasing the assigned student responsibility for the state grant program; increasing an existing appropriation.

[H. F. 3034,](http://www.revisor.mn.gov/bin/getbill.php?number=HF3034&version=latest&session=92&session_number=0&session_year=2021) A bill for an act relating to higher education; prohibiting the consideration of SAT and ACT test scores.

**Questions?**

Please don’t hesitate to reach out if you have questions about the legislative session. My email is [valeried@ewald.com](mailto:valeried@ewald.com) or cell a 612-490-3052.