



Two Weeks until Adjournment

With two weeks remaining, the 2010 Session has a long way to go to finalize their work. A projected \$682 million deficit remains, and there is still no word on when the feds will send Minnesota another \$408 million in Medicaid funds. It's possible that session will end and a \$408 million budget question will remain. Work on education policy is starting to move forward in the House, and the Senate is expected to unveil an education policy bill next Tuesday. Work on trimming upwards of \$154 million from Health & Human Services programs is underway as well.

A fight between the DFL Legislature and GOP Governor Pawlenty over education reforms for Race To The Top has begun. The Governor's proposal was voted down in the House K-12 Committee on Wednesday. The Senate hasn't tipped their hand yet, but with strong union opposition to the reform measures, it's unlikely they will include the Governor's plan in their education bill. As for education funding, the House bill includes a \$732,000 cut to MDE but no other programs. The Senate, however, is proposing about \$18 million in cuts across several program areas. What is moving forward in the House and Senate so far is detailed below.

Highlights of the House K-12 bill include:

- School boards may renew an existing referendum by board vote;
- Delayed implementation of the new "Minnesota Miracle" school finance reform;
- Special education MA billing simplification;
- After school transportation for government entities;
- Clarification of a district's obligation for serving out of state students;
- Administrative simplification for Health and Safety revenue;
- Codification of the school aids unallotment/payment shift;
- An amended Alternative teacher certification provision;
- Required participation in "Efficiency plus Access Task Forces."

The Senate E-12 Committee began work on reducing expenditures in the following manner:

- \$14.22 million in cuts to Minneapolis, Saint Paul and Duluth by reducing their alternative facilities aid;
- Telecommunications Access reduced by \$206,000;
- Magnet school and program grants reduced by \$41,000;
- Statewide testing reduced by \$833,000;

- AP/IB reduced by \$248,000;
- Concurrent Enrollment reduced by \$110,000;
- Collaborative Urban Educator Program reduced by \$29,000;
- Youthworks reduced by \$50,000; however, there is a loss of federal revenue of \$171,000 with the loss of this state match;
- Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations reduced by \$40,000;
- Get Ready, Get Credit reduced by \$46,000;
- Electronic Library reduced by \$8,000;
- MDE and Perpich Center for the Arts were cut.

Additional detail of the House and Senate education bills is posted on the MREA website. The comprehensive review was prepared by representatives from several education organizations, including MREA.

<http://www.mnrea.org/HouseSenateEducationPlans2010.pdf>