



Senior Advocates FYI

5/13/2009

It is an extremely busy time at the Legislature as the midnight May 18th deadline approaches, but a number of underlying budget disagreements remain at this writing. The veto of the omnibus health and human services budget bill leaves many important issues for seniors unresolved, so the focus of this SAFYI issue will be on the eight policy (non-budget impact) bills that the MBA and AAA directors have been following. The attached document displays those bills, including three that have already been signed into law by the Governor.

The top priority of the MBA for this session is providing adequate consumer protection and advocacy. Although our proposals for expansion of the Office Ombudsman for LTC staff and volunteer program did not progress, a number of important consumer protections bills have now passed or are expected to pass. The first five sets of bills on the document involve protections for consumers and vulnerable seniors. The omnibus health and human services policy bill on the second page also contains a number of protections. HF 1760 began its legislative life as the Continuing Care Administration's (DHS) policy and technical bill, but it was adopted as the vehicle for a number of other issues that had been held-over by the committee chairs for possible inclusion.

A number of conference committees need to complete their work, but these appear to be the eight sets of bills out of the 51 we tracked earlier in the session, which will become law this year. There are important public pension bills still being sorted out that will affect thousands of seniors but are not reflected in this document. Check with your union or other organizational representative to learn more on the pension topic.

If you or your organization is following a bill/issue that you believe should be included in this tracking document, please bring it to my attention.

As in previous years, you may find actual text of all bills and legislative staff summaries of many bills at:

<http://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/legis.asp>

Senior Advocates FYI is a periodic update from the
Minnesota Board on Aging.
Call 1-800-882-6262 or e-mail john.selstad@state.mn.us

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Senate File	House File	Description	Status
SF 412	HF 632	Uniform Adult Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Act - Aligns Minnesota law with model act for interstate protective situations.	-Passed, Gov signed 5/7/09
SF 758	HF 818	Vulnerable Adult Justice Act - Strengthens financial exploitation protections and other measures.	-Passed in House -Awaiting floor action in Senate
SF 951	HF 804	Guardian and conservator governing provisions modified. - Clarifies rights of individuals under guardianships and conservatorships and puts them in one section of law. The question of a registration requirement for professional guardians and conservators is still pending at this writing.	-Passed in House (without registration requirement) -Passed in Senate (with registration) -Needs conference committee
SF 166	HF 704	Insurable Interest Act - Prohibiting stranger-originated life insurance and other fraudulent acts.	-Passed, Gov signed 5/09/09
SF 489	HF 528	Reverse mortgage law -Changes increasing consumer protections.	-Passed in Senate and House -Conference committee set
SF 839	HF 936	Communities for a Lifetime—Sponsored by the Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging. - Requires MBA to report to the legislature recommendations for a process under which communities could voluntarily seek and receive designation as a community for a lifetime.	-Passed, Gov signed 5/11/09
SF 1799	HF 2036	Alzheimer's state plan by MBA. (Language also amended into HF1760). - Requires MBA to convene an Alzheimer's disease working group and to issue a report and recommendations on a broad range of topics.	-Awaiting floor action in Senate -Awaiting committee action in House

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Senate File	House File	Description
SF 1526	HF 1760	<p>Continuing Care Policy Bill</p> <p>Original Provisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative Care (AC) Third Party Liability • Alternative Care (AC) Obsolete Language • Elderly Waiver (EW) Clarification of Eligibility • Adult Protection Data Retention • Nursing Facility Notification Simplification • Consistent Cost Reporting for Nursing Facilities • ICF/MR Statewide Advisory Committee and Rate Changes <p>Both House and Senate added provisions and used it for their omnibus health and human services policy bills. Added provisions in the House related to seniors issues include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local government public employees eligible for State's LTC Insurance program (also included in Senate bill) • Staffing levels added to root cause analysis for licensed facilities • New patient safe handling requirements • Reporting requirements regarding provider payment rates • Alzheimer's disease working group by MBA (old HF 2036 language, see above). <p>These issues will be considered now in a conference committee.</p>