Welcome!
We’re glad you’re here.
Webinar will start @ 2:45
Welcome to:
MN Legislature 101

Presenters:
Karen Wolters
Eric Nesheim
Margo Hernandez Rainwater
Sherry Munyon
Today's presenters:

Karen  Margo  Sherry  Eric
Why Should I Care?

- Without this resource...we don’t exist, period!
- Taking stock in what we have, and why we have it
- We are very lucky here in MN. We have a lot of opportunities to influence
- Individual contributors can have a huge impact
How the Legislature Works

Legislature
Minnesota has a bicameral, two bodies, comprised two bodies with a total of 201 Legislators.
- The Senate has 67 members
- The House of Representatives has 134 members

Session:
A new regular session begins in January of each odd numbered year and is a part of the biennial session ends in May while the second year of the biennium is referred to as the “short session” and generally begins in February of the second year. The MN Constitution regulates the length of session.
A BILL FOR AN ACT:

A bill for an act relating to education finance; modifying the calculation of adult basic education aid; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 124D.531, subdivision 1.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 124D.531, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **State total adult basic education aid.** (a) The state total adult basic education aid for fiscal year 2020 equals $51,000,000, plus any amount that is not paid during the previous fiscal year as a result of adjustments under subdivision 4, paragraph (a), or section 124D.52, subdivision 3. The state total adult basic education aid for later fiscal years equals:

LAN’s bill was sponsored by Rep. Lee and Sen. Clausen.
How the Legislature Works

It is a lot easier to introduce a bill then to pass one.

About 10% of the bills introduced become law in any given year.

Steps a Bill Goes Through to Become a Law

Idea - Legal form - Authors - Introduction - Committee(s)

Floor - General Register - Calendar for the Day - Special Orders - Conference - Floor - Governor
Individuals, public interest groups, state agencies or business organizations deciding that "there ought to be a law" transform their idea into a specific legislative proposal with the help of a legislator.

Bills on the Calendar are then read for the third time and a roll-call vote is taken on final passage. Thirty-four votes are needed to pass most bills; forty-one votes are needed to pass a bonding bill.

The legislator has a proposal written in an appropriate form with the aid of an attorney from the Office of the Revisor of Statutes or a Senate staff attorney.

If the bill is recommended to pass by the Committee of the Whole, it is placed on the "Calendar." The Calendar must be electronically available or printed at least one day before its final action. (In cases of pressing legislation, this tie-over may be waived to allow for more immediate attention.)

The bill is sent to the House, and it is substituted for the companion bill. The bill is given its first reading in the House, assigned to committee and continues through a similar process as it did in the Senate.

The House takes the final vote on the bill. If the House version differs from the Senate, then the Senate can concur with the House amendments to the bill. If the Senate does not concur, the bill is sent to a conference committee. Otherwise, the bill is sent to the governor.

When the bill is passed out of the final committee, it is given its second reading before the full Senate and then placed on "General Orders" for discussion by the Committee of the Whole. This provides every member the opportunity actively to debate the merits of the bill and to propose amendments to it. At times, a bill may bypass this procedure if it is placed on the "Consent Calendar" or is designated a "Special Order." The bills on the Consent Calendar are non-controversial and generate little, if any, debate before final passage. A Special Order bill is debated much like a bill in Committee of the Whole, but will proceed immediately to its third reading and final passage when the debate is concluded.

Following thorough examination and discussion, the committee may vote to pass the bill in its original form, or it may decide to make changes to the bill. These changes are called amendments and are adopted by a majority vote. The committee may then vote to:
- recommend that the bill be passed or passed as amended and sent directly to the floor;
- recommend that the bill be passed or passed as amended and be sent to another committee;
- recommend that the bill be passed or passed as amended and placed on the Consent Calendar;
- send the bill to the floor or another committee without recommendation for passage;
- defeat the bill or keep it in the committee indefinitely.

A conference committee is composed of three or five Senators and an equal number of Representatives. Once the committee reaches a compromise, it is sent to both houses for their approval. If both houses repass the bill, it is sent to the governor.

The governor may sign the whole bill, sign the bill with line-item vetoes, veto or pocket veto the bill.

A two-thirds majority of both bodies must repass the bill in order to override the veto.

Bill becomes law.
How the Legislature Works

● VIDEO -

Legislature Explained:

How a bill becomes a law in Minnesota

Link:  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pqYW7i_A27M

Presented by: MPR Reporter Briana Bierschbach:
ACTION ITEM:

Please contact these legislators to thank them for their advocacy for ABE and an author of the funding increase last session; and urge them to keep fighting for an increase in funding for ABE. *(add your reasons why)*

Representatives: Lee, Kresha, Nornes, Davnie, Vang, Gomez

https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/list

Senators: Clauson, Dahms, Kent

https://www.senate.mn/members/index.php
One Vote Can Make A Difference

There are many people who don’t cast their vote by giving one simple excuse – their vote won’t make a difference.

If you think that one vote doesn’t make a difference then you are wrong!

It matters in elections and it matters in policy.

Consider these examples:

President Andrew Johnson – President Rutherford B. Hayes – Thomas Jefferson
2019-2020 Timeline
*Summer*
- Invite legislators to visit, to graduations ceremonies, etc.
- Meet with Legislators at your sites;
- Attend Listening Sessions or Town Hall Meetings

*Early Fall*
- LAN Legislative Platform gets finalized
- State Budget Forecast Announced in November

*Late Fall*
- Legislative Session begins February 11, 2019
- Spring Break is April 6-13; Not a time to visit capitol

*Spring*
- March 9 Day ABE at the Capitol
- Thank you card campaigns
How can I get involved in making a difference?
• Identify your legislators
  • https://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/

• On which committee(s) does your legislator serve?
  • Govtrac website:
    • https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/MN#senators

• What is their voting record, bills sponsored, attendance, values, website, contact information, etc.
  • http://literacyactionnetwork.org/committees-0/legislative-action

• Know the LAN Legislative Agenda
  • Have a plan. Contact your LAN Legislative Representative. Get comfortable. YOU are the expert in the room!

• Invite your legislator to coffee, join neighbors friends to have a friendly meet-up, ask to visit school, meet your students!

• Be sure to get your districts approval if necessary

• Sign up to get their emails/newsletters

• RESPOND to the ALERTS that are sent by LAN and COABE.

• Thank you postcard campaigns