

Legislature in Special Session after Governor and Leaders Reach Tentative Budget Agreement

About 45 minutes before the required midnight deadline of the 2017 legislative session, legislative leaders and Governor Dayton emerged from the Governor's office to announce a tentative budget agreement. The press conference followed earlier floor announcements that the Legislature would be unable to complete remaining budget bills prior to the midnight deadline. The late tentative agreement announcement followed a rather quiet day at the Capitol, with intermittent floor sessions on smaller bills, and behind the scenes meetings, but no action on key bills as the deadline for adjournment approached.

Leaders indicated that they had reached a tentative agreement on the key budget bills: E-12, health and human services, transportation, taxes, and a capital investment bill. Other smaller budget bills had already been passed earlier by the House and Senate. Governor Dayton called for a special session to begin at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, and announced a goal of ending at 7:00 am on Wednesday. Only a Governor can call the Legislature into session. Once the Legislature has been called in, the Legislature controls the length of the session. Special sessions are typically not convened until there is agreement by the Legislature and Governor on the contents for a special session, and there is precedent for calling them immediately following a regular session adjournment.

At this point, details on what will be in budget bills is not clear and work is underway to finalize the contents of bills. Leaders indicated the agreement includes \$477 million for E-12 funding, \$300 million for transportation, \$660 million for taxes, and \$990 million for a capital investment bill. Leaders were clear that several details still needed to be worked out. This is not a minor issue, given that the outstanding budget bills comprise 70% of the state budget, and several bills contain contentious policy provisions. It is expected that once bills are finalized, their contents will be posted and voted on. Legislative leaders indicated that the employment pre-emption bill considered earlier in the session would be introduced and passed as a separate bill that Governor Dayton is expected to veto.

Jobs Bill

Early yesterday morning, as reported in our Monday newsletter, the House and Senate passed the omnibus Jobs bill; that bill has now been sent to the Governor. It includes funding for the MN Investment Fund, Job Creation Fund and a variety of housing programs. The bill also contains the 'small cell' bill provisions, and the prohibition on local ordinances governing consumer plastic bags. Included here are links to the engrossed [Jobs bill](#) and [spreadsheet](#).

Stay Tuned for Further Updates

Below are links to news articles posted today on the special session and budget agreement. Metro Cities will provide a comprehensive legislative session overview later this week. We will also post updates on special session activity via Twitter; follow us at [@MetroCitiesMN](#).

Pioneer Press

<http://www.twincities.com/2017/05/22/we-tried-legislature-appears-headed-into-overtime-special-session/>

Star Tribune

<http://www.startribune.com/on-legislature-s-final-day-big-budget-bills-remain-unresolved/423631603/#1>

MinnPost

<https://www.minnpost.com/politics-policy/2017/05/dayton-signs-deal-calling-legislature-special-session-what-happens-now>

Metro Cities News is emailed periodically to all Metro Cities member mayors, councilmembers, city managers and administrators to keep officials abreast of important metro city issues. This information is also intended to be shared with city staff.

If you'd like to sign up to receive Metro Cities News, please email newsletter@metrocitysmn.org and provide the following: Name, Title, Employer and Email address. Thank you.

Metro Cities 145 University Ave W., St. Paul, MN 55103-2044 Phone 651-215-4000 Fax 651-281-1299
www.MetroCitiesMN.org *...click for full article*