

2021 Legislative Agenda Update (2021.04.14)

1. Minnesota Council on Disability Budgets

In the governors revised budget proposal, the House Human Services Budget, and Senate Human Services, the increased budget appropriations for MCD are the same, which means it will likely remain the same for the final bill our of conference committee.

Table 1: Budget Proposals

Budget	FY 22	FY 23	FY 22-23	FY 24	FY 25	FY 24-25
Governor	+\$16,000	+\$32,000	+\$48,000	+\$32,000	+\$32,000	+\$64,000
House	+\$16,000	+\$32,000	+\$48,000	+\$32,000	+\$32,000	+\$64,000
Senate	+\$16,000	+\$32,000	+\$48,000	+\$32,000	+\$32,000	+\$64,000

2. Interactive Process amendment– Minnesota Human Rights Act

2021 Bills: SF 1939 (Abeler), [HF 2010](#) (Reyer)

- [The House Judiciary Finance & Civil Law Committee](#) produced an Omnibus Bill ([HF 1030](#))
- Contains language that was originally in [HF 2010](#)
- Amends the Minnesota Human Rights Act to align with the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act regarding the interactive process between employers and employees with disabilities.
- Couldn't get a hearing in the Senate, so it will be up to conference committee to include it
- Senator Limmer is not normally supportive of policy changes in a budget bill
- Could ask House to remove policy provisions as a trade for increased budgets

3. Restoring Community Access to the Personal Care Assistant (PCA) Program Bill

2021 Bills: [SF 984](#) (Mathews); [HF 1431](#) (Frederick)

- The [House Human Services Finance & Policy committee](#) and the [Senate Human Services Reform Finance & Policy Committee](#) both produced Omnibus Bills ([HF 2127](#) & [SF 383](#)) that omitted language originally introduced as [HF 1431](#) and [SF 984](#)
- HF 1431 & SF 984 both passed out of committee with bi-partisan support
- Fiscal note and liability concerns may be the reason why it wasn't included
- However, fiscal notes and liability were based on a lot of assumptions
- We need more data to get a better projection of the policy-change cost
- We've asked the Governor to consider using American Rescue Plan money to fund a pilot program for the next 3-4 years after which we will be able to collect better data

4. Out-of-Network coverage for diagnosis and treatment of rare diseases

2021 Bills: [SF 626](#) (Draheim), [HF 626](#) (Reyer)

- Passed out of the House Commerce, but not House Health Finance (no hearing)
- Did not pass out of Senate (No hearing)
- Not included in omnibus bills
- Reason likely because more research needs to be done on how it will affect insurance policies and cost

5. Rare Disease Advisory Council (RDAC) Amendment

2019 Bills establish RDAC bills: [SF 973](#) (Miller); [HF 684](#) (Mann)

- Never received a hearing in the House or the Senate
- U of M concerned about conflicting policies of U of M entities taking policy positions
- Stakeholders need to reconvene to discuss how to move forward.
- Possibility of trying to move RDAC to MCD in future sessions

6. Website Accessibility Grants Program

2021 Bills: [HF 35](#) (Elkins); [SF 416](#) (Koran)

- Received a hearing and passed out of House State Gov committee
- \$1,000,000 to MCD to administer
- Received a hearing and passed out of Senate State Gove committee
- However, Senator Koran amended his version to be \$100,000 to CIO
- Did not make it to either omnibus, likely because of huge differences in the bills

7. Sensory Accessibility Grants Program

2021 Bills: [HF 139](#) (Freiberg); [SF 1348](#) (Utke)

- Was passed out the House State Gov committee and included in the State Gov Omnibus bill
- \$250,000 in grant money to be administered by MCD
- Did not receive hearing in the Senate, and did not make omnibus bill
- Will have to be reconciled in conference committee

8. State Employment & Retention of Employees with Disabilities (ERED)

Task Force Report: [Strategies for Attracting and Retaining State Employees with Disabilities](#)

2021 Bills: [SF 1570](#) (Westrom); HF 2017 (Reyer)

- Bill never received hearing in either chamber
- Challenging because bill was drafted and introduced late into session
- But sets a good foundation for pushing and advocating for the bill next year

NON-Priority Bills

Service Animal Statutory Changes

- Rep. Freiberg came to MCD to relay concern from a constituent about discrepancy in statute regarding service animals. We consulted with MN Dept. Human Rights
- HF 566 does clean up and clarify some of that language, but we hope to work with Rep. Freiberg next session to clarify the law further. HF 566 & SF 529 cleared both chambers and recommended for a floor vote