



END-OF-SESSION REPORT

Minnesota Legislature 2023

INTRODUCTION

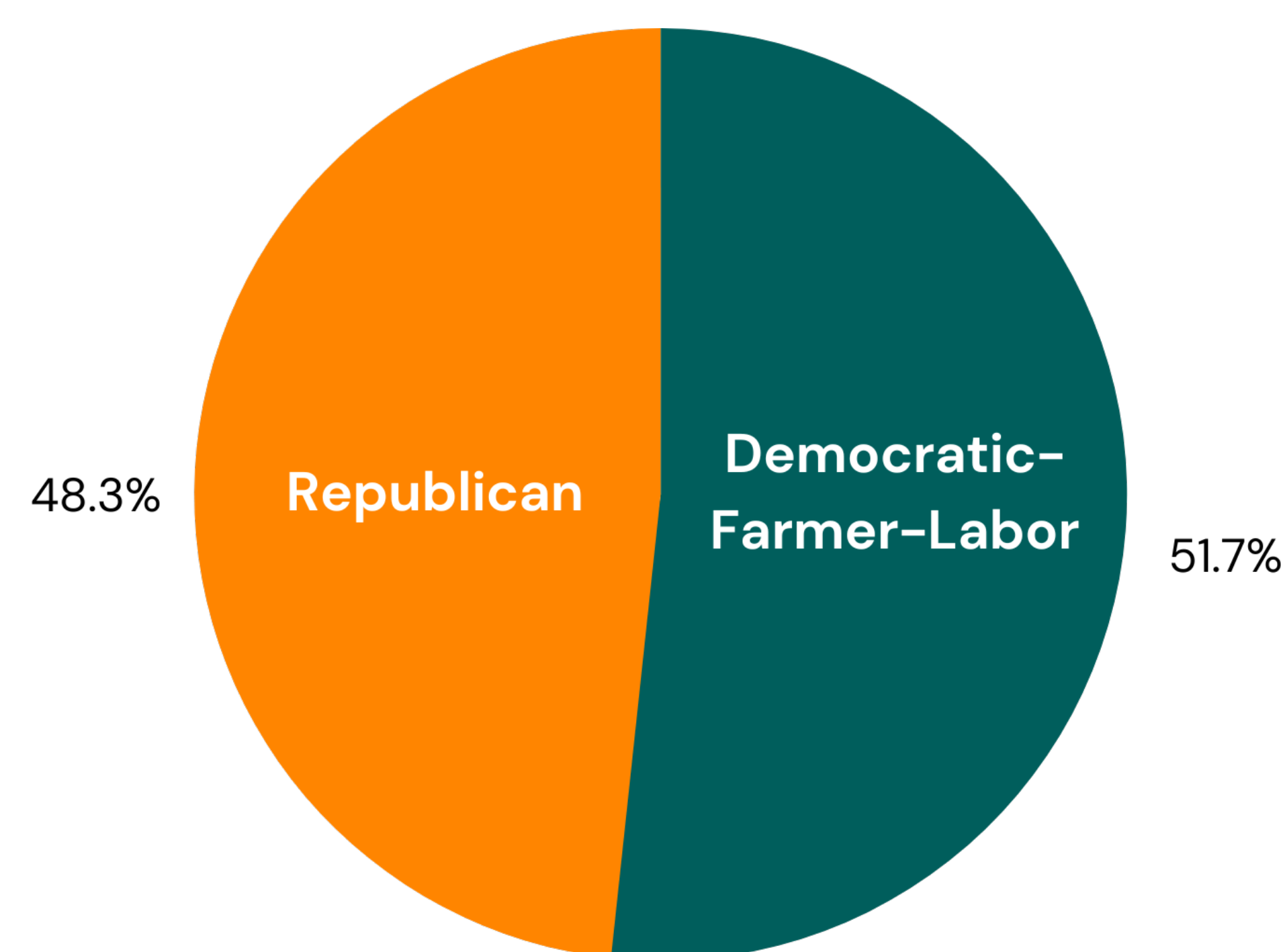
Minnesota Governor Tim Walz was inaugurated into his second term in January of 2023, at the start of the state's legislative session. Governor Walz packaged his priority proposals into the One Minnesota Budget. The budget focuses on:

- Childhood education
- The economy
- Public health
- Public safety
- Economic investment

The Minnesota Legislature has 201 members. Sixty-seven members serve in the Senate, of which 34 are Democrat and 33 are Republican. Of the 134 members in the House of Representatives, 70 are members of the Democrat-Farmer-Labor (Minnesota's Democratic Party) and 64 are Republicans. For the first time since 2013, Democrats control the executive branch and both chambers of the state legislature.



Minnesota's major political parties published this session's legislative goals in two reports. The Democratic-Farmer-Labor (DFL) shared its Action Agenda for the state in the Fall of 2022. The Republican party last shared its goals as a party in May of 2022, in their Statement of Principals.



KEY 2023 SESSION DATA

This year's legislative session lasted from January 3 until May 22. Minnesota passed 75 bills into law out of the 6,709 introduced bills. These included measures focused on: abortion, elections, public safety, education, guns and the LGBTQ+ community.

The passage rate from the first year of

This bill took an immense level of work, passing through five major committees and multiple votes in each chamber. When it became law, Minnesota joined 22 other states that restore the right to vote to the formerly incarcerated.

HF 3 expanded voting rights in many ways, allowing for:

- automatic voter registration
- permanent vote by mail
- additional disclosures in campaign spending during elections
- 16 and 17-year-olds to pre-register to vote

HF 1830 created an 18-day period of early in-person voting. It also set in place evidence expectations to election challenges and expanded the right to leave work to vote without penalty. Under the bill, Minnesota joined the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. The Compact is an alternative to the electoral college. It cites that the winner of the popular vote should become president of the United States.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE LEGISLATION

In 2023, Minnesota's legislature worked to pass laws that would meet their climate goals. By the end of the session, they combined many of the introduced bills into HF 2310; an omnibus climate bill.

HF 2310 passed into law with \$2 billion

in investments for the environment. The bill contains FY 2024 and 2025 budget appropriations for the state's 17 public utilities and entities. It also contains the fiscal year 2024 appropriations from the environment and natural resources trust fund.

The bill focuses on five main areas:

1. Implementing the nation's strictest regulations on PFAs, known as "forever chemicals"
2. Environmental Justice, through requiring air quality permits in vulnerable areas
3. Protections for wildlife and the environment, including those for endangered animals and protected habitats
4. Decarbonization, mandating that all public utilities produce their electricity from carbon-free sources by 2040
5. Outdoor recreation, by investing in public infrastructure and parks throughout the state.

LEGISLATION IMPACTING EDUCATION

This legislative cycle was defined by debates over education funding and policy. Amid the noise, Governor Waltz signed into law HF 2497, an omnibus education finance bill.

HF 2497, increased Minnesota's education budget by \$2.3 billion, a 4.4% increase from 2022. The bill covered five

main areas of education:

1. Increased funding for districts with a new formula that accounts for inflation and population growth
2. Increased early education funding through:
 - a. Head start programs
 - b. The creation of a department to assist children in the juvenile justice system
 - c. The permanent funding of 4,000 new Pre-K placements
3. Increased support for teachers and staff, with \$135 million allocated to unemployment and union funds
4. Increased culturally-responsive education for K-12 students. This includes mandates that ethnic studies courses and Holocaust and genocide courses be taught
5. Universal free breakfast and lunch, as well as free access to menstrual products and opiate antagonists, such as Naloxone

GUN RIGHTS LEGISLATION

Minnesota saw a flurry of activity around gun rights during this year's session.

Seventy-eight bills proposing expanded access to guns were introduced. Thirty-five proposals restricting access to guns were introduced. By the end of the 2023 session, only one bill, HF 100, became law.

HF 100 initiated the process of resentencing and expungement of records for individuals who had been

criminally charged with marijuana possession. It also determined that the use of medical-grade cannabis or a previous criminal charge of marijuana possession could not restrict an individual's access to possess or own a firearm, as the policy had previously been.

LEGISLATION IMPACTING THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

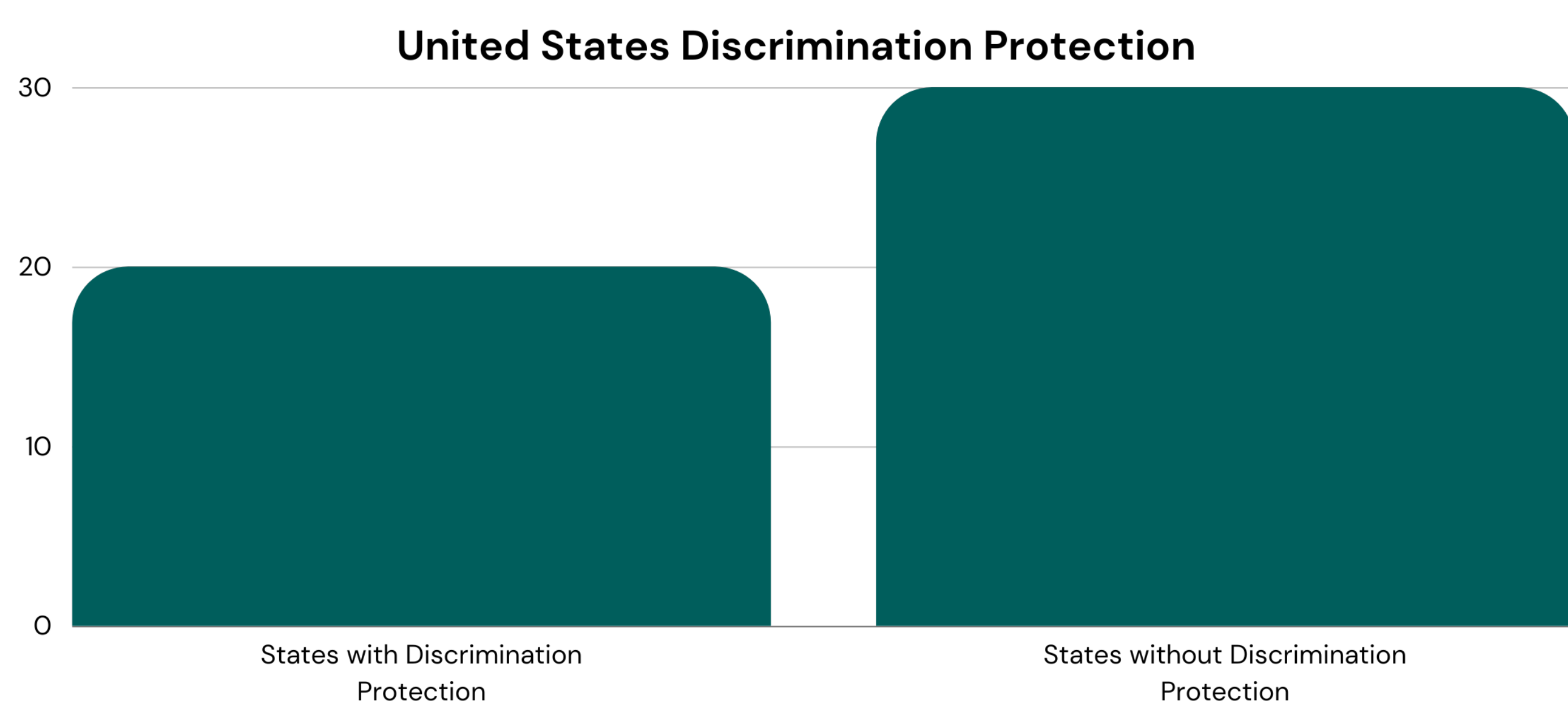
Across the country, policies impacting the LGBTQ+ community have received considerable attention. Following suit, the Minnesota legislature introduced many bills regarding the LGBTQ+ community. While a total of 61 bills were introduced, two became law.

HF 16 prohibits conversion therapy for both children and vulnerable adults. This includes both the provision of conversion therapy as a service and the misrepresentation of conversion therapy as a service or product.

HF 146 was passed in response to a national trend criminalizing gender-affirming healthcare services. Minnesota will not cooperate with out-of-state legal subpoenas that interfere with access to gender-affirming healthcare. This includes child-custody hearings or provisions.

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAWS

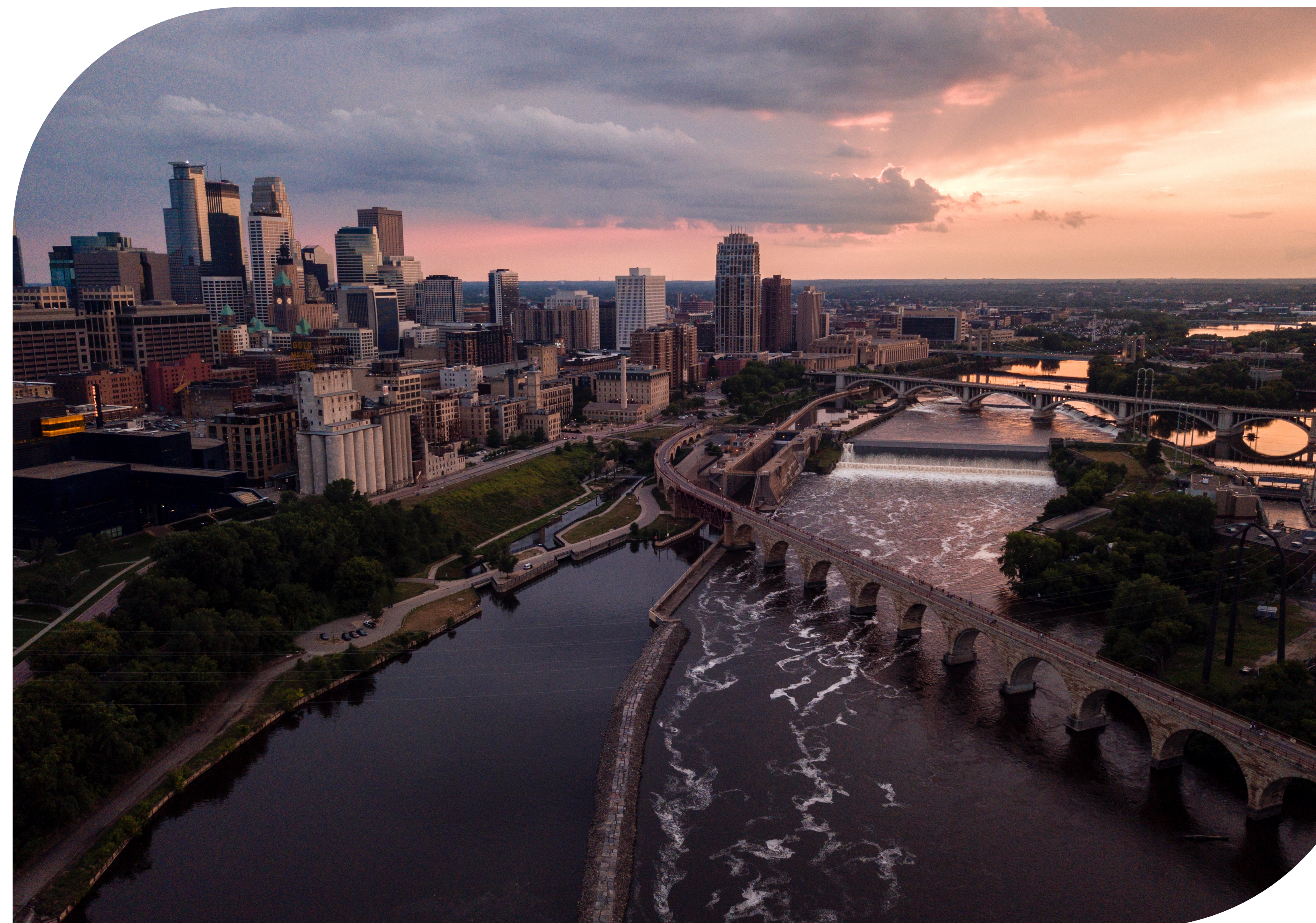
Members of both parties voted to pass [HF 37](#). The law adds race and hair textures associated with race to the list of traits protected from discrimination. With the passage of this bill, Minnesota joined 19 other states prohibiting this form of discrimination.



CONCLUSION

Minnesota legislators met many of their goals for the 2023 session. While only 1% of introduced bills became law, many of the bills that did pass were Omnibus bills. Omnibus bills streamline the legislative process by packaging proposals or amendments. They allow lawmakers to vote on them as a whole. In this session, legislators used omnibus bills to package criminal justice, healthcare, voting rights and education policies.

During Minnesota's 2023 legislative session, legislators met the political moment by efficiently responding to issues of considerable controversy at the state and national levels.



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the 2023–2024 session nearly matches the number of bills passed in the full 2021–2022 session. During that session, the Minnesota legislature passed 99 bills out of 9,775 introduced. Bills passed primarily focused on the biennial budget, education, public safety and COVID–19 response.

LEGISLATIVE TRENDS IN MINNESOTA

1. Abortion
2. Elections and Voting
3. Environment
4. Education
5. Guns
6. LGBTQ+ community
7. Anti-discrimination laws

LEGISLATION IMPACTING REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Abortion rights were a priority in Minnesota’s first legislative session. Last year’s *Dobbs v. Jackson Supreme Court* decision was the catalyst for this priority. The legislature passed HF 1, which states that:

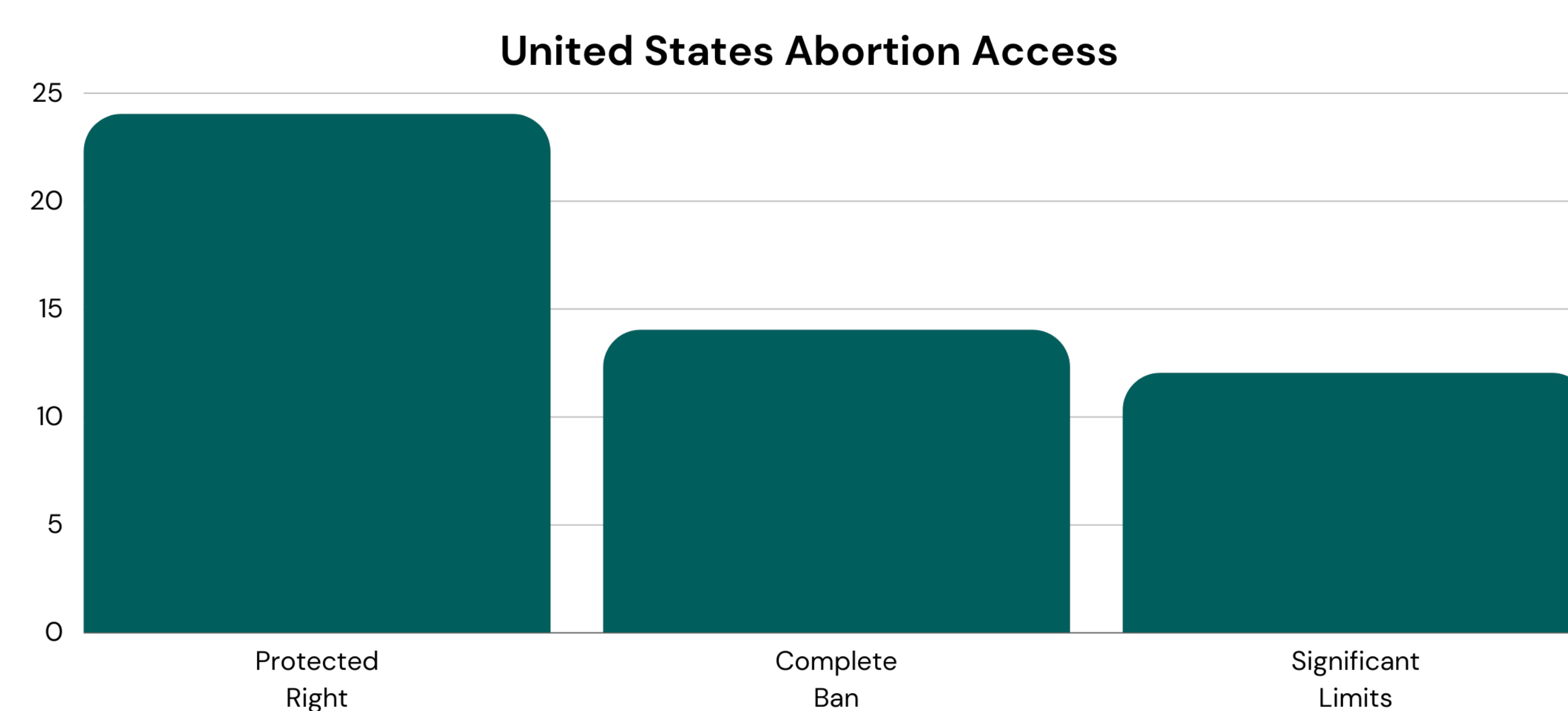
“Every individual has a fundamental right to make autonomous decisions about the individual’s own reproductive health, including the fundamental right to use or refuse reproductive health care.”

HF 1 establishes that every Minnesotan has reproductive autonomy. As such, the constitution protects their right to



both abortion and contraception. The law is one of the most comprehensive abortion rights laws in the nation.

Minnesota joined 24 states that protect the legal right to abortion. In comparison, 14 U.S. States have completely banned abortion. The remaining 12 states have significant gestational limits on abortion access.



LEGISLATION IMPACTING VOTING AND ELECTIONS

The legislature introduced 22 bills restricting voting rights and 42 bills expanding voting rights. No legislation restricting voting rights passed through the legislature. Three voting rights expansion bills, HF 1830, HF 3 and HF 28, became law.

HF 28 restored the right to vote to individuals convicted of a felony upon completion of any term of incarceration.