

Minnesota 2024 End-of-Session Report

What Minnesota Lawmakers Accomplished This Year

Minnesota lawmakers returned to Saint Paul in mid-February to finish out the second half of the 2023–2024 biennium. In 2023, their work commanded national media attention. The first session of the biennium was defined by Democratic gains in the 2022 elections. Democrats won control of the Governor's office, as well as both chambers of the legislature, which became the most diverse in the state's history. With control of the legislature and a perceived mandate from voters, Democrats delivered on long-held priorities in education funding, marijuana, reproductive rights, and more.

In the lead-up to 2024, there were mixed predictions as to whether the momentum of Democratic progress, including significant financial investments, would continue. Some believed that the session would resemble a more typical, less ambitious "off-budget" year. After reviewing the 2024 session, it's clear that the result was, predictably, somewhere in the middle. Democrats were able to pass much of their agenda, including some work they couldn't complete in 2023. Still, some priorities stalled at the finish line. Overall, the 2024 session will be viewed as less "transformational" than its predecessor. This pattern is to be expected in a biennial cycle.

In this report, we detail the key outcomes of Minnesota's 2023–2024 biennium.



BY THE NUMBERS

Minnesota Legislature's 2024 Activity

In public policy, the numbers often tell the story. Read below to learn more about the makeup of Minnesota's legislature, key session data, the policies that became law, and more.

The Makeup of the Legislature

At the beginning of the 2023–2024 session, Democrats held a small majority in the House of Representatives, 70–64. They held an even smaller majority in the Senate, with 34 seats compared to Republicans' 33. There have been slight shifts in the 18 months since, mostly due to retirements and appointments. Most notably, Senator Kelly Morrison resigned from her seat in District 45 following adjournment to focus on her campaign for Congress. This leaves the Senate evenly divided with one vacancy, though it is unlikely they'll reconvene before 2025. Senator Morrison's resignation follows ongoing drama in Senate District 47. Republicans have called on Democratic Senator Nicole Mitchell to resign following burglary charges. Because of these incidents, Democrats were left to navigate the final month of session with an uncertain majority. They will certainly face challenges in maintaining control of the chamber come November.

Partisan Representation in the Minnesota Legislature

	House of Representatives	Senate
Democrats	69	33
Republicans	64	33
Vacant	1	1

Key Session Data

In total, more than 10,000 bills were introduced throughout the 2023–2024 biennium. Of those bills, 4,454 were considered in 2024 in some manner. This figure includes some bills introduced this year and others carried over from 2023.

Governor Tim Walz signed 75 bills into law in 2023 and 52 in 2024, making 127 total new laws. Governor Walz vetoed just one bill in this period. Overall, the 2023–2024 biennium was the most productive legislature in terms of laws passed since the 90th legislature in 2017–2018. The 90th legislature was also the last time that one party had control of both chambers.

Plural's AI-powered bill topics shed light on the types of legislation that were most popular and successful this year.

Key Policies Passed Into Law

Increased Investment in Housing, Education, and Childcare

The Legislature doubled down on historic investments made last year in housing, education, and childcare. We saw continued investment in those areas in 2024. Housing investments were made in the form of Housing Infrastructure Bonds and funds for the unhoused. Investments in education included more than \$50 million in funding for literacy and teacher training. Finally, amendments to the state's child tax credit made the credit more valuable for families.

A Deal for Rideshare Drivers and Companies

More than two years of debate over regulating rideshare companies culminated in Uber and Lyft threatening to discontinue business in the state. This session, lawmakers were able to pass a deal to appease both drivers and rideshare executives. Governor Walz brokered a compromise between the companies and the city of Minneapolis' new laws increasing wages. Rideshare drivers will receive a roughly 20% increase in pay, as well as increased benefits. The law overrides the Minneapolis City Council, appeasing the rideshare companies.

New Requirements for Schools

Two news-worthy items in the omnibus education bill include funding for literacy related to book bans and the use of cellphones in schools. The new law prohibits book bans, defined as restricting access to material based solely on the viewpoint or message it conveys. Book bans have gained traction and national attention amidst conservative backlash to certain school curricula. The bill also requires school districts to adopt a policy regarding students' possession and use of cellphones in school by March of 2025. This measure is certain to be a point of contention amongst parents, students, teachers, and administrators.

Number of Bills Considered by Topic in 2024

Appropriations, Budget, and Taxation	1,169
Transportation, Energy, and Utilities	770
Health and Social Services	696
Business, Commerce, and Economic Development	556
Education and Childcare	533

Number of Bills Passed by Topic in 2024

Appropriations, Budget, and Taxation	20
Government and Elections	10
Transportation, Energy, and Utilities	8
Business, Commerce, and Economic Development	8
Education and Childcare	8



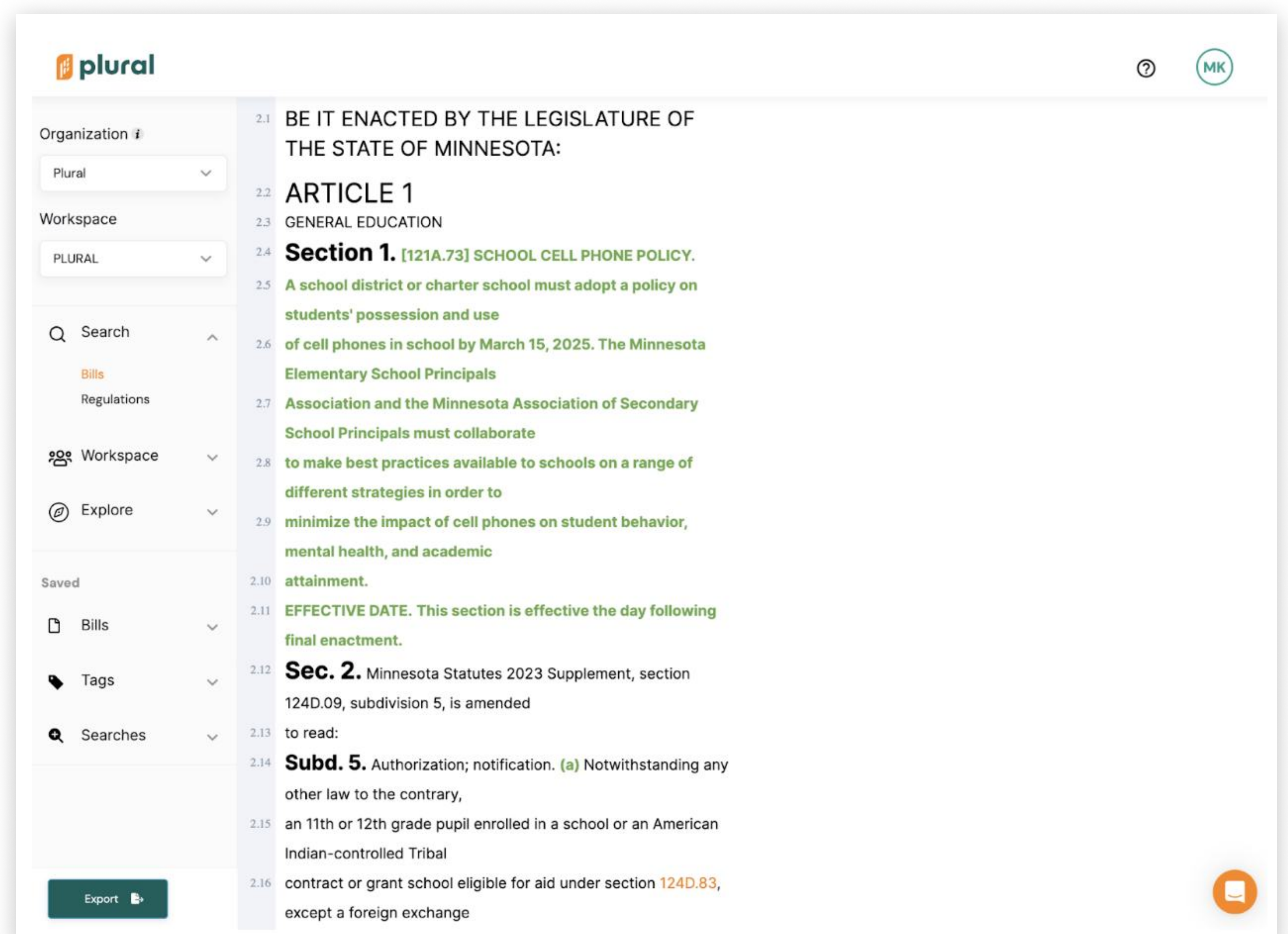


Tweaks to Groundbreaking Legislation Passed in 2024

Policymaking is never finished. Even policy that is passed successfully often requires legislators to come back to iron out small details. This was the case in 2024. Minnesota lawmakers revisited two massive policy changes enacted in 2023. This included cannabis legalization and the creation of the Paid Family Medical Leave program.

In the case of cannabis legalization, more work was needed to establish the framework for a marketplace ahead of the anticipated opening of retail marijuana stores in 2025. Lawmakers passed legislation clarifying how licenses will be distributed, who may grow cannabis, and when they can begin doing so.

Similarly, lawmakers prepared for the enactment of the new Paid Family Medical Leave program in 2026. They clarified details regarding the rollout and benefits that last year's bill did not include.



Major Legislation that Did Not Pass

It is the nature of the legislative process that most bills do not become law. Failure can come for any number of reasons — lack of support, lack of funds, or lack of time being significant ones. In Minnesota, many bills didn't make it across the finish line in 2024. We've identified those most notable among them, particularly due to the attention they drew and their likelihood of resurfacing in 2025.

SF 37 – Equal Rights Amendment

Both chambers of the legislature passed separate versions of this legislation nearly one year apart. The proposals would have asked voters in 2026 to add a constitutional amendment protecting gender rights. Despite seemingly agreeing on the core of the measure, leaders were unable to agree on the language that will be used in the bill. Differences that led to this blockage included the House version's provision for abortion access, which was not included in the Senate's. Similar legislation is sure to receive significant attention next year.

SF 1949/HF 2000 – Sports Gambling

Advocates for legalized sports gambling saw 2024 as an opportunity to get this complex policy passed into law. While progress was made on building a policy that more legislators could tolerate, the legislature ran out of time before a final agreement could be passed.

SF 3947/HF 4050 – Minimum Wage Increase

These companion bills aiming to increase the minimum wage did not make it far in either chamber. However, given the ever-present debate over the minimum wage and labor policy as a whole, they're worth flagging. The bill proposes increasing the statewide minimum wage to \$15/hour. It would also institute additional stepped increases thereafter.

Looking Forward

Looking ahead, the next key events in Minnesota will be the legislative primaries in mid-August and the general election on November 5, 2024. All members of the state's House of Representatives serve two year terms, and every seat in the chamber is up for election this fall. Democrats are favored to maintain control in the House. However, Republicans hope to pull off enough upsets to regain control of the chamber for the first time since 2018.

The next regular elections of the state Senate aren't scheduled until 2026. However, Senator Morrison's retirement means that control of the chamber will be determined in a special election in November. The contentious nature of this race, one seat for control of the Senate, will lead to millions in spending. It will certainly receive significant attention this fall.

Finally, Minnesotans will also vote on one statewide ballot measure on November 5th. As a result of [HF 1900](#), passed by legislators last year, voters will determine whether to renew the use of lottery proceeds to fund the state's Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Minnesota's 93rd Legislature will be remembered as a diverse, ambitious, and productive body. The investments and policy changes made over the past two years will have lasting impacts throughout the state. While 2023 overshadows 2024 in terms of overall activity, the legislature was still able to secure passage for important bills. Key areas like education, civil rights, and healthcare have seen significant changes. Now, voters throughout the state will have the opportunity to weigh in on the actions taken by their representatives. Their judgment will have major impacts on the shape of policymaking in Minnesota beginning next January.

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