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Minnesota House of Representatives

Melissa Hortman, Speaker

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: July 22, 2024
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New Laws Effective Aug. 1, 2024

The following is a list of select new laws passed during the 2024 legislative session, and one from 2023, that take effect Aug. 1, 2024. The asterisk following the bill number denotes language that became law. Summaries of laws passed by the 2024 Legislature are available online from nonpartisan House Public Information Services at house.mn.gov/newlaws/search/2024.

BUSINESS AND COMMERCE

Uniform Commercial Code modified

The Uniform Commercial Code is a way for all 50 states to adopt similar statutes to simplify, clarify, and modernize laws governing commercial transactions across the United States.

A new law will adopt in state statute amendments to accommodate emerging technologies, including electronic signatures of documents, electronic promissory notes, and “controllable digital assets” such as cryptocurrencies and non-fungible assets.

The law also specifies how these digital assets and other controllable electronic records are securely traded and how they can be used in other financial transactions.

Rep. Brion Curran (DFL-White Bear Lake) and Sen. Michael Kreun (R-Blaine) are the sponsors.
HF3868*/SF4691/CH93

Commerce law changes

Portions of the commerce law that take effect Aug. 1, 2024, address marketing to minors, regulations affecting virtual currency kiosks, student loan protections, and homeowner’s insurance renewals.

Rep. Zack Stephenson (DFL-Coon Rapids) and Sen. Matt Klein (DFL-Mendota Heights) sponsor the law.

Among the changes, the law:

- prohibits deceptive marketing related to vapor products, including selling products imitating a food or brand of food commonly marketed to minors; school supplies commonly used by minors; and a character, personality, or symbol known to appeal to minors;
- prohibits the purchase, possession, importation, manufacturing, selling, holding for sale, or distributing a cellular telephone case, stand, or cover that is a likeness of, or reasonably appears to be, a firearm;
- strengthens protections for students taking out student loans, including that servicers must make several disclosures to borrowers on income-driven repayment programs;
- prohibits tree trimmers and restoration and mitigation services from charging excessive prices following severe weather;
- modifies a consumer protection law requiring that repair shops provide a written estimate for work that will cost more than \$100;
- prohibits unfair real estate service agreements, such as those that are overly restrictive or deceptive;
- modifies the types of personal property exempt from court-ordered seizure, bankruptcy, garnishment, or sale; and

- protects an independent contractor from being discharged or otherwise disciplined by an employer for having wages garnished.

An insurer can, effective Aug. 1, 2024, refuse to renew a homeowner's insurance policy if the insured had three or more covered losses each over \$10,000 resulting from lightning, wind, rain, or hail during a five-year period immediately preceding the refusal to renew.

The law also creates several requirements for financial institutions related to safeguarding customer information, including that it must develop, implement, and maintain a comprehensive information security program.

HF4077/SF4097*/CH114

CIVIL LAW

Protections clarified in Minnesota Human Rights Act

Effective Aug. 1, 2024, a new law clarifies protections within the Minnesota Human Rights Act, including:

- ensuring people with episodic disabilities are covered by disability protections;
- allowing parties to a claim of discrimination filed with the Department of Human Rights to use alternative dispute resolution, including mediation, to try and resolve the matter;
- extend — from six months to one year — how long the department has to rule on a discrimination claim;
- extending credit discrimination protections to include familial status;
- clarifying exemptions for religious organizations; and
- requiring district courts hearing discrimination lawsuits brought by the department to order a civil penalty against a party guilty of discrimination and require them to pay a party who has suffered from the discrimination damages.

Rep. Luke Frederick (DFL-Mankato) and Sen. Bonnie Westlin (DFL-Plymouth) are the sponsors.

HF4109*/SF4201/CH105

Rights for parents with disabilities

Effective Aug. 1, 2024, a court cannot deny a prospective adoptive parent the ability to proceed with an adoption due to the prospective parent's disability; nor can a petition be filed alleging that a child needs protection or services based on a parent's disability.

Additionally, a court cannot deny parenting time with their children because a parent has a disability unless the parent has specific behaviors that would endanger the health or safety of the child. The court is required to give parents an opportunity to use supportive services to alleviate concerns.

The provisions are included in the education supplemental budget law sponsored by Rep. Cheryl Youakim (DFL-Hopkins) and Sen. Mary Kunesh (DFL-New Brighton).

HF5237*/SF5252/CH115

ELECTIONS

Major party status, election official safety

The election policy law modifies the standard for a political party seeking to be recognized as a major political party in Minnesota to provide that the party must have received votes from at least 8% of the total number of voters in an election for a statewide office. It strikes the 5% threshold that applied to general elections held on or before Nov. 8, 2022, and strikes a reference to the 8% threshold applying at general elections held on or after Nov. 7, 2024.

Current law prohibits someone from making personal information about an election official or their family or household member publicly available without consent if the information's availability poses an imminent and serious threat to the safety of the official, their family or household member and the person making the information available knows of any imminent or serious threat. Effective Aug. 1, 2024, the definition of "personal information" is expanded to include the official's home telephone number, cell phone number, personal email address, minor children's names, and pictures of the official's minor children.

Rep. Mike Freiberg (DFL-Golden Valley) and Sen. Jim Carlson (DFL-Eagan) sponsor the law.

HF4772*/SF4729/CH112

EMPLOYMENT

Tip payments, drug and alcohol testing

Effective Aug. 1, 2024, and as part of the labor and industry policy law, gratuities received by an employee through a debit, charge, credit card, or electronic payment must be credited to the pay period in which they are received by the employee and paid out in the next scheduled pay period.

Additionally, the law will permit an employer to use oral fluid testing procedures as an alternative way to test when drug and alcohol or cannabis testing is requested for employees and job applicants.

An employer must continue group insurance and health care benefits for the employee and any dependents while on pregnancy or parental leave. The length of pregnancy and parental leave cannot be reduced by any period of paid or unpaid leave taken for prenatal care medical appointments.

Rep. Michael Nelson (DFL-Brooklyn Park) and Sen. Jennifer McEwen (DFL-Duluth) sponsor the law.

HF3947/SF3582*/CH110

Certificate renewal reminder mandated

Included in the jobs and economic development law is a provision that will, effective Aug. 1, 2024, require the Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience, and Interior Design to send a notice by email to each license or certificate holder, no later than 30 days prior to expiration of their license or certificate, that the license or certificate is about to expire. Renewal information must be included.

The board will be required to collect email addresses from license and certificate applicants for this purpose. If the board does not have an email address on record, the notice must be sent by standard mail.

Rep. Hodan Hassan (DFL-Mpls) and Senate President Bobby Joe Champion (DFL-Mpls) sponsor the law.

HF5205/SF5289*/CH120

ENVIRONMENT

Environment, natural resources policy law protects native rough fish

A new law impacting the Department of Natural Resources and the Board of Water and Soil Resources helps protect native fish and updates the process for protecting state waterways.

Sponsored by Rep. Rick Hansen (DFL-South St. Paul) and Sen. Fong Hawj (DFL-St. Paul), the law takes effect Aug. 1, 2024.

It provides additional protections for native rough fish similar to more popular game fish like walleye. Additionally, the law distinguishes native rough fish from common carp, listing the species of native rough fish as: "Amiidae (bowfin), Catostomidae (bigmouth, smallmouth, and black buffalo; white, blue, spotted, and longnose sucker; northern hogsucker; quillback; river and highfin carpsucker; and black, river, shorthead, golden, silver, and greater redhorse), Hiodontidae (goldeye and mooneye), Ictaluridae (black, brown, and yellow bullhead), Lepisosteidae (longnose and shortnose gar), and Sciaenidae (freshwater drum)."

In addition to moving many Reinvest in Minnesota processes from rules to statute, the law updates the watershed law to better reflect current conditions, and:

- authorizes soil and water conservation districts to implement practices on any public land, not just state land, in cooperation with the agency in authority;
- requires a public hearing before a soil and water conservation district adopts a comprehensive plan;
- changes some procedures for modifying the boundaries of a watershed district;
- increases the payment rate for native prairie bank easements;
- creates the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Committee out of two separate oversight committees;
- defines domestic hogs, feral swine and release; and
- requires a person who applies manure in a level drinking water supply management area (one with higher nitrogen/nitrate levels) to follow a manure management plan, which must include best practices as recommended by the Department of Agriculture.

HF2774/SF2904*/CH90

FAMILY

Custody and parenting time, spousal maintenance modifications

A new law taking effect Aug. 1, 2024, updates statutes related to custody and parenting time along with spousal maintenance.

Provisions include that a family law court considering temporary custody and parenting time regarding minor children must consider the parenting time prior to an action and to determine custody and parenting time with an opportunity to develop a relationship with each parent.

While a proceeding for temporary relief is pending, the court must give priority to scheduling and holding an expedited hearing when a party credibly alleges they have been denied parenting time with a child for at least 14 consecutive days, or the party has been unreasonably denied access to necessary financial resources or support during a pending marital dissolution.

A court must consider credible allegations of domestic abuse, substance abuse, maltreatment findings, or neglect as a reasonable basis for a party who has denied parenting time to the other party. The mental health and safety of the child is added to the list of considerations for the court when determining parenting time.

In determining custody, the court must consider the best interests of the child and must not prefer one parent over the other solely based on the parent's gender.

A court must order compensatory parenting time when a child is intentionally kept from visits by the other party and impose a fine of up to \$500 on a parent who repeatedly and intentionally denies or interferes with parenting time.

In considering a spousal maintenance order, also known as alimony, the court must consider the earnings, seniority, benefits, and other employment opportunities forgone by the spouse seeking maintenance to support the other spouse or children. Also to be considered is the need and ability of each spouse to prepare for retirement and the anticipated time of retirement.

The law specifies a maintenance order may be transitional or indefinite, determined by the length of marriage. If less than five years, the courts must rebuttably presume no maintenance should be awarded. For marriages of at least five years and less than 20 years, it is rebuttably presumed that transitional maintenance should be awarded with a duration of no longer than one-half the length of the marriage. For marriages of at least 20 years, it is rebuttably presumed that indefinite maintenance should be awarded.

Rep. Kelly Moller (DFL-Shoreview) and Sen. Bonnie Westlin (DFL-Plymouth) are the sponsors.
HF3204*/SF2759/CH101

PUBLIC SAFETY

Straw purchase penalties increase

A straw purchase occurs when an individual buys a firearm for someone ineligible to purchase or possess it.

Effective Aug. 1, 2024, the penalty for a straw purchase will increase from a gross misdemeanor to a felony.

An affirmative defense is provided for defendants if they can show by clear and convincing evidence the transfer was made because of "reasonable apprehension ... that refusal would result in the transferee inflicting substantial bodily harm or death on the defendant or a family or household member of the defendant."

The provision is included in the all-encompassing supplemental budget and tax bill sponsored by Rep. Aisha Gomez (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Ann Rest (DFL-New Hope).

HF5247*/SF5234/CH127

Penalties for threatening public and judicial officials, other changes

The public safety and judiciary supplemental finance and policy law has several provisions that take effect Aug. 1, 2024. Among them are:

- parental consent, a warrant, or a court order will be required to collect DNA from a juvenile;
- immunity will be provided for individuals acting in good faith who assist someone else to seek medical assistance for a drug-related overdose;
- using force against another based on a belief about the other person's sexuality will not constitute an authorized use of force;

- the charge for making a fictitious emergency call that a serious crime is underway will rise from a gross misdemeanor to a felony when a “swatting” call sends first responders to the home of an elected official, judge, prosecuting attorney, employee of a correctional facility or peace officer;
- making it a misdemeanor to knowingly publish personal information of a judicial official with the intent to threaten, intimidate, harass, or physically injure. It will be a felony if actions result in bodily harm;
- a court-appointed guardian will be personally liable for acts or omissions made in a discharge that results in harm to the person subject to guardianship and that constitute reckless or willful misconduct, or gross negligence;
- clarifying that the exception to the limit on probation length that applies to certain serious offenses also applies to an attempt or conspiracy to commit any of those offenses; and
- adding aggravated first-degree witness tampering to the list of offenses described as crimes against a person that justify disciplinary action against any unlicensed complementary and alternative health care practitioner. Rep. Kelly Moller (DFL-Shoreview) and Sen. Ron Latz (DFL-St. Louis Park) sponsor the law. HF5216*/SF5337/CH123

Carbon monoxide detectors in lodging rooms

Included in the 2023 public safety law is a provision that, beginning Aug. 1, 2024, every guest room in a hotel or lodging house must have an approved and operational carbon monoxide alarm installed. The first violation results in a safety warning and subsequent violations are petty misdemeanors.

Rep. Kelly Moller (DFL-Shoreview) and Sen. Ron Latz (DFL-St. Louis Park) sponsor the law.
2023 Session: HF2890/SF2909*/CH52

TRANSPORTATION

‘Michael Gau Memorial Bridge’ honors MnDOT employee killed in work zone incident

Effective Aug. 1, 2024, a bridge in Plymouth will be named in honor of a Department of Transportation employee killed in a 2023 work zone incident.

The bridge over marked U.S. Highway 169 on Rockford Road will be designated as the "Michael Gau Memorial Bridge," honoring the long-time MnDOT employee and volunteer firefighter.

Rep. Ginny Klevorn (DFL-Plymouth) and Sen. Bonnie Westlin (DFL-Plymouth) sponsor the law.
HF3437*/SF3798/CH84

Child restraint, other transportation-related changes

Among provisions in the transportation policy law that take effect Aug. 1, 2024, are modifications to requirements for child restraints when a child is transported in a motor vehicle.

The new child restraint laws will require:

- a child younger than age 2 to be properly restrained in a rear-facing child passenger restraint system with an internal harness, until the child reaches the weight or height limit of the child passenger restraint system;
- a child who is at least age 2 who exceeds the rear-facing weight or height limit of the child passenger restraint system to be properly restrained in a forward-facing child passenger restraint system with an internal harness, until the child reaches the weight or height limit of the child passenger restraint system;
- a child who is at least age 4 and exceeds the weight or height limit of the forward-facing child passenger restraint system to be properly restrained in a booster seat and secured with a safety belt;
- a child who is at least age 9 or exceeds the weight or height limit of the child passenger restraint system or the booster seat to be secured with a safety belt adjusted and fastened around the child's body to fit correctly; and
- a child younger than age 13 to be transported in the rear seat of a motor vehicle, when available, and must be properly restrained in a child passenger restraint system or booster seat or secured with a safety belt.

A child younger than age 6 or who weighs less than 60 pounds must be transported in a rear seat if the vehicle has a passenger side air bag supplemental restraint system, the system is activated, and a rear seat is available.

Additionally, if the number of children under age 13 exceeds the number of age- or size-appropriate child passenger restraint systems and safety belts available in the motor vehicle, the unrestrained children must be seated in a rear seat, if rear seats are available.

Other changes in the law include:

- adding roadable aircraft — defined as “any aircraft capable of taking off and landing from a suitable airfield and that is also designed to be operated on a public highway as a motor vehicle” — to the definition of motor vehicle in registration statutes. For operations, roadable aircraft are like cars unless they are at an airport, landing area or in flight. Operators may not take off or land on public roads unless it is an emergency, an exception that has been open to other light aircraft;
- prohibiting the towing of vehicles from a space where a meter has expired;
- allowing a motorcycle to be equipped with white ground lighting with certain restrictions;
- allowing oversized trucks to carry sugar beets after harvest on a few roads in East Grand Forks;
- revising mandated reporting to the Department of Public Safety for crashes involving fatalities, injuries, damage to highway fixtures or involving school buses or commercial vehicles;
- excluding recreational vehicles from a provision on license plate display requirements for small trailers; and
- amending requirements on excavation and land survey notices to underground facility owners and operators, including timeline on markings, providing for on-site meets, revised marker requirements, and establishing mandates on the use of geospatial information technology.

Rep. Brad Tabke (DFL-Shakopee) and Sen. D. Scott Dibble (DFL-Mpls) sponsor the law.
HF3436*/SF3944/CH104

Trunk highway rumble strips

The final law of the 2024 session includes a transportation provision with safety in mind.

Effective Aug. 1, 2024, for road construction, resurfacing, or reconditioning projects on or after that date, the Department of Transportation must establish in-road rumble strips at each location on the trunk highway system outside of a city where there is a stop sign and a speed limit of at least 55 mph.

Per the law, requirements must be met “at each applicable location by the earlier of Aug. 1, 2034, or the date of substantial completion of any construction, resurfacing, or reconditioning at the location.”

The change does not apply if there is at least one residence within 750 feet of the location.

The all-encompassing supplemental budget and tax law is sponsored by Rep. Aisha Gomez (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Ann Rest (DFL-New Hope).

HF5247*/SF5234/CH127