

MINNESOTA STATE SENATE

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Health & Human Services Committee
Wednesday, February 19th, 2025
8:30 am Livestream YouTube

Minutes

Present: Senator Melissa H. Wiklund – Chair, Senator Alice Mann – Vice Chair, Senator Paul Utke – Minority Lead, Senator Jim Abeler, Senator Liz Boldon, Senator Mark Koran, Senator Rob Kupec, Senator Bill Lieske,

Absent: Senator John Hoffman, Senator Lindsey Port

Chair Wiklund called the meeting to order at 8:34 am on Wednesday, February 19th, 2025, in Room 1100 of the Minnesota Senate Building. A quorum was present.

AGENDA ITEM #1: Presentation from Second Harvest Heartland and The Food Group

The first item on the agenda was a presentation from Second Harvest Heartland on their Statewide Hunger Study Results and The Food Group on preliminary food shelf visit statistics for 2024.

The following individuals presented on behalf of Second Harvest Heartland and The Food Group regarding the Statewide Hunger Study results and preliminary food shelf visit statistics for 2024:

- Zach Rodvold, Director of Public Affairs for Second Harvest Heartland
- Peter Woitock, Government Relations Manager with The Food Group

Committee members' questions and discussion followed.

AGENDA ITEM #2: Senate File 849 (Maye-Quade): Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Outreach Program appropriation

The second item on the agenda was Senate File 849, authored by Senator Maye-Quade as follows:

Senate File 849 (Maye-Quade): Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Outreach Program appropriation

Senator Mann moved the A1 Amendment.

On a voice vote, THE MOTION PREVAILED AND THE A1 AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED.

Senator Maye-Quade provided opening remarks and explained Senate File 849, as amended, to the committee.

The following individuals testified on Senate File 849:

- Mesa Siebert, Neighbor Services Outreach Manager at Second Harvest Heartland, testified in support of Senate File 849.
- Janet Gracia, President and CEO of Neighborhood House, testified in support of Senate File 849.
- Steve Barthel, Director of Government Relations with Minnesota Grocers Association, testified in support of Senate File 849.

Committee members' questions and discussion followed.

Senator Maye-Quade provided closing comments on Senate File 849, as amended.

Chair Wiklund laid over Senate File 849, as amended, for possible inclusion in an omnibus bill.

AGENDA ITEM #3: Senate File 1348 (Boldon): Regional food bank grants appropriation

The third item on the agenda was Senate File 1348, authored by Senator Boldon as follows:

Senate File 1348 (Boldon): Regional food bank grants appropriation

Senator Boldon moved the A1 Amendment.

On a voice vote, THE MOTION PREVAILED AND THE A1 AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED.

Senator Boldon provided opening remarks and explained Senate File 1348, as amended, to the committee.

The following individuals testified on Senate File 1348:

- Dom Korbel, Executive Director of Community Pathways Food Shelf, testified in support of Senate File 1348.
- Virginia Witherspoon, Executive Director of Channel One Regional Food Bank, testified in support of Senate File 1348.
- Susie Novak, Executive Director of North Country Food Bank, testified in support of Senate File 1348.
- Mark Sibenaller, Executive Director of Lonsdale Area Food Shelf, testified in support of Senate File 1348

Committee members' questions and discussion followed.

Senator Boldon provided closing comments on Senate File 1348, as amended.

Chair Wiklund laid over Senate File 1348, as amended, for possible inclusion in an omnibus bill.

AGENDA ITEM #4: Senate File 1112 (Mann): Minnesota food shelf programs appropriation

The fourth item on the agenda was Senate File 1112, authored by Senator Mann as follows:

Senate File 1112 (Mann): Minnesota food shelf programs appropriation

Senator Mann provided opening remarks and explained Senate File 1112 to the committee.

The following individuals testified on Senate File 1112:

- Michelle Ness, Executive Director of Prism, testified in support of Senate File 1112.
- Rick Kocourek, Food Shelf Logistic Staff at Prism, testified in support of Senate File 1112.
- Michael Olson, Executive Director of Bemidji Community Food Shelf, testified in support of Senate File 1112.
- Kari Thompson, President and CEO of VEAP, testified in support of Senate File 1112.
- Ivette Izea-Martinez, Senior Officer of Advocacy at Greater Twin-Cities United Way, testified in support of Senate File 1112.

Committee members' questions and discussion followed.

Chair Wiklund laid over Senate File 1112 for possible inclusion in an omnibus bill.

AGENDA ITEM #5: Senate File 1110 (Mann): Minnesota SNAP step up for seniors program establishment and appropriation

The fifth item on the agenda was Senate File 1110, authored by Senator Mann as follows:

Senate File 1110 (Mann): Minnesota SNAP step up for seniors program establishment and appropriation

Senator Mann provided opening remarks and explained Senate File 1110 to the committee.

Senator Mann moved the A1 Amendment.

On a voice vote, THE MOTION PREVAILED AND THE A1 AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED.

The following individuals testified on Senate File 1110:

- Peter Woitock, Government Relations Manager with The Food Group, testified in support of Senate File 1110.
- Sara Gangelhoff, Director of Advocacy and Innovation at the Women's Foundation of Minnesota, testified in support of Senate File 1110.
- Ronda Elstad, private citizen, testified in support of Senate File 1110.
- Steve Barthel, Director of Government Relations with Minnesota Grocers Association, testified in support of Senate File 1110.
- Thomas Elness, State Advocacy Director with AARP Minnesota, testified in support of Senate File 1110.

Committee members' questions and discussion followed.

Senator Mann provided closing comments on Senate File 1110, as amended.

Chair Wiklund laid over Senate File 1110, as amended, for possible inclusion in an omnibus bill.

AGENDA ITEM #6: Senate File 1412 (Kupec): Prepared meals food grant program establishment

The sixth item on the agenda was Senate File 1412, authored by Senator Kupec as follows:

Senate File 1412 (Kupec): Prepared meals food grant program establishment

Senator Kupec moved the A1 Amendment.

On a voice vote, THE MOTION PREVAILED AND THE A1 AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED.

Senator Kupec provided opening remarks and explained Senate File 1412, as amended, to the committee.

The following individuals testified on Senate File 1412

- Lisa Lane, Chief External Affairs Officer with OpenArms of Minnesota, testified in support of Senate File 1412.
- Erick Hedman, Meals Director at Prairie Five Meals Program, testified in support of Senate File 1412.
- Terese Hill, Manager of the Food is Medicine Strategy with Fairview Health System, testified in support of Senate File 1412.

Committee members' questions and discussion followed.

Senator Koran moved the A2 Amendment.

Committee members' questions and discussion on the A2 Amendment followed.

Nicholas Demm, Director of Legislative and External Affairs with the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families, assisted Senator Kupec with answering questions on the A2 Amendment.

On a voice vote, THE MOTION PREVAILED AND THE A2 AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED.

Senator Kupec provided closing comments on Senate File 1412, as amended.

Chair Wiklund laid over Senate File 1412, as amended, for possible inclusion in an omnibus bill.

Chair Wiklund adjourned the meeting at 10:38am.



Senator Melissa H. Wiklund



Hailey Ryan, Legislative Assistant

