

2010 Legislative Summary

Office on the Economic Status of Women

Topic	Description	Further Information	Status
Public Safety/Judiciary			
Child Pornography	Amends definition of Child Pornography and addresses "sexting" provisions.	Sexting is the act of using text functions on cell phones to distribute pornographic images.	Several Hearings. (HF 3103/SF2437)
Clean Hotels	Requires state employees to use "preferred sites" when traveling on state business.	Defines preferred sites as hotels with policies and procedures to reasonably eliminate within the facility the availability of sexually explicit work or material.	Several Hearings (HF3287/SF2861)
Gunshow Loophole	Requires sellers of guns and weapons at gunshows to conduct criminal background check on potential buyers before selling.	Background check requirement in place at gunshops/gunsellers.	Several Hearings (HF 2960)
Prostitution	Clarifies and re-codifies prostitution law.	Makes changes to the definitions of patron, prostitute, and prostitution to specify that both patrons and prostitutes engage in prostitution.	One Hearing (HF3018/SF2652)
Domestic Violence Omnibus	Domestic abuse and crime of stalking provisions modifications; electronic monitoring pilot project; data practices requirements exemptions; maximum bail increase; domestic abuse protection orders expansion to pets and companion animals	Contains a number of domestic abuse provisions, including: recodifying and clarifying the domestic abuse no contact order law; increasing the maximum bail for nonfelony domestic assaults and domestic abuse order for protection and no contact order violations; expanding the tampering with a witness crime; clarifying the requirement that the data communications network include orders for protection and no contact orders; exempting certain domestic abuse or sexual attack programs from data practices requirements; extending the area for protection to a reasonable area around the residence or dwelling of a person seeking an ex parte domestic abuse order for protection; modifying the crime of stalking; and authorizing a pilot project to allow judges to order electronic monitoring for	Signed into law Ch. 299

		domestic abuse offenders on pretrial release.	
Spousal Maintenance	Additional provisions allowed for termination of spousal maintenance.	Allows termination of spousal maintenance in the case of cohabitation by the party receiving maintenance with a nonrelated person of the opposite sex for six months or longer.	One Hearing (HF3435/SF2362)
Cell phones/Missing Persons (Kelsey Smith Act)	Requires cell phone service providers to disclose location of customer in cases where the individual is believed to be missing and at risk of "death or serious physical harm."	The bill is named after 18 year old Kelsey Smith of Kansas, abducted and murdered in 2007. For four days her family and police could not find her. Once cell phone records were turned over, within 45 minutes authorities located Kelsey's body.	Signed into law. Ch 342
Pre-marital education	Expands acceptable proof of participation in pre-marital education class.	A reduced marriage license fee is offered for those who take certain pre-marital education classes; this bill allows church classes to be included in allowable classes.	Signed into law Ch. 380
Health and Health Care			
General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC)	Reconfigured General Assistance Medical policy and provisions	House Research Document: http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hrd/pubs/gamcib.pdf	Signed into law Ch 200, Ch 1 Special Session
Comprehensive Sexuality Education	Creates statewide requirement for local districts to develop "responsible life and sexuality education" guidelines.	Requirement statewide, implementation local.	Several Hearings HF2986/SF2645
Pregnant Women	Lifts mandated reporting by health care providers of certain drug usage for certain pregnant women.	Developed in response to some women opting out of prenatal care due to mandatory reporting requirements of health care providers.	Signed into law. Ch 348
Chiropractors & Criminal Sexual Conduct	Revokes chiropractic license for practitioners with felony level criminal sexual conduct offense conviction.	Bill had been amended to include all health care professionals, conference committee directed Council of Health Boards to study issue for all.	Signed into law. Ch 349
Birth Centers Licensure	Provided additional resources and provisions for state licensure of birth centers.	Birth center" means a facility licensed for the primary purpose of performing low-risk deliveries that is not a hospital or licensed as part of a hospital and where births are planned to occur away from the mother's usual residence following a low-risk pregnancy.	Signed into Law Ch 1 Special Session
Divorce Prevention	University of Minnesota will develop, evaluate, and disseminate best practices for	Originally proposed to be paid for with funds from marriage license fee revenue, in final version program paid for "within the limits of	Signed into Law Ch 1 Special Session

	promoting successful reconciliation between married persons who are considering or have commenced a marriage dissolution proceeding and who choose to pursue reconciliation.	available appropriations.”	
Government Operations			
Veteran’s Preference, Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in state contracts	Veteran-owned business may be awarded award up to a six percent preference, but no less than the percentage awarded to any other group under this section, in the amount bid on state procurement to certified small businesses that are veteran owned.	“other groups” include women, minority and economically disadvantaged business entities.	Signed into Law. Ch. 101
Ladder Out of Poverty Task Force	Establishes a two-year task force to explore “ladders out of poverty” focused on asset development, predatory lending relief, social capacity building.	High rate of women and poverty addressed in initial legislation, specifically women of color.	Signed into law Ch. 374
Workforce Development			
Women and Minorities in Apprenticeships	Modifies LEAP (Labor Education Advancement Program) to expand definition of training programs approved for scholarship requests.	Replaces “training programs” with “on the job learning programs” and “learning programs” to expand LEAP eligibility.	Signed into law Ch.280
Emergency Public Health Protection Act	Sick leave for certain workers standards established, civil penalties provided, and rulemaking required.	Requires an employer of all sizes to provide employees with paid sick leave at varying levels; two year window correlating with H1N1 outbreak.	Several Hearings HF612/SF416
Green Jobs & S.T.E.M Initiatives	Part of Economic Development Omnibus Bill, establishes a Minnesota Science and Technology Authority.	Develops a comprehensive statewide plan for Science and Technology, includes addressing STEM careers (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)	Signed into law. Ch 347
Public Assistance			

Pregnant Women and MinnCARE	Exempts pregnant women with children under the age of 2 from disenrollment from MinnCARE for failure to pay premiums for 60 days.	Can be re-enrolled if they begin paying premiums.	Signed into Law HF 1 Special Session
Education			
Office of Early Learning	Establishes Office of Early Learning.	Creates Office that combines early childhood efforts across three state departments: The Department of Human Services, the Minnesota Department of Education, and the Minnesota Department of Health.	Signed into law. Ch. 346
Basic Sliding Fee Childcare	Reallocation of unspent funds.	Reallocates 7.5 million of unspent child care funds to general ledger to address budget deficit (no cuts to ongoing funding).	Signed into law. HF 1 Special Session
Other			
Constitutional Amendment for Equality	Addressing sexual equality under the law and constitutional amendment proposed.	Proposed ratification of Equal Rights Amendment via constitutional amendment.	Informational Hearing HF3649/SF 3191
Women's Hockey Center	Allocates bonding funds for women's facilities at National Sports Center Super Rink in Blaine, MN	\$950,000 to predesign, design, construct furnish and equip a women's locker room, training room and education display.	Signed into law Ch. 189