

# FACT SHEET | Unsession Accomplishments

*Better Government for a Better Minnesota*

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Governor Dayton dubbed the 2014 Legislative Session the “Unsession” – a first-of-its-kind effort to make state government better, faster, simpler, and more efficient for Minnesotans. The Governor wanted to improve government services, shorten wait times, eliminate old and outdated rules, and undo anything else that makes state government nearly impossible for people to understand. In the end, the Governor and Legislature enacted over 1,100 Unsession provisions – ideas both big and small that will make government work better.

## Plain Language

- **Making Sense of State Government** – This March, Governor Dayton signed an Executive Order directing all state agencies to use commonly-used language, write in clear and concise sentences, and present information in a format that is easy-to-understand for Minnesotans. Since signing that Executive Order, thousands of state employees have received Plain Language training and numerous Plain Language projects are underway across the administration.

## Permit Reform

- **Improving Efficiency, Reducing Wait Times** – Because of major reforms implemented by the Dayton Administration in 2011, 97 percent of all job-creating business permits are approved by state agencies in less than 150 days. This session, the Governor signed new legislation reducing those wait times for most businesses to just 90 days. An estimated 11,000 of the 15,000 permit requests the state receives from businesses each year are expected to be completed within the new 90-day goal.

## Simpler Taxes

- **Making Taxes Simpler** – New tax cuts signed into law by Governor Dayton are saving taxpayers time and money. Aligning state tax law with new federal credits and deductions for students, families, and seniors has made taxes simpler for more than one million middle class Minnesotans.

## Eliminating Unneeded Laws

- **Cleaning Up the Books** – State government agencies are responsible for implementing, interpreting, and enforcing thousands of pages of Minnesota laws. But many of those pages were filled with outdated, unenforceable laws, and technical jargon that was nearly impossible to understand. To make government easier to understand, this session Governor Dayton and the Legislature eliminated over 1,100 obsolete, redundant, and incomprehensible statutes. Some of those measures included:
  - **Shorter, Simpler Phone Bills** – Eliminated unnecessary state statutes that made phone bills long and confusing for Minnesotans.
  - **Fruit Crimes** – Eliminated misdemeanors for illegally sized fruit containers.
  - **Stuck in Neutral** – Eliminated a law that has prohibited driving in neutral since 1937. Since it is impossible to drive in neutral, the law was unnecessary.
  - **Morse Code** – There were more state laws regulating the telegraph industry than there were laws regulating the Internet. Telegraph regulations were eliminated.