



 Association of
Minnesota Counties

2019 Legislative Session Review

Government Relations Staff



Matt Hilgart
Gov. Relations
Manager and
General Gov.



Emily Babcock
HHS Policy
Analyst



Brian Martinson
Env. & Natural
Resources Policy
Analyst



Emily Murray
Transportation
and Infrastructure
Policy Analyst



Carli Stark
Public Safety Policy
Analyst & MACCAC
Director

2019 Session Summary



- 2018 Election Aftermath
 - New House majority/split legislature
 - New Governor/Administration
- Surplus uncertainty
- A new way of doing business?
- Record # of bill introductions (5,846)
- Special Session dynamics and grand budget deal
- ***Success on a majority of county priorities!***



PASSED

- **AMC PRIORITY:** Continued work toward assumption of Federal CWA Section 404 Permitting
- Drainage workgroup recommendations: acquisition of buffer strip easements and sediment delivery for repair cost apportionment.
- \$300,000 to develop online training materials for county feedlot officers.
- \$1 million Emerald Ash Borer grants and \$1 million Noxious Weed Grants to local governments
- \$3.49 million comprehensive package to address Chronic Wasting Disease
- \$ 1million in additional SCORE Grants

DID NOT PASS

- SWCD levy and/or fee authority.

For more information: Brian Martinson bmartinson@mncounties.org

Tax Bill (Major components)

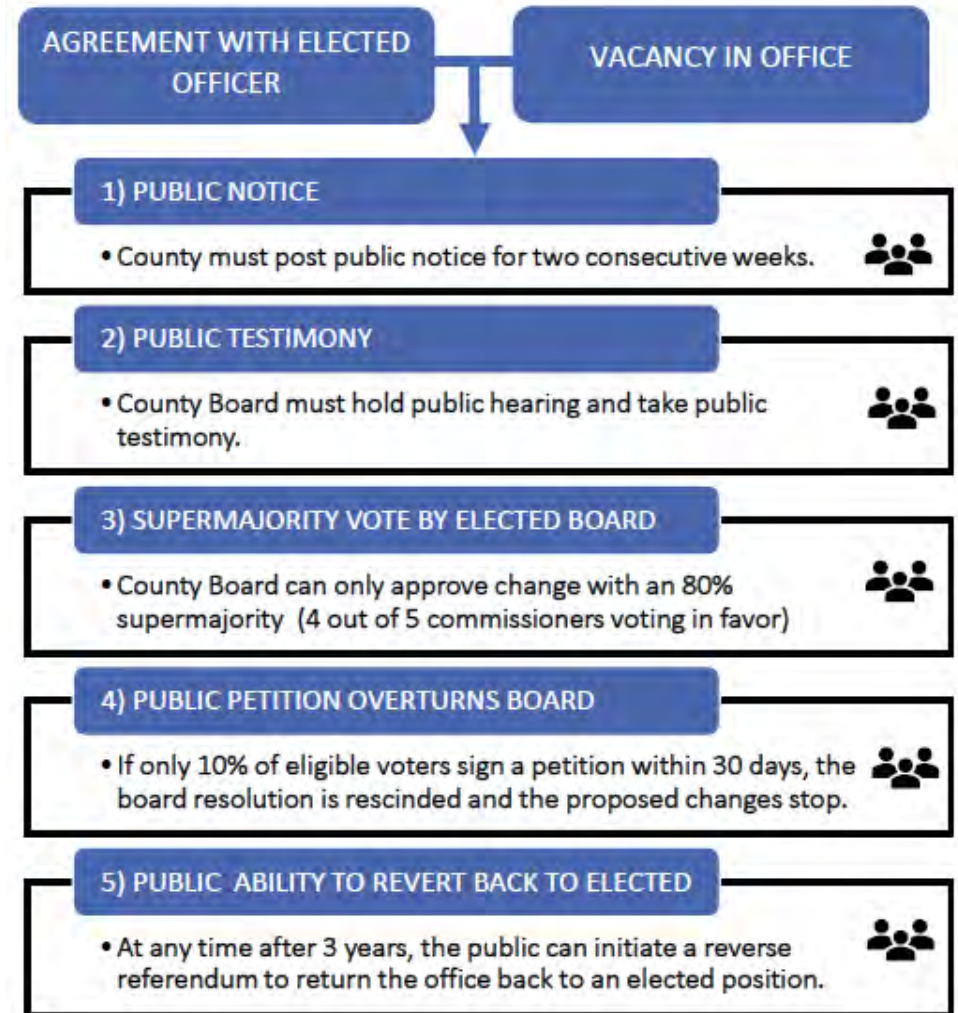
- **AMC PRIORITY:** County Program Aid increase (\$26m FY 2021, \$30m/year FY 2022 and thereafter).
 - **\$51m= total of CPA appropriation increase in last 2 years.**
- Federal conformity measures
- Decrease in tax rate for 2nd individual income tax tier, C-I reductions, working family credit increase, school ag bond credit increase, and more.
- Disabled Vets Exclusion (removal of 8 year spousal limit)
- NO extension to the PERA General Plan Aid sunset (*last payment December 2019*)
- NO changes (+/-) to buffer aid, PILT, ICWA aid, or AIS aid
- * *use of \$491m of budget reserves to balance out biennium.*

General Government continued...



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- **AMC PRIORITY:** County Row Officer Appointment Authority
- HAVA election cybersecurity authorization/state match
- Elections equipment grants (\$2m)
- IT user acceptance testing language
- Census mobilization grants for local governments
- Presidential Primary changes (data/local government reimbursement)
- NO legislation on Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) proposals
- NO changes to military differential pay
- NO salary cap exemption language
- NO website accessibility grant \$



Health and Human Services



PASSED

AMC PRIORITY – Sustaining Health Care Access Fund

- Repealed sunset of provider tax, reduced from 2 percent to 1.8 percent

AMC PRIORITY – Opioid and Substance Abuse Prevention

- Raised fees on drug makers and distributors—nearly \$21m to be directed at opioid use prevention and response
- About \$8m will go to counties to help pay for child welfare services

AMC PRIORITY -- Mental Health Services

- Authorized state funds to pay MA services for children’s residential treatment
- Authorized an appeals process for counties to dispute the cost of care at state-operated facilities

For more information: Emily Babcock ebabcock@mncounties.org

Health and Human Services



PASSED

County Cost Shift – Counties will pay 25 percent of cost of care for individuals provisionally discharged from Minnesota Sex Offender Program

Children and Families Removed 20 percent child protection staffing penalty

\$4 m Child Welfare Training Academy

Mental Health Financing Reforms to align payments for substance abuse and mental health treatment

- eliminates county payment to Consolidated Chemical Dependency Treatment Fund for MA individuals

Establishes a Competency Restoration Task Force

Public Health SHIP—Statewide Health Improvement Partnership—full funding, aimed at “proven-effective” strategies

\$4.4 m for statewide tobacco Cessation Quitline; Adds electronic delivery devices to Clean Indoor Air Act

For more information: Emily Babcock ebabcock@mncounties.org

Public Safety

PASSED

- \$13.3 million for repairs and improvements to MNLARS
- \$55.67 million for the MNLARS replacement system and \$13 million for Deputy Registrar reimbursement
- Change in same-sex inmate transfers procedures for 100+ miles
- Handsfree cell phone bill
- Change to sexual assault reports and investigation procedures
 - All law enforcement agency to adopt a sexual assault investigation policy by October 1, 2019
 - Victims of Sexual Assault may report assault to any agency regardless of the location of the assault
- Telephone cardiopulmonary resuscitation program

DID NOT PASS

- CCA/CPO Funding
- Local Emergency Management Funding
- Juvenile Life without Parole

For more information: Carli Stark cstark@mncounties.org

Transportation & Infrastructure Association of Minnesota Counties

PASSED

- **BROADBAND:** \$40 million for the Border-to-Border Broadband Grant Program over 2020-2021
- **TRANSPORTATION:** status quo funding bill
 - \$55.67 million for MNLARS replacement system and \$13 million for Deputy Registrar reimbursement
 - \$23.19 million for Metro Mobility Expansion in 2020 and an additional \$13 million in 2021 (if available)
 - \$20 million for the Disaster Contingency Account (if available)
 - NO gas tax increase, NO tab fee changes, NO motor vehicle sales tax increase
 - Statutory dedication of the auto parts sales tax revenue will continue going to transportation
 - CSAH will see an additional \$64 million/year over the next biennium
 - Statutory dedication of the sales tax on leased motor vehicles (MVLST) will remain the same
 - Retains the local bridge fund, which will receive \$26.7 million over the next biennium

DID NOT PASS

- **BONDING:** No general obligation bonding bill which means no additional funding for local roads and bridges or the Local Road Wetland Replacement Program
 - \$60 million housing infrastructure bonding bill passed during special session

For more information: Emily Murray emurray@mncounties.org