



AFSCME COUNCIL 5
2015 LEGISLATIVE
REPORT CARD

2015 Minnesota Legislative Session

HOUSE

Working Parents Act

The bill included provisions to respond to the challenges facing working parents and all Minnesotans in an economy that is tilted against them.

Among the provisions contained in the Working Parents Act were:

Earned Sick & Safe Time

Paid Family Leave

House: A “No” vote is scored as supporting the AFSCME position. Passed 69-61

House Omnibus Tax Bill

Rep. Greg Davids

The House tax bill had a total cost of \$5.6 billion for the 2016-17 biennium. It is a bill that largely benefited the wealthiest Minnesotans. The three most egregious provisions:

LGA Reduction- \$82.6 million over the 2016-17 Biennium. (This is revenue that Minneapolis, St. Paul & Duluth rely on to pay city employee wages.)

Minneapolis – \$34.4 million cut

St. Paul – \$30.2 million cut

Duluth – \$19.9 million cut

Elimination of Statewide Property Tax for C&I Property – \$1.7 billion over the 2016-17 Biennium

This was the largest of the tax giveaways. It benefited large, metro corporations.

Nothing for homeowners.

Estate Tax - \$318 million over the biennium

The provision was targeted to the highest valued estates.

House: A “No” vote is scored as supporting the AFSCME position. Passed 72-55

Tip Penalty

Rep. Pat Garafalo

The bill attempted to repeal, lower and even freeze the minimum wage for workers who earn a portion of their wages from tips.

House: A “No” vote is scored as supporting the AFSCME position. Passed 78-55

House Omnibus Higher Education Bill

Rep. Bud Nornes

The bill would have severely underfunded Minnesota's State Colleges & University's and the University of Minnesota. The bill would have forced massive increases in tuition.

House: a "No" vote is scored as supporting the AFSCME position. Passed 70-58

House Omnibus Health and Human Services Bill

Rep. Matt Dean

The House made drastic cuts and left out crucial spending pieces. In the end, they passed an unbalanced bill that left working Minnesotans behind.

Minnesota Care – Cut affordable health insurance for nearly 100,000 low-income, working Minnesotans.

Child Care Assistance Program – Cut nearly \$23 million for working Minnesotans from the Senate's bill.

Cost of Living Increases – Did not even include a modest cost of living increase for state employees at the Minnesota Sex Offender program and State Operated Services, cut over \$14 million from the Senate bill.

Minnesota Security Hospital – Cut the \$11 million needed to make corrections under the conditional license.

Phantom Savings – Included hundreds of millions of dollars in "fake savings" by using legislative gimmicks. As a result, the budget passed by the House was not balanced.

House: A "No" vote is scored as supporting the AFSCME position. Passed 72-60

SENATE

Senate Omnibus Tax Bill

Sen. Rod Skoe

LGA Increased by \$21.5 million over the 2016-17 biennium.

CPA Increased by \$25 million over the 2016-17 biennium.

Closed corporate loopholes.

Targeted property tax refund the threshold would have been lowered from 12% to 10%. This is the property tax refund, with no income cap, for people whose property taxes see a big jump over one year. Increased the budget reserve by \$250 million.

No significant changes in the Estate Tax. The changes that were included were technical in nature with a minor fiscal impact of \$50,000/year.

Senate: A "Yes" vote is scored as supporting the AFSCME position. Passed 42-25

Senate Omnibus E-12 Budget Bill

Sen. Chuck Wiger

Increased funding for Minnesota’s public schools.

Senate: A “Yes” vote is scored as supporting the AFSCME position. Passed 39-28

Senate Omnibus Higher Education Bill

Sen. Terri Bonoff

Increased funding for Minnesota State Colleges & University’s and the University of Minnesota.

Senate: A “Yes” vote is scored as supporting the AFSCME position. 42-21

Senate Omnibus Transportation Funding Bill

Sen. Scott Dibble

The bill provided a long term, sustainable, comprehensive, statewide transportation package.

Senate: A “Yes” vote is scored as supporting the AFSCME position. Passed 36-27

Senate Omnibus Health and Human Services Bill

Sen. Tony Lourey

In the Senate, a thoughtful and balanced Health and Human services bill was crafted and passed. In an effort to lift up Minnesotans, it included the following important spending initiatives.

Minnesota Care – Continue to pay for Minnesota Care so that working Minnesotans have access to affordable health insurance.

Child Care Assistance Program – Appropriated nearly \$20 million to help reduce the waiting list for the Basic Sliding Fee so low-income, working Minnesotans can afford to put their children in child care.

Cost of Living Increase for State Employees – Over \$14 million for state employees at the Minnesota Sex Offender Program and State Operated Services was appropriated for increases to wages and benefits.

Minnesota Security Hospital – Included over \$11 million in funding for the Minnesota Security Hospital Conditional License Corrections.

Phantom Savings – The Senate’s budget was well-balanced and did not include any gimmicks to create “fake savings”.

Senate: A “Yes” vote is scored as supporting the AFSCME position. Passed 38-22

Key for Scorecard

"R" = voted to support AFSCME's position

"W" = voted to oppose AFSCME's position

"NV" = did not vote