



VOICES FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

ORGANIZING | ADVOCACY | POLICY

VOICESFORRACIALJUSTICE.ORG

Phone: 612-746-4224
Fax: 612-746-4227
2525 East Franklin Avenue, Suite 301
Minneapolis, MN 55406

2015 Racial Equity Bill Watch

The Racial Equity Bill Watch includes bills introduced in the Minnesota Legislature that address racial disparities across multiple opportunities. Some of the bills listed here relate to the 2015 Racial Equity Agenda and may be part of the 2015-16 Legislative Report Card on Racial Equity. Although some bills may not progress further, we recognize the racial equity impact they could have if adopted. This is a working list that will be updated and changed continually until the end of the session.

American Indian Communities

SF 1703/HF 1858 (Sen. Eaton/Rep. Allen)
American Indian and Indigenous Peoples day established. *Senate: second reading. House: Government Operations and Elections Policy.*

SF 1694/HF 1935 (Sen. Lourey/Rep. Green)
Provides for religious objections to autopsies in certain instances. *Senate: Health and Human Services Budget Division. House: second reading.*

The following bill is being tracked due to its potentially harmful impact on American Indian communities.

SF 1007/HF 1000 (Sen. Tomassoni/Rep. Melin)
Prohibits the application of wild rice water quality standards until the commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency adopts the rules to establish criteria. *Senate: laid on the table. House: laid over for possible inclusion to the omnibus bill.*

Civil Rights and Criminal Justice

SF 206/HF 391 (Sen. Carlson/Rep. Urdahl)
Voter pre-registration for minors. Individuals at least 16 years of age permitted to register to vote. Now part of SF 455/HF 840 (Sen. Sieben/Rep. Sanders) Omnibus Election bill. *Senate: Committee on Finance. House: second reading.*

SF 224/ HF 97 (Sen. Champion/Rep. Hamilton)
Driver's licenses for undocumented Minnesotans. *Senate: Committee on Rules and Administration. House: Transportation Policy and Finance.*

SF 262/HF 174 (Sen. Hawj/Rep. Mahoney)
Increasing the number of voters an individual may assist in marking ballots from three to 15. *Senate: Subcommittee on Elections. House: Government Operations and Elections Policy.*

SF 355/ HF 342 (Sen. Champion/Rep. Cornish)

Restore the vote for convicted felons after incarceration. Now part of SF 455/HF 840 (Sen. Sieben/Rep. Sanders) Omnibus Election bill. *Senate: Committee on Finance. House: second reading.*

SF 994/HF 1069 (Sen. Latz/Rep. Zerwas)

Juvenile justice provisions; limiting the use of restraints, provides alternatives to detention, and eliminates minimum sentences. *Senate: second reading. House: Public Safety and Crime Prevention Policy and Finance.*

SF 1151/ HF 1189 (Sen. Hayden/Rep. Dehn)

Requiring the use of the actual residence of inmates at correctional facilities for redistricting purposes; eliminates prison-based gerrymandering. Now part of SF 455/HF 840 (Sen. Sieben/Rep. Sanders) Omnibus Election bill. *Senate: Committee on Finance. House: second reading.*

SF 1346/HF 1449 (Sen. Sieben/Rep. Schultz)

Requiring automatic voter registration of drivers license, instruction permit, and identification card applicants. Now part of SF 455/HF 840 (Sen. Sieben/Rep. Sanders) Omnibus Election bill. *Senate: Committee on Finance. House: second reading.*

Economic Equity

SF 282/HF 997 (Sen. Hawj/Rep. Clark)

\$30 million to finance Housing Opportunities Made Equitable (HOME) pilot project in order to close the disparity gap in homeownership rates in Minnesota. *Senate: Laid over for possible inclusion in the Senate Omnibus bill. House: Job Growth and Energy Affordability Police and Finance.*

SF 481/HF 549 (Sen. Pappas/Rep. Lesch)

Requiring employers provide at least one hour of sick time for every 30 hours an employee works. *Senate: Committee on Jobs, Agriculture, and Rural Development. House: Commerce and Regulatory Reform.*

SF 734/HF 869 (Sen. Hayden/Rep. Franson)

Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) cash assistance payment amount increase by \$100. *Senate: passed as amended, considered for omnibus bill. House: Health and Human Services Reform.*

SF 1330/HF 1139 (Sen. Latz/Rep. Moran)

Fair Scheduling Act; requiring an employer to provide new employees with an annual statement describing the terms and conditions of employment; requiring predictability pay; requiring access to additional hours of work; specifying employee right to rest. *Senate: Committee on Jobs, Agriculture, and Rural Development. House: Commerce and Regulatory Reform.*

Health Equity

SF 501/HF 1208 (Sen. Wiklund/Rep. Zerwas)

Requiring health care quality measures and payment methods to identify and adjust for health disparities related to race, ethnicity, language, and sociodemographic risk factors. *Senate: recommended to pass, considered for omnibus bill. House: Committee on Civil Law and Data Practices.*

SF 552/HF 1061 (Sen. Pappas/Rep. Miller)

Funding for housing and supportive services for sexually exploited youth; safe harbor. *Senate: recommended to pass, considered for omnibus bill. House: Committee on Health and Human Services.*

SF 643/HF 1252 (Sen. Hayden/Rep. Hamilton)

Establishing a health care program for low-income uninsured adults and a health care program for low-income children ineligible for medical assistance (MA) or MinnesotaCare. *Senate: Committee on Finance. House: Health and Human Services Reform.*

Education Equity

SF 2/HF 340 (Sen. Stumpf/Rep. Carlson)

Providing tuition assistance for state high school graduates to attend MnSCU colleges. *Senate: laid over for possible inclusion in omnibus bill. House: Higher Education Policy and Finance.*

SF 398/HF 858 (Sen. Dziejic/Rep. Pierson)

Funding for collaborative urban educator recruitment and training programs at certain institutions. *Senate and House: laid over for inclusion in omnibus bill.*

SF 995/HF 1217 (Sen. Clausen/Rep. Davnie)

Developing and expanding concurrent enrollment (dual credit) courses under the Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act. *Senate: laid over, considered for omnibus bill. House: Education Finance Committee.*

SF 1001/HF 1233 (Sen. Hoffman/Rep. Christensen)

Eliminate school suspensions, exclusions, and expulsions for students in prekindergarten through 3rd grade; creating discipline alternatives to suspension. Now part of SF 1495/HF 1591 (Sen. Wiger/Rep. Erickson) Omnibus Education Policy bill. *Senate: second reading. House: Education Finance Committee.*

SF 1781/HF 1930 (Sen. Pappas/Rep. Hamilton)

Providing a program to engage Hmong and Southeast Asian children and families in accessing early childhood care and education. *Senate: laid over for possible inclusion in omnibus bill. House: Education Finance Committee.*

SF 606/HF 603 (Sen. Cohen/Rep. Kresha)

Early learning scholarships program. *Senate: Finance Committee. House: laid over for possible inclusion in omnibus bill.*

Councils of Color

Watching both bills for potential to strengthen connection of councils to communities of color in Minnesota.

SF 1419/HF 1353 (Sen. Pappas/Rep. Laine)

Revising certain ethnic councils; creating Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs, Minnesota African Heritage Council, and the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans as part of legislative branch. *Senate: laid on the table. House: State Government Finance Committee.*

SF 1823/HF 1986 (Sen. Torres Ray/Rep. Dehn, R.)

Creating the Department of Ethnic Affairs; providing one ombudsperson for the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans, Black Minnesotans, and Latino-Hispanic Minnesotans; providing an ombudsperson for American Indian families. *Senate: Committee on Finance. House: Government Operations and Elections Policy.*

Missed Opportunities

Missed opportunities are bills that did not receive a committee hearing during the 2015 session. However, these bills highlight issues outlined in the 2015 Racial Equity Agenda and include language that could be incorporated into an omnibus bill this session, or could receive action during the 2016 legislative session.

SF 773/ HF 994 (Sen. Hall/Rep. Hertaus)

Modifying controlled substance crimes by lowering threshold amounts and eliminating minimum sentences; expanding the nonviolent controlled substance offender conditional release program.

SF 769/HF 1610 (Sen. Dibble/Rep. Moran)

Requiring the Sentencing Guidelines Commission to screen legislation which may impact the racial composition of the criminal offender population.

SF 232/HF 349 (Sen. Dibble/Rep. Winkler)

Prohibiting employer discrimination against unemployed individuals.

SF 1085/HF 1093 (Sen. Pappas/Rep. Thissen)

Working Parents Act: wage theft protection, paid family leave, and earned sick and safe time, and fair scheduling.

SF 1815/HF 1545 (Sen. Hayden/Rep. Hoppe)

Regulating payday lending. However, this bill does not regulate loans over \$350.

SF 6/HF 46 (Sen. Hoffman/Rep. Murphy, E.)

Funding for universal all-day preschool for four-year-old students.