

To: Key Municipal Officials  
Legislative Policy Committee

From: Kate Dufour, Director, State and Federal Relations

Date: Wednesday, June 2, 2021

Re: Items on the House and Senate Calendars

As mentioned in last week's Legislative Bulletin, the entire Legislature will convene daily until its scheduled adjournment date of June 16. Taking into consideration the challenges associated with lobbying in the current environment, MMA's advocacy staff is seeking your assistance to ensure that state lawmakers understand how their decisions impact municipal government operations.

To that end, each morning you can expect an email from MMA's advocacy staff alerting you to the issues of municipal importance for potential debate by the Legislature that day. Please take the time to connect with members of the House and Senate to share your feedback and concerns. Your home-based lobbying effort is a key element of this year's advocacy strategy.

There are two issues of note on the June 2 [House](#) and [Senate](#) calendars.

[LD 775](#), *An Act To Include within the Definitions of "Public Employee" and "Judicial Employee" Those Who Have Been Employed for Less Than 6 Months*, is printed as item 6-48 on page 103 of the House Calendar. The Labor and Housing Committee supported the bill by a margin of 8 to 5.

This bill provides that a person who has been an employee of the state or another public employer for less than six months is considered a public employee. A person who has been an employee of a public employer for less than six months may be dismissed, suspended or otherwise disciplined without cause during the probationary period. Termination of an employee or any other disciplinary action against an employee during the probationary period is not subject to the grievance and arbitration provision of the collective bargaining agreement. MMA's Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) opposes LD 775. Municipal officials believe this negotiation tool should be retained by the impacted parties, rather than provided to one side of the bargaining table to the disadvantage of the property taxpayers who fund municipal employees' salaries.

[LD 824](#), *An Act To Extend the Protections Provided to State Employees upon the Expiration of Labor Contracts to Other Public Sector Employees*, is printed as item 5-78 on page 160 of the Senate Calendar. The Labor and Housing Committee supported the bill by a margin of 8 to 5.

This bill provides that municipal, judicial and public higher education employees remain eligible for and receive merit or step increases in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in an expired collective bargaining agreement during the period between the expiration of one contract and the adoption of a new contract. This protection is currently offered to state employees. As was the case with LD 775, the LPC opposes LD 824. Municipal leaders believe this negotiation tool should be retained by the impacted parties.