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TO: All Senators and Staff

FROM: Thomas S. Bottern, Senate Counsel (651/296-3810)

DATE: March 13, 2018

RE: Committee Deadlines

This memo is intended to help you understand the effect of the committee deadlines resolution and Joint Rule 2.03 on Senate committee activity. In addition to reading the memo, please read the attached copies of the committee deadline resolution and Joint Rule 2.03 to ensure that you understand how this process will work. Feel free to use the contact information provided at the end of the memo to confirm your understanding.

What Happens After First Deadline and Before Second Deadline

As you know, the first deadline for committee action on policy bills (as opposed to omnibus appropriation and finance bills) is Thursday, March 22. After that date, and before the second deadline on Thursday, March 29, Senate committees passing bills will need to ensure that the House companion to each bill that is passed by the Senate committee has met the first deadline in the House. This can be accomplished in several ways, described as follows:

First, if the House companion bill has been referred to a House committee that has finance jurisdiction (for example the Public Safety Security and Finance Committee) **or** a committee that is exempt from deadlines under Joint Rule 2.03 (in the House, this includes the Capital Investment, Ways and Means, Taxes, and Rules and Legislative Administration Committees) as of 11:59 p.m. on the date of the first deadline, the companion bill will be treated as having met first deadline, even if that committee has not yet given the bill a hearing.

Second, if the bill taken up by the Senate committee is a House file, the first deadline requirement has been met. Note that House files in Senate committees will still be subject to second deadline as described below.

Third, if the House companion to the Senate file that is being passed by a Senate committee has been recommended to pass (sent to the House floor) by a House committee by the first deadline, the House companion has met first deadline.

After Second Deadline

After the second deadline (11:59 p.m. on March 29) any bill (this includes House Files) passed by a committee will be treated as a late bill unless the committee that passes the bill is exempt from deadlines under Joint Rule 2.03 (In the Senate, this includes the Capital Investment, Finance, Taxes, and Rules and Administration Committees) or the bill is one of the major appropriation and finance bills.

The third deadline (Friday, April 20, at 11:59 p.m.) is for committee passage of all major appropriation and finance bills (also referred to as omnibus budget bills.) Note that this deadline does not apply to committees that are exempt from deadlines.

What Happens to Late Bills

A bill that fails to meet deadlines is automatically referred to the Rules Committee under Joint Rule 2.03. A committee passing a late bill should not refer the bill to the Rules Committee unless the Rules Committee needs to see it for some other reason. There is no requirement for the Rules Committee to hold a hearing to determine whether a bill may be exempted from the application of the deadlines, but that is an option available to the Rules Committee.

Who to Contact

If you have questions and would like advice regarding the application of the Joint Rule on committee deadlines, please feel free to contact Tom Bottern (Senate Counsel to the Rules Committee; 296-3810) or Melissa Mapes (the Senate Engrossing Secretary, 296-4149). If you have last-minute information about the status of a House companion bill, it will be helpful to let Melissa know that so that she can ensure the committee report is handled appropriately.

- 1.1 A Senate concurrent resolution
- 1.2 adopting deadlines for the 2018 session.
- 1.3 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of Minnesota, the House of Representatives
- 1.4 concurring:
- 1.5 In accordance with Joint Rule 2.03, the deadlines in this resolution apply to the 2018 regular
- 1.6 session.
- 1.7 (1) The first deadline is Thursday, March 22, 2018, at 11:59 p.m.
- 1.8 (2) The second deadline is Thursday, March 29, 2018, at 11:59 p.m.
- 1.9 (3) The third deadline, Friday, April 20, 2018, at 11:59 p.m., is for committees to act favorably
- 1.10 on major appropriation and finance bills.

DEADLINES

5.3

5.4 2.03 The Legislature shall establish by concurrent resolution deadlines for each regular
5.5 session. The deadlines do not apply to the House committees on Capital Investment, Ways and
5.6 Means, Finance, Taxes, or Rules and Legislative Administration, nor to the Senate committees on
5.7 Capital Investment, Finance, Taxes, or Rules and Administration.

5.8 The first deadline is for committees to act favorably on bills in the house of origin.

5.9 The second deadline is for committees to act favorably on bills, or companions of bills, that
5.10 meet the first deadline in the other house.

5.11 A committee has until the second deadline to act favorably on a bill, or the companion of a
5.12 bill, that by the first deadline was referred to a finance committee. The deadline for a committee
5.13 of either house to act on a bill that has been recommended favorably by the Legislative Commission
5.14 on Pensions and Retirement is the second committee deadline. The major appropriation bills are
5.15 exempt from the first two deadlines.

5.16 The third deadline is for committees to act favorably on major appropriation and finance
5.17 bills.

5.18 When a committee in either house acts favorably on a bill after a deadline established in the
5.19 concurrent resolution, the bill must be referred in the Senate to the Committee on Rules and
5.20 Administration and in the House of Representatives to the Committee on Rules and Legislative
5.21 Administration for disposition. Either rules committee, when reporting a bill referred to the committee
5.22 under this rule, may waive application of the rule to subsequent actions on that bill by other
5.23 committees.

5.24 All bills necessary to implement the governor's budget submitted by a state agency or
5.25 department must be made available for introduction within 15 calendar days after the governor's
5.26 budget was submitted. A bill introduced after that date must be referred to the Committee on Rules
5.27 and Administration in the Senate or the Committee on Rules and Legislative Administration in the
5.28 House of Representatives and may not be heard without the approval of that committee.