



Paul Torkelson

Minnesota

Representative, HD-015B (R)

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MN Legislative Scorecard 2025

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

The Legislative Scorecard is a nationwide, nonpartisan educational program of The John Birch Society intended to inform voters about legislators' voting records. It does not promote any candidate or political party. Bills are chosen for their constitutional implications and taxpayer costs.

★ Constitutional	✗ Unconstitutional	? Did not Vote	\$/Year	Vote
1. SF3045 Amendment S3045A17 Fuel Source Freedom Amendment (Failed 65 to 67 on 5/1/2025). Prohibits state agencies from creating rules that limit consumer choices regarding the fuel source of motorized equipment or require retailers to stock certain fuel types.				YES ★
2. HF1 Eliminating Illegals on MinnesotaCare (Passed 68 to 65 on 6/9/2025). Changed MinnesotaCare eligibility by removing access for illegal migrants.				YES ★
3. HF2442 Climate and Energy Spending (Passed 112 to 21 on 5/7/2025). Appropriates state funding for a wide range of climate, energy, and renewable-development programs for the 2026-27 biennium.				-\$13.00 YES ✗
4. SF2298 Housing Omnibus and Homelessness Prevention (Passed 108 to 26 on 5/18/2025). Sets the 2026-27 budget for the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, and makes broad changes to state housing laws and programs.				-\$78.00 YES ✗
5. HF2563 Legacy Finance Bill (Passed 113 to 21 on 5/18/2025). Allocates money from the state's Legacy Amendment sales-tax funds for outdoor heritage, clean-water projects, parks and trails, and arts and cultural initiatives.				-\$402.00 YES ✗
6. HF688 Property and Contract Rights Violation (Passed 114 to 15 on 3/20/2025). Imposes that landlords and homeowners' associations cannot charge extra pet fees for training service dogs.				YES ✗

Scorecard Votes: 33%



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\$293,188

U.S. National Debt Per Household as of July 16, 2026

Why do these votes matter?

1. Fuel Source Freedom Amendment

SF3045 Amendment S3045A17 prohibits state agencies from creating rules that limit consumer choices regarding the fuel source of motorized, which includes tools like generators and lawn mowers, recreational vehicles, passenger cars, farm equipment, and medium-to-heavy-duty trucks.

The Minnesota State House of Representatives rejected Amendment S3045A17 on May 1, 2025 by a vote of 65 to 67. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because this legislation supports individual choice—free from government interference—in the vehicle market for both producers and consumers. States have a responsibility to protect their citizens from government overreach and the global push to combat “climate change.”

2. Removing Illegals From MinnesotaCare

HF1 changed MinnesotaCare eligibility by removing access for illegal migrants. Under the bill, MinnesotaCare remains available to U.S. citizens, nationals, lawfully present noncitizens, and undocumented minors.

The Minnesota State House of Representatives passed HF1 on June 9, 2025 by a vote of 68 to 65. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because persons who enter the United States illegally—which, by definition, is a crime—ought not to be permitted sanctuary or residency in Minnesota, let alone be considered eligible for socialized health “benefits.” Besides, neither healthcare nor social welfare is the legitimate object of government.

3. Climate and Energy Spending

HF2442 directs money to the Department of Commerce for weatherization assistance, natural-gas innovation oversight, energy benchmarking, transportation-electrification planning, community solar-garden administration, and grid-technology review.

The Minnesota State House of Representatives passed HF2442 on May 7, 2025 by a vote of 112 to 21. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill channels substantial taxpayer money into climate-change programs and regulatory expansions that distort the free market and embrace the false climate-change narrative. Rather than allowing energy choices to develop through voluntary exchange, HF2442 empowers the state to direct investment, subsidize favored industries, and impose costly planning mandates—the hallmarks of the globalist and Marxist climate-change agenda.

4. Housing Omnibus and Homelessness Prevention

SF2298 appropriates funds for programs such as the Challenge Program, workforce and homeownership initiatives, manufactured-home-park infrastructure, rental assistance, housing trust funds, homeless prevention, home-ownership aid, and rehab of owner-occupied and rental housing.

The Minnesota State House of Representatives passed SF2298 on May 18, 2025 by a vote of 108 to 26. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill dramatically expands state intervention in the housing market through new spending, subsidies, regulations, and bonding authority. SF2298 grows bureaucracy and encourages long-term dependence on government rather than private, voluntary solutions. Additionally, the bill's provisions further entrench state control while undermining property rights, economic freedom, and the free market's ability to meet housing needs.

5. Legacy Finance Bill

HF2563 allocates money from the state's Legacy Amendment sales-tax funds for outdoor heritage, clean-water projects, parks and trails, and arts and cultural initiatives. The bill distributes major appropriations for habitat and conservation efforts, water-quality improvements, and statewide parks and trails. It also sets rules for how grants are issued, and requires accomplishment plans for funded projects.

The Minnesota State House of Representatives passed HF2563 on May 18, 2025 by a vote of 113 to 21. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill pours an exorbitant amount of taxpayer money into programs that fall outside the proper role of government. While HF2563 directs hundreds of millions of dollars toward habitat projects, arts initiatives, water programs, and parks and trails, these activities are not legitimate functions of state government and should instead be handled voluntarily by private organizations and local communities.

6. Property and Contract Rights Violation

HF688 updates housing rules for people training service dogs, mandating that landlords and homeowners' associations cannot charge extra pet fees.

The Minnesota State House of Representatives passed HF688 on March 20, 2025 by a vote of 114 to 15. We have assigned pluses to the nays because interfering in voluntary contractual agreements between tenants and landlords violates Article I, Section 10 of the U.S. Constitution, which declares that, “No State shall ... pass any ... Law impairing the Obligation of Contracts.” Additionally, forcing property owners to accept terms they did not agree to infringes upon the constitutionally protected right of property ownership secured by the Bill of Rights.