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LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

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Mary Kunesh-Podein

Minnesota

State Senator, SD-039 (D)

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Lifetime
Freedom
Score

MN Legislative Scorecard 2025

✓ Pro-Freedom ✗ Anti-Freedom — Did not Vote **Vote**

1. Changed MinnesotaCare eligibility by removing access for illegal migrants. ✓

Pro-Freedom: **Yes** · Cast: **Yes** · HF1 · 06/09/2025

2. Appropriates state funding for a wide range of climate, energy, and renewable-development programs for the 2026-27 biennium. ✗

Estimated cost per household: **-\$13.00/year.**

Pro-Freedom: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · HF2442 · 05/12/2025

3. Minnesota's omnibus environment and natural-resources policy and appropriation bill for fiscal years 2026-27. ✗

Estimated cost per household: **-\$137.00/year.**

Pro-Freedom: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · SF2077 · 04/29/2025

4. Condemns President Donald Trump's pardon of participants of the January 6 incident. ✗

Pro-Freedom: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · SR15 · 04/01/2025

5. Imposes that landlords and homeowners' associations cannot charge extra pet fees for training service dogs. ✗

Pro-Freedom: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · HF688 · 04/25/2025

6. Adds new safety requirements for anyone using scuba gear while commercially removing or managing aquatic plants. ✗

Pro-Freedom: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · HF1355 · 04/10/2025

Scorecard Votes: 17%

Why do these votes matter?

1. 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, but illegals aged 18 or older may no longer enroll after the bill's effective date.

The Minnesota State Senate passed HF1 on June 9, 2025 by a vote of 48 to 16. 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 considered eligible for socialized health “benefits.” Minnesota should move to eliminate MinnesotaCare, and this is a small step in the right direction.

2. 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 among other things.

The Minnesota State Senate passed HF2442 on May 12, 2025 by a vote of 36 to 31. We have assigned pluses to the nays because rather than upholding the free market, this bill empowers the state to direct investment, subsidize favored industries, and impose costly planning mandates—the hallmarks of the globalist and Marxist climate agenda.

3. Environment and Natural-resources Spending

SF2077 funds and sets policy for agencies including the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, as well as programs on air quality, emerging contaminants (such as PFAS), recycling and waste-reduction (including batteries and e-waste), park and trail operations, and water-infrastructure loans.

The Minnesota State Senate passed SF2077 on April 29, 2025 by a vote of 35 to 30. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill advances the state-directed climate-change agenda championed by the United Nations and its Agenda 2030 framework. Rather than allowing energy development to be guided by the free market, HF2077 places bureaucrats in charge of steering investment, subsidizing favored industries such as the solar industry and imposing planning that mirrors global “sustainable development” directives.

4. Condemning Trump's January 6 Pardons

SR15 expresses the Minnesota Senate's condemnation of President Donald Trump's pardon of participants of the January 6 incident who had been found guilty of “violent crimes.”

The Minnesota State Senate passed SR15 on April 1, 2025 by a vote of 34 to 22. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this resolution reinforces the false narrative surrounding January 6, and ignores the extensive evidence that federal provocateurs, doctored media reports, and political prosecutions helped manufacture the so-called “insurrection.” Many January 6 defendants were denied basic due-process rights, held without bail for months or even years, subjected to abusive pretrial conditions, and convicted under politicized charges despite exculpatory evidence.

5. Property and Contract Rights Violation

HF688 updates housing rules for people training service dog and demands that landlords and HOAs cannot charge extra pet fees.

The Minnesota State Senate passed HF688 on April 25, 2025 by a vote of 60 to 2. 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. Additionally, forcing property owners to accept terms they did not agree to infringes upon the constitutionally protected right of property ownership.

6. Nanny State: Scuba Divers

HF1355 requires permit applicants who intend to use scuba equipment to complete a recent third-party safety-hazard survey and follow new rules that bar permits for companies with recent willful safety violations. It also creates the “Brady Aune and Joseph Anderson Safety Act,” which sets statewide standards for commercial diving operations, including required scuba certifications, mandatory safety equipment, CPR and first-aid training, and a standby diver for every dive.

The Minnesota State Senate passed HF1355 on April 10, 2025 by a vote of 54 to 10. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill exemplifies the ever-expanding nanny-state approach that substitutes government micromanagement for personal responsibility and private-sector standards. Rather than allowing trained professionals and businesses to determine appropriate safety practices, HF1355 layers on new mandates, certifications, and bureaucratic approvals that burden small operators and drive up costs. These one-size-fits-all rules empower state agencies to dictate how commercial divers operate, even though many in the industry already follow rigorous voluntary safety protocols.