



# TARA MACK

## State Representative

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### Legislative Update

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Hello from St. Paul,

The legislature has been in recess yesterday and again today for the Republican State Convention. We had a similar schedule last week for the DFL Convention. I will be in Minneapolis this weekend, so if you see me at the convention please say hello.

The biggest item out of the Capitol this week was the Agriculture/Veterans Omnibus bill. I was glad to vote for this bill, it passed the House on Tuesday with broad, bipartisan support. The Senate passed it unanimously, and the bill will head to a conference committee to settle the differences between House and Senate versions.

Here are a few highlights:

- It permits the agriculture commissioner to waive certain review fees for businesses that sell prepackaged foods, such as video stores.
- Nonprofit farms less than 40 acres in size could use profits for educational purposes and be exempt from corporate farm land requirements.
- It expands education benefits for survivors of a military veteran who died as a result of military service.
- It permits the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs to determine a suitable site and plan for three new state veterans cemeteries in northeastern, southeastern and southwestern Minnesota.



I also successfully added an amendment on the bill to help military families. When military members are called up for service, it can put a financial strain on their family. Sometimes it can be difficult to cover extras like activity fees at school. This amendment allows schools to waive these fees for the families and partner with veteran support groups to cover the costs. I've spoken with school districts, the MN

National Guard, the MN Department of Veterans and the VFW about the idea. Everyone was supportive of the amendment and believe this is a great opportunity to partner together to help our military families.

Please continue to call and e-mail with your thoughts on the issues we face. You can also connect to me on Facebook.

Sincerely,

Tara Mack

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AND BURNSVILLE