

FACT SHEET | Eliminating Unneeded Laws

Better Government for a Better Minnesota

State government agencies are responsible for implementing, interpreting, and enforcing thousands of pages of Minnesota laws. But many of those pages are filled with outdated, unenforceable laws, and technical jargon that is often nearly impossible to understand. To make state government easier for Minnesotans to understand, Governor Dayton worked this year to clean up our state statutes. During the Unsession, Governor Dayton eliminated over 1,000 obsolete, incomprehensible, and redundant statutes.

Cleaning Up the Books

- **A Reflection of Our Priorities.** Our laws reflect our values, protect our citizens, and direct our state government to action on behalf of Minnesotans. However, many laws were outdated or simply did not make sense anymore. The Governor's Unsession eliminated outdated and unnecessary state laws in order to keep our government focused on the needs of today's Minnesotans.
- **Well-Vetted Proposals.** Every statute the Governor and the Legislature eliminated or modified was recommended, and well-vetted, by the state agencies responsible for enforcing those laws. Relevant, important state laws that protect the public interest were not repealed.
- **More Transparent Government.** Eliminating unneeded rules, regulations, and laws ensures our state government remains comprehensible and accessible to Minnesotans.

Statute Elimination Examples

- **Eliminating the Ridiculous.** Some state laws on the books were simply ridiculous. Laws that were created dozens, or even a hundred years ago, now defy common sense. That is why the Governor and Legislature worked this year to get rid of obsolete laws that made no sense or were impossible to enforce. Some examples that were eliminated this session include:
 - **Confusing Phone Bills** – Governor Dayton eliminated unnecessary state statutes that make phone bills long and confusing for Minnesota consumers.
 - **Fruit Crimes** – It was a misdemeanor to carry fruit in an illegally sized container. Governor Dayton eliminated the law.
 - **Morse Code** – There were more state laws regulating the telegraph industry than there were laws regulating the Internet. Governor Dayton eliminated unnecessary telegraph regulations.
 - **Vending Machines** – Under state law, the Commerce Department was responsible for regulating insurance policies sold through vending machines. Governor Dayton has signed a law which simply states that insurance policies cannot be sold through vending machines.
 - **The Bug Stops Here** – Some state laws regulated the size and color of bug deflectors. The Governor eliminated these unnecessary laws.
 - **Stuck in Neutral** – Since 1937, it was illegal in Minnesota to drive a car in neutral. Since it is impossible to drive in neutral, Governor Dayton got rid of this law.