Legislative Engagement Policy

Policy Statement

The Board retains authority to approve legislative proposals brought forward by MNsure. As such, staff will establish a process by which proposals from MNsure staff and board members are properly vetted and approved in advance of each legislative session.

Background

The Minnesota Legislature operates on a biennial basis, with elections following the end of the biennium for the entire Minnesota House of Representatives membership and the Governor and Minnesota Senate if they are up for reelection. The biennial budget is set by the Legislature and the Governor during the first session of the biennium or the "odd year" legislative session. The budget must be agreed to by June 30 as that is the end of the end of the last fiscal year set by the previous Legislature. If no agreement can be reached, the government shuts down. The legislature also considers policy measures without fiscal impact outside of the budget-setting process. The second session of the biennium, or the "even year" session, consists primarily of considering a bonding bill. Policy measures and some budget modifications are generally considered.

The first half of the legislative session is mostly made up of committee hearings and processing bills for floor hearings. The second half of the session is mostly made up of floor sessions to take up legislation that passed through committees earlier in the session. As such, there are deadlines for committees to have passed bills to the floors. The committee deadlines are generally in late March for policy bills and early April for fiscal measures. A bill must pass through all committees with jurisdiction by the deadlines in order to be considered on the House or Senate floor.

As we prepare for session and as issues arise during session, we need a process in place to vet and discuss policy items in a timely fashion.

Legislative Engagement Policy Goals

- Establish a process with the board to collect, discuss, and vet legislative proposals such that the appropriate board action may be taken in advance of the legislative session.
- Establish a review process for arriving at policy positions during the legislative process.
- Establish a process by the board members are regularly updated during the legislative session.

Proposal

- Form a board work group made up of three members to establish a protocol to discuss, vet, and act on legislative proposals.

Tentative Timeline

• September 17	Board consideration of legislative engagement policy
• Week of September 22	Convene legislative work group
• November 4	Elections
• November 19	Board action on legislative initiatives
• January 6, 2015	Legislative Session begins

BOARD CHAIR APPROVAL

Date 9/17/14 Signature Brian K Roach