

## Staff Information Paper

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# June Preview: A Survey of Live Crime Bills

April 27, 2026

This paper summarizes crime bills that, with three weeks remaining in the 2025–2026 legislative session, appear to be progressing toward possible enactment. If a crime bill is successful, and if the Commission considers it appropriate to make related Sentencing Guidelines changes, such decisions will happen at its June meeting. To avoid overwhelming the Commission with new information at that meeting, staff will typically give the Commission a preview of possible legislation during its May meeting. That is the purpose of this paper.

### Background: Why June?

Generally, the Commission must submit proposed Sentencing Guidelines changes to the Legislature in mid-January, six and a half months before the changes are to take effect—thus leaving the Legislature with the entire legislative session to block the proposal, if it wishes. There is an important exception: “a modification ... relating to a crime created or amended by the legislature in the preceding session” need not be submitted to the Legislature before taking effect.<sup>1</sup>

Thanks to this exception, the Legislature can create, change, or repeal a crime during the legislative session, the Commission can respond with a corresponding Sentencing Guidelines change immediately thereafter, and both changes can take effect simultaneously, on August 1.

For this synchrony to happen, however, a tight timeline—dictated by the Minnesota Constitution, the *Minnesota State Register* printing schedule, and the Commission’s procedural rules—must be followed. This pattern applies every year, but the dates shown are specific to 2026:

- May 18: The legislative session ends.
- May 28: MSGC staff give the Commission information packets on successful legislation with Sentencing Guidelines implications.
- June 1: This is the Governor’s deadline to act on end-of-session legislation.
- **June 4: The Commission meets to preliminarily adopt Sentencing Guidelines changes relating to crimes created or amended by the Legislature in the preceding session.**

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<sup>1</sup> Minn. Stat. § [244.09, subd. 11](#). Such modifications “take effect according to the procedural rules of the commission.” The Commission’s procedural rules are found at [Minn. R. ch. 3000](#), and include a public hearing requirement.

- June 15: The 30-day notice of public hearing is published in the *State Register*.
- July 16: The Commission holds a public hearing on the Sentencing Guidelines changes.
- July 23: The Commission meets to take final action on the Sentencing Guidelines changes.
- August 1: MSGC staff publish the annual edition of the Sentencing Guidelines with the adopted Sentencing Guidelines changes.

## Crime-Related Bills that are Still Alive

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Only one criminal law has been enacted so far this year,<sup>2</sup> and no laws yet enacted directly bear on the Sentencing Guidelines. Every proposed legislative change listed below must clear several obstacles before enactment. Each of these bills bears directly on issues of crime and punishment, and, although many do not appear to have direct Sentencing Guidelines implications, all are believed to be of interest to the Commission. Bills are listed in descending order of progress through the Legislature. This list is not necessarily exhaustive.

### Passed the House, awaiting Senate action

[HF 3489](#) – creates a new felony for grooming a child under age 16; extends the felonies of soliciting a child to engage in sexual conduct, electronic solicitation of a child, and grooming to protect children age 16 and 17 if committed by a school employee or contractor in a position of authority over the child. **Ranking decisions would be required.**

[HF 3404](#) – enhances impersonating a peace officer from a misdemeanor to a felony. For existing felony, statutory maximum penalty is increased. A new felony is added if a firearm is possessed. **Ranking decisions would be required.** If committed while impersonating a peace officer, any gross misdemeanor becomes a felony and the statutory maximum penalty for any felony increases by five years. **A ranking decision and a possible modifier or ranking increase would be required.**

[HF 2358](#) – enhances felony penalties for coercion by a threat to disseminate private sexual images when death or great bodily harm results. **Ranking decisions would be required.** See also SF 4760, below.

[HF 4075](#) – provides a uniform firearm-transfer process for a person who loses firearms rights due to a conviction. No obvious Guidelines implications.

[HF 3825](#) – requires the court to ask the prosecutor about the victim’s election of rights to object to a plea agreement and to make a statement at sentencing. No obvious Guidelines implications. See also SF 4760, below.

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<sup>2</sup> [2026 Minn. Laws ch. 41](#) modifies the elements of misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor school bus stop-arm violations (Minn. Stat. § [169.444](#)) to eliminate the stop-arm requirement; flashing red lights are sufficient. The act took effect on March 28, 2026.

[HF 4425](#) – extends the statute of limitations to 10 years for certain thefts of public funds. No obvious Commission action required. See also SF 4760, below.

[HF 3826](#) – for purposes of identity theft, “identity” includes a forged digital likeness. No obvious Commission action required. See also SF 4760, below.

[HF 2169](#) – for second-degree murder by assault in violation of a protective order, the jurisdictions whose protective orders are recognized is expanded. No obvious Commission action required.

### **Passed the Senate, awaiting House action**

[SF 4760](#) – Senate omnibus bill. Article 2: see HF 3825, above. Article 12: see HF 2358, above. Article 18: See HF 3826 & HF 4425, above. Article 19: Includes age deception (falsely impersonating a child to facilitate a crime against a child victim) as an aggravating factor under Minn. Stat. § 244.10, and permits judges to consider age deception when determining an appropriate sentence. **Decision on incorporating age deception as a Guidelines aggravating factor would be required.** Article 22: Includes gift-card fraud within organized retail theft. No obvious Commission action required.

### **Cleared House committees, awaiting House action**

[HF 3990](#) – House omnibus bill. Includes SF 4760, art. 22 (gift card ORT); HF 3826 (forged digital likeness); and HF 3825 (victim rights). Will be moving forward as SF 4760.

### **Cleared Senate committees, awaiting Senate action**

[SF 3893](#) – makes some election-related gross misdemeanors felonies. **A ranking decision would be required.**

[SF 3847](#) – adds felony animal cruelty to “crimes of violence” list, convictions of which result in a lifetime firearm and ammunition possession ban with a five-year mandatory minimum penalty. No obvious Commission action required.

[SF 4200](#) – reenacts the 2024 amendment of the “trigger activator” definition to include binary triggers.<sup>3</sup> The 2024 Commission did not change the SL 8 ranking of Machine Gun, Trigger Activator, or Conversion Kit in response to the original redefinition, so no Commission action in 2026 would be anticipated.

[SF 3661](#) – bans “ghost guns” and limits private 3D printing of firearms, with felony penalties. **Ranking decisions would be required.**

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<sup>3</sup> On August 18, 2025, the Second Judicial District Court (Castro, J.) [found](#) that the 1,053-page, 73-article [2024 Omnibus Bill](#) was enacted in violation of the Minnesota Constitution’s [single-subject clause](#), severed the [binary-trigger ban](#) from the rest of the act, and blocked enforcement of the ban. The case is now on appeal (no. A25-1507); a Court of Appeals panel heard [oral arguments](#) on March 25, 2026.

## Select bill still moving through the committee process

[SF 2689](#) – repeals medical assistance fraud offenses and replaces them with new offenses and a new penalty scheme. **Ranking decisions would be required.**