



# MINNESOTA LODGING ASSOCIATION

*A few years ago, one of our members asked, “what has the MLA done for me, lately?” That great question resulted in our compiling this annual document.*

## The Lately List – 2017 Edition

**New legislation** related to the Americans with Disabilities Act will dramatically reduce the risk of frivolous lawsuits to your property by requiring a 60-day notice to allow barriers to be removed or repaired.

Now that **REAL ID** has passed, Minnesota driver’s licenses will qualify as identification for boarding airline flights...good for tourism in general!

**Inflation** has been removed from the statewide property tax and the first \$100,000 of assessed value is now exempt from the statewide levy. This change will save hotel owners millions of dollars a year.

A new law now requires that **your property receive notification 10 days prior** to a final city vote on new or changed ordinances. No more surprises from local law changes!

A proposal to allow cities to license and inspect hotels was **narrowed** to apply only to Waite Park and not to all cities in the state. This more specific law will solve a local problem without increasing the risk to your property of adding another layer of regulation and bureaucracy.

**Lodging tax proposals** that would have used proceeds for debt service on city facilities were defeated or amended to follow the marketing uses allowed in current law. Proposals were made for taxes in Woodbury, Plymouth and Sleepy Eye.

The Department of Labor proposal to **apply the state building code** in jurisdiction where it hasn’t been locally adopted has been narrowed to apply only to “assembly uses,” such as water parks or ballrooms with a capacity of 200 people or more. Our involvement kept the new provision narrow and reduced the risk of delays and costs where they are unneeded.

A fair **appeals process** has been created for the denial or revocation of trunk highway right-of-way permits. This has been a major challenge for some properties in the past.

Your city can no longer ban the use of plastic bags. Cities are now **prohibited from banning** the use of any type of bag by businesses. The ban in Minneapolis did NOT go into effect on June 1 as scheduled.

Funding to **expand broadband access** throughout the state was increased and simplified.

Hotels in Minneapolis and St. Paul will have less risk from unfair competition by **Airbnb** and other short-term rental platforms because of our work on upcoming city ordinances.

We are having an impact on the length of the phase-in for a **higher local minimum wage in Minneapolis**.

The MLA is engaged in the discussion over mandated organized trash and recycling collection in Minneapolis. We are working to keep fair competition and costs from rising.

Hotels that want to take advantage of Super Bowl revelry will have more time! We worked hard to have an **omnibus liquor bill** passed this session because of a provision that will allow bars and restaurants, including hotel outlets, to remain open until 4 a.m. for a few days around the Super Bowl.

We have played an active part with the Minnesota Department of Health in rule making efforts to make your life easier. The rules include:

- Revisions to the State Lodging Rule to make it much simpler and easier to follow.
- Updates to the Food Code.
- A new rule for indoor and outdoor hotel and resort pools which will simplify the regulations and provide more training options for operators.

In addition to our advocacy efforts, your membership included:

- Hot Topic workshops on emerging issues including the minimum wage, transgender access to restrooms and the now aborted overtime rules. An upcoming workshop will discuss administering sick and safe leave.
- The **Hospitality Minnesota Law Review** and the **HR Toolkit**.
- Support of the Hospitality Minnesota Education Foundation, which provided almost \$100,000 in scholarships this year to students pursuing a post-secondary education in hospitality management, tourism or culinary arts.
- MLA resources to answer your legal and regulatory questions on a variety of issues.
- Networking opportunities at events throughout the year including Business After Hours, Hospitality Minnesota Golf Classic, Holiday Party and more.
- Free admission to the Minnesota Hospitality Conference & Expo, with great education sessions and an expansive exhibit floor.
- Regionalized lodging occupancy report provided each month by STR.
- And we've recently added an MLA LinkedIn group to create an online community for discussion and information sharing.

**Join, Renew or Get More Information - [www.mnlodging.org](http://www.mnlodging.org) or (651) 778-2400**

*Together, We Make a Difference*