

Comparing House and Senate Finance Committees

Both the Minnesota House of Representatives and Senate have finance committees that are responsible for overseeing agency budgets, tax policy, and other fiscal decisions. However, each body of the legislature has a different finance committee structure. While six committees cover the same finance areas in both the House and Senate, some House finance committees are split among two or even three Senate budget divisions.

What's New in 2005

There have been several changes in both House and Senate Committee structures in 2005.

- The Public Safety and State Government Committees now cover the same accounts in both House and Senate. Public Safety issues were previously under the jurisdiction of the Health, Human Services, and Corrections Budget Division in the Senate, and was previously called the Judiciary Finance Committee in the House.
- Programs previously under the jurisdiction of the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee now are divided between the Health Policy & Finance Committee and the new Jobs and Economic Opportunity Finance Committee, which replaced Jobs and Economic Development.
- In the House, Agricultural and Rural Development combined with Environment and Natural Resources to become Agricultural, Environment and Natural Resources.
- The Senate Health, Human Services and Corrections Budget Division has been split into Health & Human Services and Public Safety.
- The Senate Early-12 Education Budget Division has been split into the Education Budget Division and Early Childhood Education Budget Division.

How Do the House and Senate Budget Committees Compare?

The following House and Senate Committees cover the same areas in both bodies of the Legislature:

- Capital Investment
- Higher Education
- Public Safety
- State Government
- Taxes
- Transportation

The graph below shows how other areas are distributed among the remaining four House finance committees and four Senate budget divisions. For example, reading from left to right, the areas under the jurisdiction of the House Jobs and Economic Opportunity Finance Committee are split between three Senate Budget Divisions: Environment, Agriculture, and Economic Development; Health & Human Services; and Early Childhood Education. Similarly, reading down the second column demonstrates that the Senate Environment, Agriculture, and Economic Development budget division covers parts of the House Jobs and Economic Opportunity Finance Committee and Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee.

House Committees ↓	Senate Budget Divisions			
	Environment, Agriculture, and Economic Development	Health & Human Services	Education	Early Childhood Education
Jobs & Economic Opportunity	Accountancy Board, Architecture Board, Barber Examiners Board, Commerce Department, Electricity Board, Public Utilities Commission, Historical Society, Labor & Industry Department, Mediation Services Bureau, Workers Compensation Court of Appeals, Housing Finance Agency, Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board, Minnesota Technology, Employment & Economic Development Department, Explore Minnesota Tourism, Arts Board, Humanities Commission	Department of Human Services Programs including: Housing Assistance – Transitional Housing, Housing Assistance – Emergency Shelter Grant, MN Family Assistance Program (MFIP) & Diversionary Work Program (DWP), Support Services and Children’s Services Grants, Children’s & Economic Assistance Grants, Group Residential Housing Grants, General Assistance, Child Support Enforcement Grants, Minnesota Supplemental Aid (MSA), Refugee Services Grants		Child Care (MFIP, BSF, Integrity, Development)
Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources	Agriculture Utilization Research Institute, Agriculture Department, Ethanol Development, Rural Finance Authority, Animal Health Board, Horticultural Society, Environmental Assistance Office, Legislative Commission on Minnesota’s Resources (LCMR), Minn.-Wisc. Boundary Area Commission, Minnesota Conservation Corps, Minnesota Zoo, Natural Resources Department, Metropolitan Council Parks, Pollution Control Agency, Science Museum, Voyageurs National Park Council, Water & Soil Resources Board			

House Committees ↓	Senate Budget Divisions			
	Environment, Agriculture, and Economic Development	Health & Human Services	Education	Early Childhood Education
Education		Family Service Collaboratives, Children's Trust Fund	Education Department, Education Finance, Faribault Academies, MN Center for Arts Education, Permanent School Fund, Academy of Science, Head Start, Public Libraries	Family & Early Childhood Education
Health		Disabilities Council, Emergency Medical Services Board, Families Ombudsman, Health Dept., Health Related Boards, some Dept. of Human Services Programs (Agency Budget, MinnesotaCare, Community Social Services Act, General Assistance Medical Care, Medical Assistance, Prescription Drug Program, Health Care Grants and Administration, Aging and Adult Services, Alternative Care Programs, MA Long Term Care Facilities, MA Long Term Care Waivers & Home Care Grants, Mental Health Grants, Chemical Dependency Grants, State Operated Services), Mental Health & Mental Retardation Ombudsman, MnCare, Veterans Home Board		