The first of three new conference committee deadlines was just short of being met on Wednesday. Senate and House Leadership, along with the Governor, had agreed to pass major appropriation bills off of the House and Senate floors as well as appoint conference committee members by May 1st. The Senate, in what can be assumed to be a calculated move, did not announce appointments to the Transportation or E-12 Education conference committees on time.

The Senate ended up announcing their conferees to the remaining committees on Friday, they will be officially appointed on Monday. It is unclear as to why exactly the Senate chose to do this, but it could have something to do with the next deadline.

The second of the three new deadlines is supposed to occur on Monday, May 6th. This is the deadline by which fiscal targets will be given to budget omnibus conference committees. There is a lot of work that needed to be done over the weekend by Senate and House leaderships and the Governor in order for this to actually happen on time. Large compromises will have to be made by all involved because the current proposals coming to negotiations are so different.

**Conference Committees**

Budget omnibus bill conference committees have been established with members appointed as follows:

**E-12**
House: Davnie, Youakim, Pinto, Sandstede, Urdahl  
Senate: Nelson, Jasinski, Eichorn, Wiger, Weber

**Higher Education**
House: Bernardy, Pryor, Lien, Klevorn, Nornes  
Senate: Anderson, P., Draheim, Jensen, Relph, Clausen

**Health and Human Services**
House: Liebling, Moran, Schultz, Halverson, Hamilton  
Senate: Benson, Abeler, Utke, Jensen, Marty

**Week in Review**

**Tuesday**
The House took up the Higher Education omnibus bill. It passed in one quick hour on a vote of 72-57.
Wednesday
The Senate took up the E-12 Education omnibus bill during floor session. It passed on a vote of 37-30.

Friday
The Health and Human Services conference committee met for the first time. They began the process of walking through the House and Senate omnibus bills as well as heard from the Commissioner of Health and the Commissioner of Human Services.

The Week Ahead

Committees will begin to meet in conference this week. Each calendar day, with the exception of Sunday, the gavel switches control between the House and Senate. It is custom that committee chairs work out a schedule where the gavel switches each meeting instead, rather than following the calendar day rule. So far, the Health and Human Services committee has chosen to operate in this fashion. It is possible that we will see this arrangement in other conference committees as well.

The schedule will mostly contain meeting information for the following day only, so it is a good idea to check online often. The combined legislative calendar can be found here.

Monday

Conference committee for Health and Human Services, HF2414.

Conference committee for E-12 Education, HF2400.

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