



Legislative Session Ends without Significant Action, Offseason Work Begins

The 2022 Legislative Session ended without action on the typical even-year priorities, namely a bonding bill, a tax bill, and a supplemental budget. While there was a broad agreement on how to divide up the state's robust surplus between tax cuts, additional spending, and keeping funds in reserve, finalizing the details proved harder to accomplish.

In the end, the clock ran out on the 2022 Session with few bills making it across the finish line. It remains uncertain whether lawmakers will return for a special session to pass bills that were finalized (or close to finalized), including a tax and bonding bill.

As we watch for a potential special session, we continue to take on issues that remain top of mind for AASP-MN members, including insurance short-pays. On that front, AASP-MN met with Senate Majority Leader Jeremy Miller of Winona, a meeting organized and led by member Greg Melartin, Matt's Body Shop & Tires, Spring Valley. The meeting included a shop tour and in-depth discussion of the challenges facing AASP-MN members with an emphasis on insurance short-pays.

This exciting opportunity resulted in Senate Majority Leader Miller gaining an understanding of the more complex aspects of the short-pay and prevailing rate problems, and how they are becoming increasingly more severe and frequent.

Senator Miller thought meeting with the Department of Commerce to discuss the issue and potential enforcement options was a positive next step. He also agreed to review any draft legislation AASP-MN develops over the summer and continue the conversation.

A big thank you to Greg Melartin for setting up this meeting and leading a thoughtful shop tour and discussion that highlighted the serious issues facing service providers, something AASP-MN members will benefit from in the future. An additional thank you to members who have provided examples of short-pays. We noted some of those examples in our discussion with Senator Miller. We will continue to cite those examples as we meet with the Department of Commerce and other legislators. If you have examples but haven't yet submitted, please do so by emailing AASP-MN's Executive Director Linden Wicklund at Linden@aaspmn.org

This meeting is one of many tactics we are pursuing within a larger plan to address short-pays and related issues. Some other approaches we are taking include surveying members to capture how frequently this occurs and the impact on shops and consumers alike, collecting more detailed information about short-pays from shop owners, sharing best practices about documenting and challenging short-pays, meeting with Department of Commerce officials to amplify the issue and seek recourse, and refining our legislative priorities for the 2023 session to change the laws.