

Key Terms and Definitions

Afterschool: out of school time including before school, after school, and summer

Constituent: a person who authorizes another to act on their behalf; a voter is a constituent of their elected officials

Legislature: one of the three branches of government in the United States with the responsibility and authority to create laws

Legislation: laws that have been put in place by the legislature

Legislative Session: period of time in which the legislature is convened for purpose of lawmaking

Special Session: additional periods of time that the legislature convenes outside of legislative session to complete unfinished tasks

Bill: proposed law presented to the legislature for discussion

Omnibus Bill: a package of several measures or bills (not always on related topics) to be voted on as one

Congress: In the United States, the national legislative body including both the House of Representatives and the Senate

House of Representatives (House): the lower chamber in a two-chamber legislature

It is the larger chamber of the two, and thus its members represent smaller geographic areas than senators

Senate: the upper chamber in a two-chamber legislature

House File (HF): A bill introduced in the House of Representatives

Senate File (SF): A bill introduced in the Senate

Committee: groups of members in the legislature appointed to investigate, debate, and report on legislation before approving it to be sent to the House of Representatives and the Senate

The Education Finance and Policy Committee is an example of a committee in the Minnesota legislature

Lobbyist: person who takes part in an organized attempt to influence legislators

Bipartisan: in a two-party system, this describes common ground that has been found between both parties through compromise

In the context of the United States, this describes an idea or legislation that has support within both the Republican and Democratic Parties

Biennium: a specified period of two years
Minnesota sets its budget every biennium

Fiscal Year: period used for financial planning, scheduling, and reporting purposes

