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Collective Bargaining Battle Ends

Much of the anticipated work that needed to be done this week was upended by a twoday battle in both chambers over collective bargaining. The Senate Democrats introduced more than 40 amendments in an attempt to stall Senate File 213, and debated contentiously and passionately for more than 30 consecutive hours over collective bargaining. The House also took two days on House File 291, the companion bill to the senate version. Finally, leaders in both chambers forced debate to end with a time certain rule Thursday afternoon.

Both bills passed their respective chambers: the Senate along party lines, with Sen. David Johnson, the lone Independent, siding with the Democrats; in the House, the vote came down to mostly party lines, with six Republicans voting against HF 291.

Before the collective bargaining battle was taken to the chamber floors, however, there were some matters taken care of through subcommittee. Senate File 158, the publishing costs bill, passed a Tuesday subcommittee and will go before the full Senate Local Government Committee. The bill would strike old language requiring governmental bodies to print notices and other business in newspapers, and instead permit those governmental bodies to publish such notices on their own websites.

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Senate File 2, better known as the defunding Planned Parenthood bill, passed a House subcommittee Tuesday and will now go before the full House Human Resources Committee.

Wednesday, Senate File 75 passed subcommittee with amendment and will go before the Senate Human Resources Committee. The bill pertains to the disclosure of mental health conditions to law enforcement professionals. Currently, certain parties are prohibited from disclosing a person's mental health condition without that person's consent or as otherwise permitted under law. SF 75 would allow those disclosures without consent to law enforcement professionals when it would prevent a serious and imminent threat to the safety of others or the person. We are currently monitoring the bill.

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