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## MN Senate passes bills to rein in ICE

**Michelle Griffith**  
MINNESOTA REFORMER

The Minnesota Senate on Monday approved a package of bills aimed at reining in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers after more than 3,000 federal agents descended on Minnesota for what the Department of Homeland Security called its largest immigration enforcement operation ever.

Swarming groups of federal agents racially profiled and arrested people in the streets during Operation Metro Surge, which ignited massive resistance and resulted in the killings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti, two U.S. Citizens.

"All we want are safe communities and the fair treatment under the law," said Sen. Ron Latz, DFL-St. Louis Park, and chief author of the bill package. "The way ICE agents and Border Patrol

agents went about (immigration) enforcement was an absolute abuse of our Constitution. It contravened our constitutional principles. It was without warrants. It was stopping people without lawful basis. It was arresting people without probable cause. It just crossed so many constitutional lines."

The Minnesota Senate is controlled by Democrats, who have made Operation Metro Surge recovery and account-

ability a top issue. The Minnesota House is deadlocked between Republicans and Democrats, and Republicans have largely opposed Operation Metro Surge-related bills this session. The legislative session ends on Sunday.

The bill passed 34-33 in the Senate with no Republican votes.

The package includes a bill to allow

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## 'Courting Harry'



Members of the United States Supreme Court stand for a portrait 01 October 1991 in Washington, DC. From left to right, Anthony M. Kennedy, Byron R. White, Harry M. Blackmun, John Paul Stevens, Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, Sandra Day O'Connor, Antonin Scalia, David H. Souter and associate justice Clarence Thomas. AFP/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

## Play explores Blackmun and Burger bond that dissolved in Supreme Court

St. Cloud Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

History Theatre will start its run of "Courting Harry" on Thursday.

The play is a smart, funny and intriguing look at a 70-year-long friendship between Justice Harry Blackmun and Chief Justice Warren Burger that began in the streets of St. Paul and dissolved in the halls of the Supreme Court, according to a community release.

The play was written by Minneapolis playwright Lee Blessing, and the History Theatre production will run May 14-June 7 at the St. Paul theater.

In the play, audience members can trace the journey of the Minnesota natives from their roots in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood to the pinnacle of the nation's highest court, according to a community release. Two lifelong friends have their unbreakable bond confronted with history-making decisions that will define their future. Dive into the dynamic tensions of the Supreme Court, where President Richard Nixon's appointees grapple with conflicting ideologies in the arena of America's most contentious legal battles.

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President Jimmy Carter is given a kiss by First Lady Rosalynn Carter after Chief Justice Warren Burger administered the oath of office, Jan. 20, 1977. BILL LUSTER/COURIER JOURNAL

## State facing federal lawsuit

### Trump administration defends oil industry

**Brian Martucci**  
MINNESOTA REFORMER

The Trump administration's latest lawsuit against Minnesota aims to short-circuit a six-year effort by Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison's office to hold two fossil-fuel companies and the industry's top U.S. trade association accountable for what Ellison calls "a campaign of deception" targeting his constituents.

The two-term Democrat told the *Reformer* he won't be cowed.

"This case has been pending for six years because the industry has been throwing everything but the kitchen sink at us," he said. "Ellison won't quit - never."

Ellison, who's standing for a third term in November, filed the initial complaint against ExxonMobil, Koch Industries and the American Petroleum Institute in June 2020. Since then, the parties have repeatedly clashed over the proper venue for the case to be heard, with the defendants arguing for removal to a federal court system that legal experts say would likely be more sympathetic to the fossil fuel industry.

Minnesota has come out ahead in that fight, at least so far. The U.S. Supreme Court declined to take up the defendants' appeal in early 2024. A subsequent round of wrangling concluded last month when the Minnesota Supreme Court cleared the case to move into pretrial discovery.

The Trump administration filed its suit three weeks later.

The lawsuit defending the fossil fuel industry isn't a total surprise from an administration with close ties to Big Oil. *The Washington Post* reported in 2024 that President Trump told a group of oil executives at his private club Mar-a-Lago that if they raised \$1 billion for his campaign, he would roll back burdensome environmental regulations.

In a news release announcing the recent suit, the U.S. Department of Justice accused Minnesota of attempting to regulate global

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