

said. "No money is going to pay a player's salary."

Sen. Richard Cohen (DFL-St. Paul) said that he is concerned about the city's financial situation if the state does not choose to provide the \$65 million.

If the city is forced to issue an additional \$65 million, some bond rating agencies have indicated that they would lower the city's credit rating, Cohen said.

Members of the conference committee also were concerned about provisions in the agreement that would prohibit the state from using bonds linked to arena revenues. Under the agreement, the state cannot use revenues which would have an impact on the team.

This agreement includes all revenues related to naming rights, concessions, and parking from game nights. Other revenue sources such as player income tax surcharge may also have an impact on the team and, therefore, may not be considered as possible revenue sources.

Pam Wheelock, of the city of St. Paul, told the committee that the city would be required to compensate the team for obligations of this sort.

Attempts to build a new Twins stadium last year relied heavily on these revenue sources to service the bonds.

Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) told Coleman and Wheelock that this agreement makes the search for middle ground between the House and Senate very difficult.

"The city has made a contract that precludes us from helping the city out," he said.

Cohen asked Martha Larson, of the Minnesota Wild, if the team would consider renegotiating its lease with the city in order to make some of these revenue sources available.

"If you are looking for a blanket commitment right here and now, I cannot make that for the team," Larson said. "The team needs to be careful when we're looking for middle ground that we keep the team successful."


Several legislators argued that the benefits of the facility justify the full contribution of \$65 million.

"Like all things, you can dig around and find bad things," said Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul). "But it's going to be a beautiful arena. It's going to add to downtown."

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) said that the Minnesota Wild should be applauded for making a significant investment in the city. He said that the numbers demonstrate the team is willing to make sacrifices.

"I call this charity," he said. "This is a lousy investment."

Bishop said the state should contribute to professional hockey in Minnesota.

"There is pain in the hearts of those of us who love hockey," he said. "I just won't watch those damn Dallas Stars." 



By Grant Martin

It is only fitting that an interview with former Rep. Chuck Dimler would be conducted via cellular phone with the subject traveling in his car down some unknown Minnesota highway.

Dimler — the man who has saved many Minnesotans from auto insurance rate hikes — would have no need to invoke the statutory provision bearing his name. He was obeying the speed limit.

"Right now, I'm going 55 miles per hour," he said. "You see, the traffic warrants it right here. The car in front of me is going 55."

Dimler, a Republican who served in the House from 1983 to 1986, is most known for the amendment that carries his name.

Under the so-called Dimler Amendment, drivers who are issued tickets for speeds up to 10 mph over a 55 mph speed limit get a break. The violators have to pay the fine, but the ticket does not go on their driving record.

The amendment, which became law in 1986, has prevented untold numbers of Minnesotans caught speeding from seeing their insurance rates jump.

"If I was driving Highway 15 outside of New Ulm, where the road is designed for 70 miles per hour, I'd be driving 64," Dimler said.

And that is the way it should be, according to Dimler. He has long argued that the safest speed is the one that is comfortable for drivers given the conditions of the road.

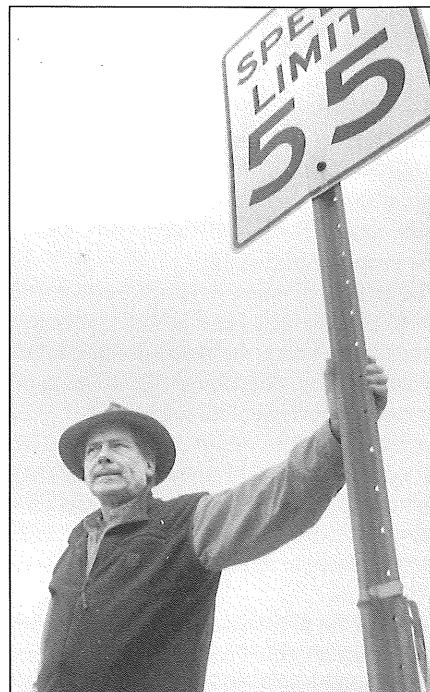
He said that the purpose of the Dimler Amendment is to give the highway patrol and the courts the tools to separate truly dangerous drivers from the moderate speeders.

It doesn't bother him that people plea bargain in court to get their speeding ticket lowered to fall under his law. It shows the flexibility that should be in the law, Dimler said.

"I've been to court with family and friends, and the judge will — on his own volition — change the charge to bring it under the amendment," Dimler said. "It's a tool they can use. They don't have to use it."

The provision has survived periodic challenges from public safety advocates since it became law. Dimler said that the law is still in effect simply because it's reasonable and people like it.

## Dimler concentrates on farming after backing namesake legislation



Former two-term member Chuck Dimler was the architect of the so-called "Dimler Amendment."

"It's a popular piece of statute," he said. "I mean, does it truly offend anyone?"

Dimler's life hasn't changed too much since he left the House more than a decade ago. He still answers the occasional questions about the Dimler Amendment and he still farms his land in Carver and Hennepin counties.

Now it's much easier to just concentrate on farming, he said.

"I am truly one of the living citizen-legislators," Dimler said. "I never left my career to do it. I made farm decisions from the retiring room of the House. Sometimes I planted corn at night and came back to the House the next morning. It was tough to run the farm and be in the Legislature at the same time."

But Dimler does not regret his time in the House.

"I was glad I did it," he said. "It was a life experience."

And Dimler said that it is an experience that more people should have. He said that public service should be seen as a responsibility for everyone and he favors term limits in order to maintain Minnesota's citizen Legislature.

*Continued on page 17*

Chapter	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
329	3138	2861*	Emergency medical care automatic external defibrillators use liability immunity.	3/23/98	
330	381	695*	Nonprofit health care trust agreements or transactions regulation.		3/25/98
331	3748	908*	Trust companies regulation provisions modification.	3/25/98	
332	2615	2252*	DWI repeat offenders sentencing to intensive supervision and incarceration.	3/25/98	
333	176	154*	Food donors' liability limit.	3/25/98	
334	2814*	2130	Health plan companies durable medical equipment coverage requirement.	3/25/98	
335	2016	2550*	Financial institutions mail loan solicitations regulation.	3/25/98	
336	1207	330*	Nonprofit corrections treatment facilities liability limit.	3/25/98	
337	3389	2493*	Financial institutions liability immunity for stolen or fraudulent checks information release to criminal alert networks or law enforcement agencies.	3/25/98	

#### *Dimler continued from page 4*

"I think it would be great to see more people serve," he said. "It's unfair that some people just don't get the opportunity."

Dimler said that his namesake amendment is not the first thing that comes to mind when he thinks about his legislative accomplishments. He said he is most proud of the work he did on tax classification and agriculture issues.

"We were going through the farm crisis and think we had a pretty large impact at that time," he said.

Dimler said he is also proud of what he didn't accomplish.

"Sometimes less is more," Dimler said. "My emphasis in the Legislature was to stop legislation. In fact, it's kind of ironic that there's a piece of legislation with my name on it."

Dimler said that he will continue to do what he's been doing for the past 25 years.

"I guess I'll farm a couple of more years," he said. "Then, who knows, maybe I'll come back and run for the Senate." 🌾

### **Where to find information**

#### **House Public Information Office**

175 State Office Building  
(612) 296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550

The House Public Information Office is a nonpartisan office that provides: committee meeting schedules; legislator information; and publications, including the *Session Weekly* news magazine, educational brochures for all ages, and member directories. All information is available at no charge.

Most of what this office publishes can be viewed on the Legislature's World Wide Web page. To connect, point your web browser at: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

#### *Graduated licensing continued from page 12*

Rep. Satveer Chaudhary (DFL-Fridley), would establish a provisional driver's license for 16- and 17-year-olds.

The provisional license-holder would need to go without an at-fault collision and no more than one moving violation for a year to qualify for a full license at 17. The teen applicant also would need to complete 30 hours of driving under the supervision of a licensed driver aged 21 or older.

Under the bill, if the provisional license-holder has two or more violations in 12 months, another 30 hours of supervised driving would be required and the driver would continue under the provisional license.

There would be no provisional license for any license applicant 18 or older.

The version of the bill that went to the House floor contained a proposed curfew that would have forbidden provisional license-holders from driving between the hours of midnight and 5 a.m. The midnight to 5 a.m. curfew was removed in a floor amendment.

The earlier version of the bill also would have stipulated that a driver could have no moving violations in a 12-month period in order to apply for a full driver's license. That was amended on the floor to allow one moving violation.

One intent of the original bill was to limit teen driving at night. Although only 20 percent of miles driven by teens is accumulated between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m., about half of fatal car accidents involving teen drivers occur during those hours.

A total of 26 states have some form of graduated teen licensing.

The bill (HF2532/SF2407\*) now moves to a House-Senate conference committee.

### **BWCA rally**



Jerry Bahls, of Fridley, lets his canoe paddle do the talking during a rally in the Capitol rotunda March 25. The rally, in support of a bill that would limit motorboat use in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, was sponsored by the Friends of the Boundary Waters.