

Agenda: Presentation of proposed 2004-2005 budget.
Other business that may appropriately come before the committee.

12:30 PM

Agriculture Policy

Room: 5 State Office Building
Chair: Rep. Howard Swenson
Agenda: Testimony on the federal farm bill from Congressman Gil Gutknecht, USDA Rural Development State Director Steve Wenzel, and USDA Farm Service Agency Minnesota State Executive Director John Monson.

Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy

Room: Basement Hearing Room
Chair: Rep. Jim Rhodes
Agenda: To be announced.

Transportation Policy

Room: 200 State Office Building
Chair: Rep. Ron Erhardt
Agenda: To be announced.

2:30 PM

State Government Finance

Room: 500N State Office Building
Chair: Rep. Bill Haas
Agenda: Minnesota Public Radio.

Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs

Room: 200 State Office Building
Chair: Rep. Jerry Dempsey
Agenda: HF327 (Hackbarth) Shooting range generally accepted practices defined; and relation to local ordinances, closing and relocations, and nuisance liability provided.
HF293 (Dempsey) Municipalities authorized to prescribe fees by a fee schedule.

Jobs and Economic Development Finance
Room: Basement Hearing Room
Chair: Rep. Bob Gunther
Agenda: To be announced.

Environment and Natural Resources Finance

Room: 5 State Office Building
Chair: Rep. Dennis Ozment
Agenda: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency budget overview.

10:15 AM

Environment and Natural Resources Policy

Room: 5 State Office Building
Chair: Rep. Tom Hackbarth
Agenda: Report from the Citizens Committee on Wildlife Management Area Acquisition
Lance Ness, Chairman (citizen).
Kim Hennings, Department of Natural Resources.

Judiciary Policy and Finance

Room: Basement Hearing Room
Chair: Rep. Steve Smith
Agenda: Discussion of shifting offenders with short-term prison sentences from the state prison system to the counties.
Presentation by the Department of Corrections.
Impact on counties.

Education Finance

Room: 10 State Office Building
Chair: Rep. Alice Seagren
Agenda: To be announced.



Otto wins election

The House DFL gained a seat Feb. 11 when Rebecca Otto won a special election in District 52B.

Otto garnered 54.3 percent of the vote, to defeat her Republican challenger by 10.8 percent. Third-party candidates combined for 2 percent of the vote.

She replaces former Rep. Mark Holsten who accepted a position last month as a deputy commissioner with the Department of Natural Resources. Holsten defeated Otto in the November election.

Otto, a small-business owner, has been assigned to the Agriculture and Rural Development Finance, Agriculture Policy, Environment Policy and Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs committees.

Republicans now hold an 80-53 majority in the House.

A special election in District 32B for the seat vacated by former Rep. Rich Stanek is scheduled for Feb. 25. Stanek resigned in January to become the state's public safety commissioner.

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