

populations of each district while also respecting natural physical boundary lines and local governmental boundaries whenever possible.

Agenda '92:

- Metropolitan Council redistricting

REGULATED INDUSTRIES

Examines controls on state-regulated industries such as liquor, telephone, utilities, and commercial soliciting.

Agenda '92:

- Redefinition of extended area service criteria for telephone exchanges
- Electric utility service area boundaries
- Revisions in competitive services for telephone companies
- Octane testing program
- Liquor license fee increases

TAXES

Reviews bills that affect state income, sales, use, and property tax policy.

Agenda '92:

- Tax fairness
- Health care access and reform — revenues need for public expenditures to be commensurate with reform-driven health care system savings
- Reinstatement of homestead and agricultural credit funding, which was eliminated in 1993 by gubernatorial veto

TRANSPORTATION

Addresses policy matters concerning highways, trucking, transit systems, and the departments of Transportation and Public Safety.

Agenda '92:

- Truck regulation
- Transportation funding (tentative)

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

ETHICS

Reviews ethical complaints concerning members of the House of Representatives; sets procedures on dealing with ethical problems.

RULES & LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

Establishes the budget for the House; approves personnel matters; determines House rules and joint rules of the House and Senate. Acts on bills and resolutions referred to the committee.

WAYS & MEANS

Sets overall spending and taxing policies and limits for the Appropriations and Taxes committees, and the Education Finance Division of the Education Committee.

Last year's bills . . .

Most return to committee

Now that we're in the second year of the state's two-year spending cycle, what becomes of the bills from last year?

Here's what happens:

Bills receiving final passage by one body and not the other remain alive for the second year of the biennium. The body that approved the bill in the first year need not repass it in the second.

Bills awaiting floor action on the General Orders, Consent and Special Orders calendars return to the last committee in which they were acted upon. There they will remain, and die at the end of the 1992 session, if not acted upon by the committee.

It used to be that General Orders carried over into the second year of the biennium. The change to the present system occurred about a decade ago.

Bills pending before the Rules Committee from either body return to the standing committee to which the bill was previously referred.

Bills remaining in standing committees can be taken up in the second year of the biennium in the committee to which they were last referred.

For appointed conference committees that have not submitted a report upon adjournment after the first year, the bill returns to its body of origin and is laid on the table. The conference committee is then disbanded.

And finally, bills vetoed by the governor are returned to the body where the bill originated and laid on the table.

During the 1991 legislative session, a total 1,725 bills were introduced in the House; 1,595 in the Senate. Of those, 356 were passed by both bodies and sent on to the governor for consideration.

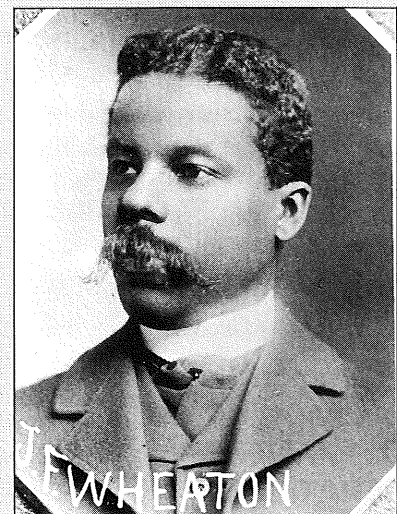
It's a fact!

John Francis Wheaton came to Minnesota as a Howard University graduate in 1890. Nine years later he became the first black man elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives.

He lived in Minneapolis, but his district encompassed Richfield, Bloomington, Edina, and Eden Prairie as well.

Only three blacks have been elected to the House since the turn of the century. All represented metro districts.

Ray Pleasant (IR-Bloomington) served from 1973-81. Randy Staten (DFL-Mpls) served from 1981-86, and Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls) continues to serve. He was elected in 1987.



John Francis Wheaton

Photo courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society