

Wednesday's committee said the plan had the bill to fall short of amended, then to get it to send it to the Governmental Operations and Veterans Committee. The plan would make it more accountable. The president, said to eliminate House preference committees. Committees of six to 10 are appointed to references in House and bills. The other unicameral day conference committee too much power in the existing two-argument that bicameral broken; they say refined, but does not automatic constitutional

Ulm. The bill would ask voters this fall if they favor a one-house system. If approved, the single house would be called the Legislature, and would be composed of 135 members, elected to staggered four-year terms. It would begin operations with the 2003 session. Currently, the House has 134 members and the Senate 67. Spear said if the governor wants the measure to pass, he will have to whip up support among Minnesotans, who, in turn, will have to press legislators to place it on the ballot. Last week a House committee passed a unicameral bill without recommendation to its second stop, another House committee. This is the first time since at least the early 1970s that unicameral legislation has passed even one committee. That movement is largely attributable to the backing and lobbying by the governor.

## es for DNR crunch

peir and from 's about sh Fund, programs services her half s parks. have in- by \$1, licenses ne Game 1 by in- l would 2 instead rom that division stations positions / wildlife on of a 2000 moose hunting season and no enforcement academy. DNR officials acknowledge that a license-fee increase would be a temporary solution, but Gov. Jesse Ventura has said he won't support funding big projects during this non-budget session. Ventura supports the basic fee-increase proposal. A key House panel earlier endorsed a bill that would shift about \$12.5 million currently going to the general fund from the sales tax on lottery tickets into the Game and Fish Fund. Bob Lessard, DFL-International Falls, chairman of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee, plans to hold a hearing next week for a different bill he is sponsoring. It would send one-eighth of a percentage point of the state's 6½-cent sales tax to natural resources, or about \$75 million per year. Krentz's bill was sent to the Senate Tax Committee.

- Committee, 8:30 a.m., Room 300N, State Office Building.
- **Profile of Learning:** Presentations on several bills will be heard. Public testimony on the Profile will be taken at a later date. House Education Policy Committee, 10 a.m., Room 200, State Office Building.
  - **Discussion with Finance Commissioner Pam Wheelock** about governor's 1999 veto of funds to help with the health-care provider tax. House Taxes Committee, 10 a.m., Room 5, State Office Building.
  - **Crediting tobacco settlement revenues to health-care access fund, and contingent elimination of MinnesotaCare provider tax:** Senate Health and Family Security Committee, 10 a.m., Room 15, State Capitol. Similar legislation is on the agenda for 10 a.m. House Taxes Committee meeting, Room 5, State Office Building.
  - **Consumer's right to privacy:** Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Data Privacy and Information Policy, 7 p.m., Room 15, Capitol.

## TODAY IN THE STAR TRIBUNE

- **JesseNet gets into the Minn fight:** Gov. Jesse Ventura used his Web site to try to launch a serious campaign to secure Senate confirmation of Steve Minn, his pick for commissioner of public service and commerce. The effort appears to have failed. **Page B1.**
- **BCA chief resigns:** Nick O'Hara, chief of the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, announces his resignation, effective next month. **Page B3.**

Star Tribune Feb 24, 2000

## DAILY ROUNDUP

### House OKs denominational prayer after pointed debate

Pre-session prayers that include references to specific religions will be permitted on the House floor.

The House voted Wednesday to reverse a year-old rule that required all prayers to be nondenominational and respectful to "the religious diversity of the House."

At times, debate was sharp. Rep. Michael Paymar, DFL-St. Paul, criticized supporters of the rule change as imposing their religious viewpoints on all members. Rep. Arlon Lindner, R-Corcoran, chided Paymar, who is Jewish.

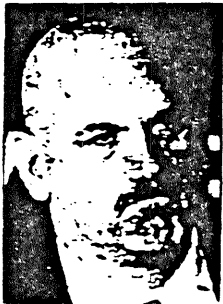
"Don't impose your irreligious left views on me," Lindner said, prompting hisses.

Several legislators admonished Lindner and apologized to Paymar.

It was the second time this year the House took up the prayer issue. On the first day of session, the proposed change required 90 votes because it didn't go through the committee process. It fell 31 votes short.

This time, only a simple majority was required.

— *Associated Press*



calls in support of Minn. But he suggested that senators may be deliberately downplaying the effort.

"Senators may be reluctant to admit choosing the preferences of their Senate colleagues over the preferences of the citizenry," Madsen said.

Legislators are unhappy that Minn didn't consult them before following out Ventura's orders to merge the Commerce and Public Service departments.

adopted into the inside baseball league, just like the rest of us."

Madsen scoffed at that notion.

"I think it's exactly the opposite, because it puts a human face on an issue," he said. "This is a lot easier to understand than property tax or education funding. It's the kind of issue citizens would gravitate to."

Madsen added that, regardless of today's outcome, JesseNet will be used to