

**Public Safety Conference Committee**  
**Thursday, May 12, 2005**  
**Chairs: Sen. Jane Ranum, Rep. Steve Smith**  
**3:00 p.m.**  
**118 Capitol**

- 1) SF2273, Art. 6, Sec. 8: Neuville early conditional release from prison for controlled substance offenders
- 2) HF 1, Art. 13, Sec. 4: Hilstrom proposals to reintegrate short term prisoners through county jails
- 3) Office of the Legislative Auditor recommendations regarding sex offender supervision in SF2273
- 4) Strangulation criminal penalties
- 5) Fire Marshal funding issues
- 6) Public defender CHIPS representation
- 7) Sex offender sentencing provisions
- 8) Release of sex offenders as in HF 1, Art. 2, Sec. 3 and Art. 3, Sec. 1-6 and SF2273, Art. 2, Sec. 4, and Art. 4, Sec. 9

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Members present: Foley, Skoglund, Neuville, Rosen, Smith, Johnson, Newmann, Hilstrom, Murphy

Sen. Ranum called the meeting to order at 3:12 p.m.

Ken Backhus, Senate Counsel, gave testimony on the fire marshal provisions in the Senate bill.

Jeff Diebel, House Counsel, gave testimony on the fire marshal provisions in the House bill.

Nyle Zikmund, Minnesota Fire Chiefs, testified in support for fire marshal funding.

Witness responded to questions.

Mr. Diebel gave testimony on fire marshal fees in House bill.

Jerry Rosendahl, State Fire Marshal, testified on fire marshal fees.

Witness responded to questions.

Elaine Keefe, Representative for YMCA and Girl Scouts, testified in opposition to fire marshal fee for non profit organizations.

Witnesses responded to questions.

Tom Brace, Executive Director, Fire Chiefs Association, testified on the important role the state fire marshal plays in the state and the need for adequate funding.

Sen. Neville testified on early conditional release from prison for controlled substance offenders.

Dennis Benson, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Corrections, testified in opposition to Sen. Neville's proposal and in support of the House's proposal.

Witness responded to questions.

Barbara Tombs, Director, Sentencing Guidelines Commission, testified on Sen. Neville's proposal.

Tom Raimy, Dodge, Fillmore, Olmsted County's Chemical Health Department, testified on Sen. Neville's proposal and the need for more treatment for offenders.

Witness responded to questions.

John Kingrey, Minnesota County Attorney's Association, testified in opposition to Sen. Neville's proposal and in support of the House's proposal for a study.

Witness responded to questions.

Nan Schroeder, Director of Health Services, Department of Corrections, testified on if offenders fake being addicts.

Rep. Hilstrom testified on the proposal to reintegrate the short term prisoners through the county jails.

Fred LaFleur, Director, Community Corrections for Hennepin County, testified in support of Rep. Hilstrom's proposal.

Witnesses responded to questions.

Steve Borchardt, Olmsted County Sheriff, testified in support of Rep. Hilstrom's proposal.

Mr. Benson testified in opposition to Rep. Hilstrom's proposal.

Ken Merz, Director of Administrative Services, Department of Corrections, testified on the number of available county jail beds at any given time.

Harley Nelson, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Corrections, testified in opposition to Rep. Hilstrom's proposal.

Witnesses responded to questions.

Mr. Backhus gave testimony on the strangulation provisions in the House and Senate bills.

Susan Gaertner, Ramsey County Attorney, testified in support of strangulation as a felony as stated in the Senate bill.

Witness responded to questions.

Mr. Backhus gave testimony about items in the Senate bill relating to the recommendations from the Office of the Legislative Auditor.

Joel Alter, Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA), testified on the community supervision of sex offenders report by the OLA.

Tom Adkins, Washington County Director, Community Corrections, testified on the probation workload as related to supervision.

Witness responded to questions.

Midge Christianson, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Swift and Yellow Medicine Counties Director, Community Corrections, testified on the probation workload as related to supervision.

Steve Paquay, Chisago County Director, Community Corrections, testified on the probation workload as related to supervision.

Witnesses responded to questions.

Mr. Nelson testified on probation and supervision.

Witnesses responded to questions.

Ms. Tombs testified on the bed impact of sex offender legislation in the Senate versus the House.

Mr. Backhus gave testimony on the Senate's sex offender sentencing provisions.

Mr. Diebel gave testimony on the House's sex offender sentencing provisions.

Eric Lipman, Coordinator, Governor's Sex Offender Policy Group, testified in support of the House's sex offender sentencing provisions.

Witness responded to questions.

Mr. Benson testified on provision relating to the release for sex offenders.

Witness responded to questions.

Sen. Ranum adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted:

  
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Jane Ranum  
State Senator

  
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Sara Benzkofer  
Legislative Assistant