

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BUDGET DIVISION

MINUTES

Senator Linda Berglin, Chair of the Health and Human Services Budget Division, called the forty-first meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, March 24, 2006, in Room 123 of the State Capitol, St. Paul Minnesota.

The secretary noted the roll.

Members Present:

Berglin, Chair
Higgins
Lourey
LeClair
Rosen

Members Absent:

Solon, Vice-chair
Foley
Koering

A quorum was present.

Senator Higgins assumed the chair at 9:05 a.m.

The first bill on the agenda was S.F. 2725, authored and explained by Senator Berglin, as follows:

S.F. 2725 (BERGLIN): A bill for an act relating to health care; providing for MinnesotaCare outreach; creating a prescription drug discount program; expanding the benefit set for single adults; increasing the eligibility income limit for single adults; increasing the cap for inpatient hospitalization benefits for adults; modifying the definition of income for self-employed farmers; establishing a small employer option; appropriating money.

The following persons testified regarding S.F. 2725:

1. Jeannie Fox, Deputy Director, Public Policy, MN Council of Non-Profits (Proponent).
2. Thom Petersen, Director, Government Relations, MN Farmer's Union (Proponent).
3. Bob Vanasek, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PHARMA) (Opponent).
4. Brad Lehto, Legislative Director, AFL/CIO (Proponent).

Senator Berglin explained the following amendments to S.F. 2725:

(SEE ATTACHMENT "A" – SCS2725A-9)

(SEE ATTACHMENT "B" – SCS2725A10)

(SEE ATTACHMENT "C" – SCS2725A-8)

All the above amendments were laid over.

Senate File 2725 was laid over.

Senator Berglin returned to the chair 9:30 a.m.

The second bill on the agenda was S.F. 2672, authored and explained by Senator Lourey, as follows:

S.F. 2672 (LOUREY): A bill for an act relating to employment; requiring certain health cost payments by large employers.

The following persons testified regarding S.F. 2672:


1. Bernie Hesse, UFCW, Local 79 (Proponent).
2. Rick Varco, SEIU, Local 113 (Proponent).
3. Brad Lehto, AFL/CIO, Legislative Director (Proponent).
4. Erin Sexton, MN Chamber of Commerce (Opponent).
5. Beth Hartwig, MN Business Partnership (Opponent).

Senate File 2672 was laid over.

The next part of the meeting was a continuation of the Governor's Budget Recommendations. The following persons gave a presentation:

1. Wes Kooistra, Assistant Commissioner, Chemical and Mental Health Division, Department of Human Services.
2. Mike Tessneer, State Operated Services, Department of Human Services.
3. Sharon Autio, Director, Adult Mental Health Services Division, Department of Human Services.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.


Senator Linda Berglin
Chair


Rochelle M. Polansky
Legislative Assistant

Health and Human Services Budget Division

Senator Linda Berglin, Chair

Friday, March 24, 2006 -- 9:00 a.m. -- Room 123 Capitol

A G E N D A

I. Call to Order.

II. S.F. 2725 (Berglin): MinnesotaCare.

A. Author's Presentation.

Testimony (Proponents):

- 1. Jeannie Fox, Deputy Director, Public Policy, MN Council of Non-Profits (Small Business).**
- 2. Thom Petersen, Director, Government Relations, MN Farmers Union (Representing Farmers).**

Testimony (Opponent):

Bob Vanasek, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PHARMA) (Drug Discount Program).

B. Consideration of Amendment(s).

C. Division Action.

III. S.F. 2672 (Lourey): Large employer health cost payments.

A. Author's Presentation.

Testimony (Proponents):

- 1. Bernie Hesse, UFCW, Local 79.**
- 2. Rick Varco, SEIU, Local 113.**
- 3. Brad Lehto, AFL/CIO.**

Testimony (Opponents):

- 1. Erin Sexton, MN Chamber of Commerce.**
- 2. Beth Hartwig, MN Business Partnership.**

B. Consideration of Amendment(s).

C. Division Action.

IV. Continuation of Governor's Budget Recommendations:

Department of Human Services:

- 1. Wes Kooistra, Assistant Commissioner, Chemical and Mental Health**
- 2. Brian Osberg, Assistant Commissioner, Health Care**
- 3. Loren Colman, Assistance Commissioner, Continuing Care**
- 4. Chuck Johnson, Assistant Commissioner, Children and Family Services**

V. Adjournment.

NEXT MEETINGS:

**Health and Human Services Budget Division
Tuesday, March 28, 2006
9:00 a.m. – Room 123 Capitol
Agenda: TBA**

**Health and Human Services Budget Division
Wednesday, March 29, 2006
9:00 a.m. – Room 123 Capitol
Agenda: TBA**

**Health and Human Services Budget Division
Thursday, March 30, 2006
Immediately After Session – Room 123 Capitol
Agenda: TBA**