
REVISOR OF STATUTES PERFORMANCE REPORT

July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2006

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes is a nonpartisan legislative agency providing a broad range of services to the legislature, legislative staff, and executive and judicial branches of state government. The services provided by the office are imposed by law, legislative rule, or legislative custom.

This report is a review for the legislative biennium beginning July 1, 2004, and ending June 30, 2006, of each of the functions of the Revisor's Office that are identified by law, rule, or custom. Included as part of the report are graphs showing long-term trends in selected areas of office activities.

The biennium showed significant growth in the primary indicator of the Revisor's Office drafting load, the number of bill and resolution drafting files opened. As the graph on page three demonstrates visually, the total number for 2005-2006 was 7,625, only five files less than the all-time record of 7,630 from the 1999-2000 biennium. Successfully handling this drafting load while also developing and implementing a new computer system is a considerable accomplishment.

Perhaps the biggest change – and challenge – of the past biennium was the conversion to XTEND, the Revisor's new XML-based bill drafting system. The project to develop a new, standards-based system to replace a 35-year old mainframe-based legacy system began in 2002, with implementation for drafting of legislative documents in 2006. As to be expected with any major computer conversion, there were glitches, but legislative documents were successfully produced for the 2006 session. In addition, the benefits of migrating to a standards-based system were immediately apparent. For example, the ability to easily email bill drafts improved communication with members and staff. The ability to send bill data directly to House and Senate printers saved time for both chambers, particularly at the end of the session.

In addition to the legislative drafting applications, the XTEND project also focused on improving the Revisor's Office Web service. One old Web server was replaced by two new servers, both to improve security and responsiveness. These improvements made it possible for the Revisor's Office servers to handle the 2005 all-time record demand of 54,000,000 hits, shown visually in the graph on page thirty. Significant programming work was also completed to improve the online search functionality for the *Laws of Minnesota*, *Minnesota Statutes*, and *Minnesota Rules*. The work of the Revisor's Office played a role, along with the work of House, Senate, and Legislative Reference Library staff, in the Minnesota Legislature's Web site winning the 2006 National Conference of State Legislatures' Online Democracy award.

While computer development in the Revisor's Office has passed several major milestones, there is more to be done. During the 2006 interim, the office is in the process of publishing the *Laws* and *Statutes* using XTEND for the first time. In advance of the 2007 session, programmers are working to improve legislative document functionality. Major work remains to develop the programs to draft and publish the administrative rules and court rules. Hopefully, the Revisor's Office will be able to report the complete migration from the mainframe system in our next performance report, due in the fall of 2008.

DUTIES OF THE REVISOR'S OFFICE

This section of the report examines each of the functions of the Revisor's Office assigned by law, rule, request, or custom.

LEGISLATIVE DUTIES

Bill Drafting

Source of mandate: Minnesota Statutes, sections 3C.03, subdivision 2; 3C.035; and 3C.05, subdivision 1

The mandate to draft and review bills and related legislative documents generated for the legislature is the office's chief responsibility during the legislative session. That mandate has many component duties: the work of drafting itself, the management of drafting loads, the maintenance of a bill tracking system, the systems and software that support bill production, the training and documentation associated with those systems, the work of data entry, and the work of supervision and quality control. As mandated by statute, the office drafts bills on request for any member of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Governor, and state departments and agencies. Bill drafting services are nonpartisan and confidential. All drafting is done by lawyers, and the attorney-client privilege, as well as broad statutory confidentiality protection, attaches. A peer review procedure is utilized as part of the comprehensive quality control system for bill drafting. Computer programs developed in the Revisor's Office transfer data for all introduced bills to the legislative Web site.

In 2005-2006, the office drafted 635 bills for the executive branch and 6,990 for the legislature.

Much of the bill drafting for departments and agencies is done prior to the start of each session of the legislature. We cooperate with the Governor's office in preparing and jacketing agency bills, and with House and Senate majority and minority leadership in a collaborative effort to deliver these bills to the legislature in a timely manner.

In the first half of the biennium, 4,774 drafting files were opened and in the second half, 2,851 were opened. Of these totals, 662 and 384, respectively, were resolution files.

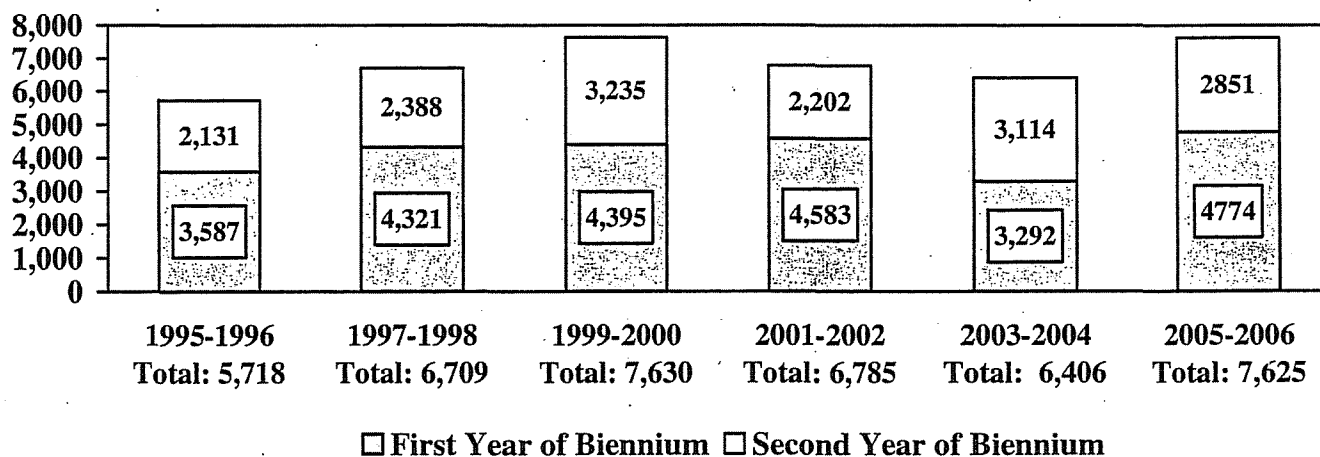
Resolution Drafting

Source of mandate: Minnesota Statutes, section 3C.03, subdivision 2

The Revisor's Office drafts memorial, concurrent, and congratulatory resolutions. Memorial resolutions are drafted for the same reasons as are bills: to accomplish public goals. A memorial resolution contains a statement of facts referred for action by a governmental official, agency, or body. Concurrent resolutions are drafted to do the internal business of the legislature, such as establishing budget limits; some simple resolutions also do internal business. The majority of resolutions drafted by the office, called congratulatory resolutions, are drafted to help individual legislators maintain good constituent relations. Resolutions are often presented at public functions by members or their designees. They are prepared and delivered directly to the requesting member who in turn obtains the proper signatures. In addition to formal resolutions, the office prepares text that can be used by the governor's office in drafting proclamations if that is the form of congratulation the requester prefers.

The office prepared 981 congratulatory resolutions in the first half of the biennium and 550 in the second half.

Bill and Resolution Drafts

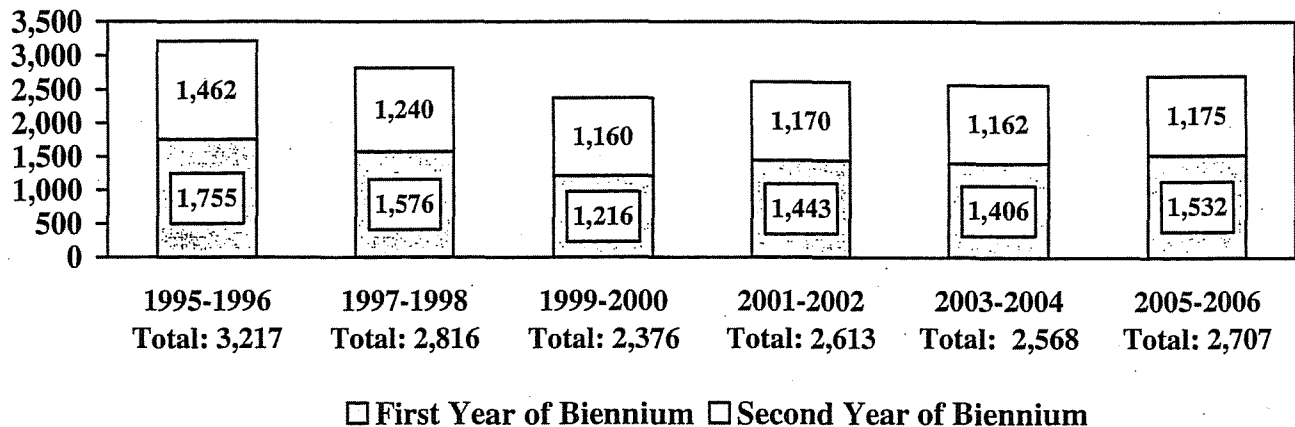


Amendment Drafting

Source of mandate: Minnesota Statutes, section 3C.03, subdivision 2

Amendments are prepared at the request of members, the Governor and other constitutional officers, and state agencies for Senate and House committees and floor sessions. In addition, two lawyers from the office are available on the House floor during floor sessions to draft amendments and to provide related legal advice. Support staff for preparing the amendments on the House floor is also provided by the Revisor's Office. The office prepared 1,532 amendments in the first half of the biennium and 1,175 in the second half.

Amendment Drafts



Revisor's, Corrections, and Style and Form Bills

Source of mandate: Minnesota Statutes, section 3C.04

Three types of bills are researched, proposed, and drafted by the office and introduced for consideration by members who sit on the House and Senate committees with jurisdiction over civil law matters. They are bills to correct technical errors in the statutes, "the revisor's bill," bills to correct errors in a given session's bills, "the session corrections bill," and bills to improve the style and form of statutory chapters, "style and form bills." Revisor's Office staff attend committee hearings on these bills and testify as requested by the members.

Revisor's bills to correct obsolete and redundant language, erroneous and obsolete references, and conflicting amendments were passed in *Laws 2005*, chapter 10, and *Laws 2006*, chapter 212. Session correction bills to correct session errors were passed in *Laws 2005, First Special Session* chapter 7, and *Laws 2006*, chapter 283.

The session corrections bill is customarily one of the final bills passed during a session. Because of end of session time constraints, an abbreviated procedure developed with legislative leadership is used for these end of session correction bills.

Style and form bills produced by the office are not generally introduced as stand-alone bills but are integrated into more substantive pieces of legislation.

Form Approvals of Bills

Source of mandate: House rule 4.01, Joint Rule 2.01, and custom and usage of the legislature

The Revisor's Office examines each bill and endorses approval of its form and its compliance with Joint Rules of the House and Senate, House Rules, and the provisions of the Minnesota Constitution relating to bills, for example, the single subject and enacting clause requirements. Technically, this requirement of approval applies to bills prepared for introduction in the House of Representatives. In practice, it applies to all bills, since bills drafted for a Senate member

have both House and Senate copies. Form checks and approvals are a standard part of the quality control component of the bill drafting process.

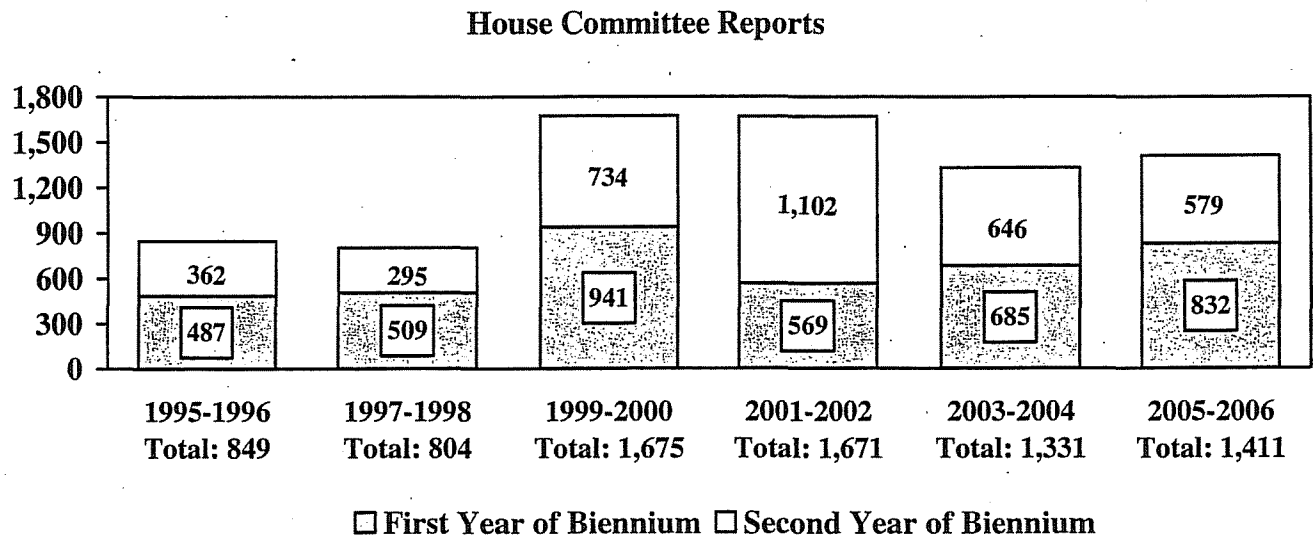
House Committee Reports

Source of mandate: Minnesota Statutes, section 3C.04, subdivision 6 (requested by the Speaker and Chief Clerk of the House)

The office drafts and approves all committee reports from standing committees of the House. Staff works closely with House committee staff and members to make sure the reports are technically accurate and legally sufficient.

During the 2005 regular session, 831 committee reports were prepared for the House. One committee report was prepared for the House during the 2005 special session. During the 2006 session, 579 committee reports were prepared for the House. We prepare minority reports for committees when requested. Since 1999, committee reports were prepared each time a committee took action on a bill. Prior to that, we prepared a committee report only when a bill was amended by the committee.

We also prepare subcommittee or division reports for the House. These reports are prepared at the request of a committee secretary or the chief committee clerk.



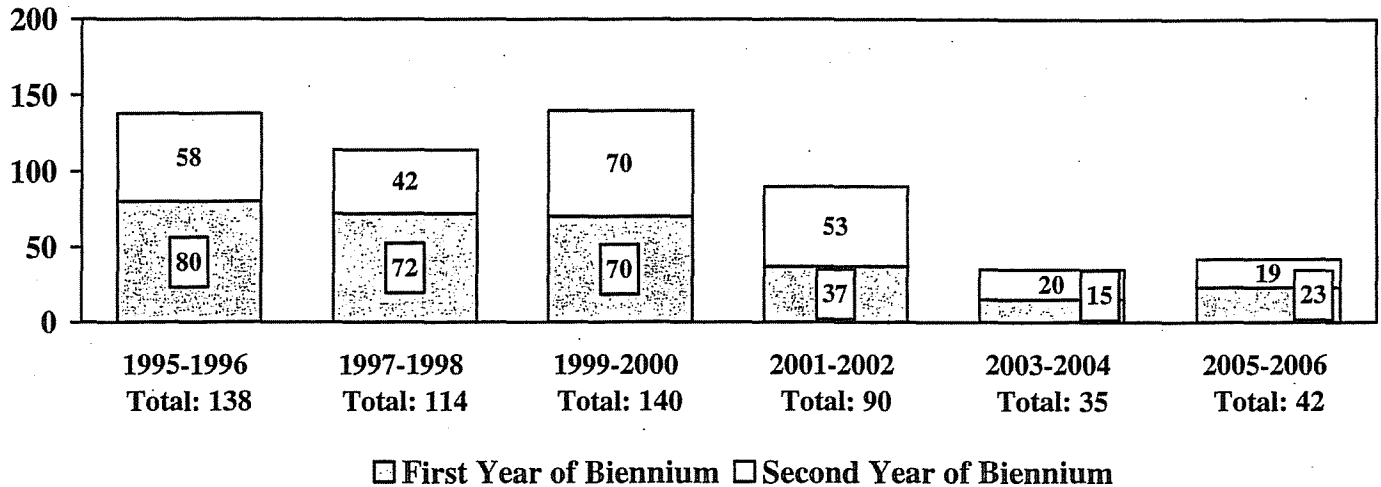
Conference Committee Reports

Source of mandate: Minnesota Statutes, section 3C.04, subdivision 6; custom and usage of the legislature

The Revisor's Office drafts and approves all conference committee reports of the House and Senate. Staff works closely with members and conference committee staff to make sure the reports are technically accurate and legally sufficient. These reports are usually prepared under time constraints during the last few days of session. Computer programs developed by our office transfer data for conference committee reports to the legislative Web site.

During the 2005 session, we prepared 23 conference committee reports that were returned to the desks. There were 18 conference committee reports on House bills and 18 on Senate bills. When alternative and unofficial versions of reports are added, the total is 47. For 2006, the figures are as follows: 19 total reports returned to the desk, 12 for the House and 7 for the Senate. The addition of alternative and unofficial versions brings the total to 34.

Conference Committee Reports Returned to the Desks



Comparison Reports

Source of mandate: Minnesota Statutes, section 3C.04, subdivision 6; custom and usage of the legislature (requested by members, Secretary of the Senate, and Chief Clerk of the House)

The Revisor's Office prepares two types of comparison reports for the legislature: side-by-side comparison reports and House and Senate desk comparison reports.

Side-by-side comparisons are usually requested for House and Senate bills under conference committee consideration. These documents show the text of the bills in a side-by-side presentation.

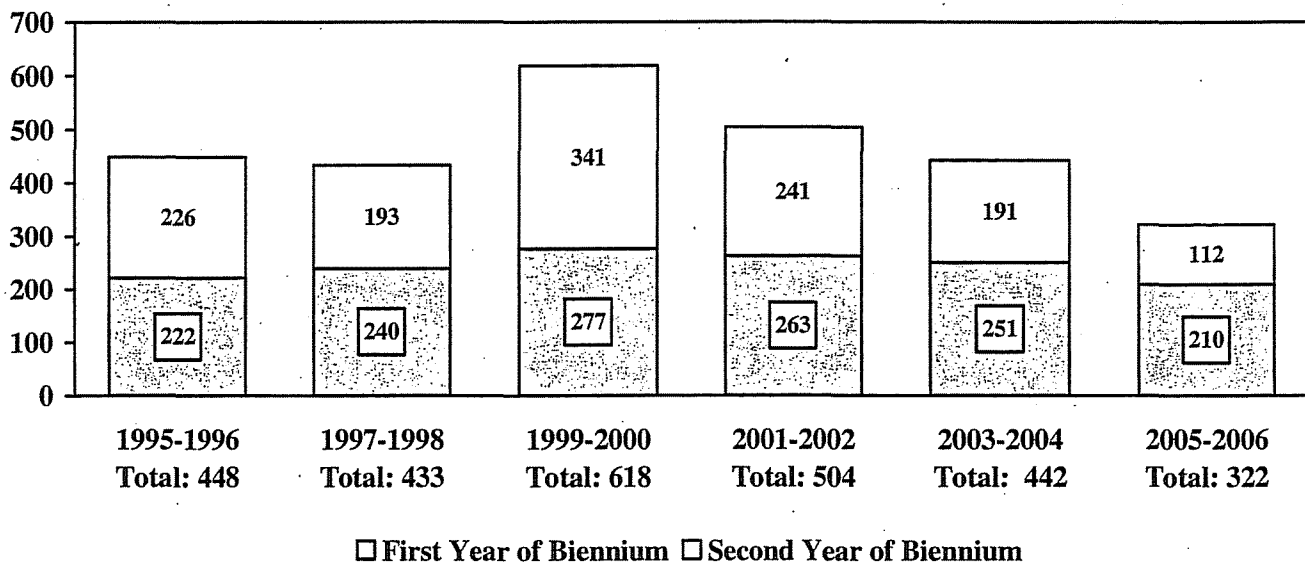
In 2005, 59 side-by-side comparison reports were prepared and in 2006, 7 side-by-side comparison reports were prepared for a total of 66 reports. The decrease in side-by-side comparisons in the second half of the biennium was due in part to decreased legislative requests and in part to implementation of the new XTEND operating system where the side-by-side program was still in development.

Desk bill comparison reports are also prepared in a different form for use by the House and Senate desks. The reports are used to determine differences in companion bills.

The office prepares a short form for the Senate that reports only that the bills are identical or not identical. For the House, we prepare a detailed report showing the differences in language in each companion bill.

In 2005, the office completed 67 reports for the Senate and 84 for the House. In 2006, the office completed 50 reports for the Senate and 55 for the House.

Side-by-side and Desk Bill Comparisons



Engrossments

Source of mandate: Minnesota Statutes, section 3C.04, subdivision 5, and Joint Rule 2.07

When bills are amended in committee or on the floor in the house of origin, the Revisor's Office merges the amendments into the bill text to produce engrossments, which help readers understand the effect of the amendments. The office also prepares "unofficial" engrossments of amendments adopted by one house to a bill that originates in the other house, "unofficial" engrossments of amendments that are being considered in committees, and other similar working documents.

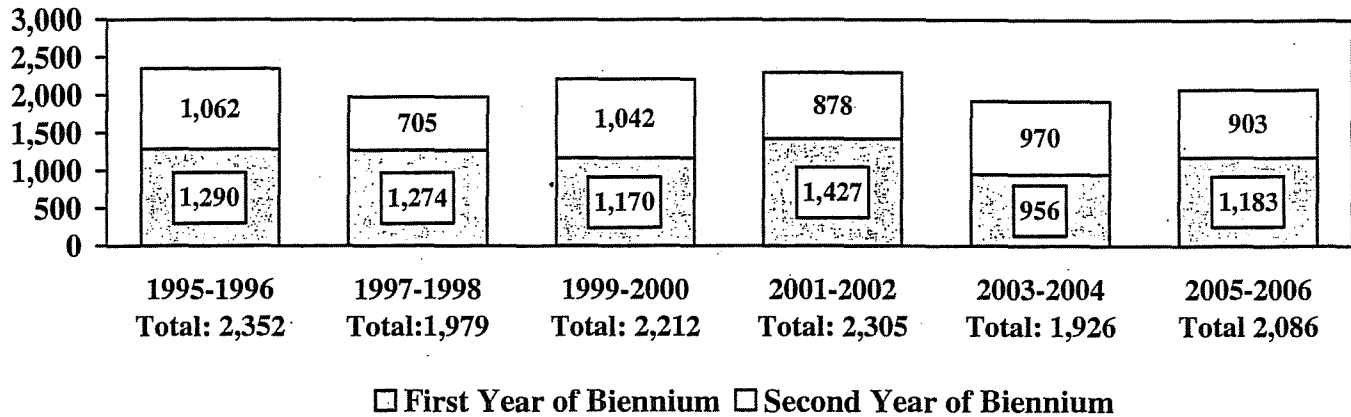
If amendments cannot be engrossed, the reviewing attorney will suggest journal corrections for minor technical matters, or will work with interested members and staff to correct substantive problems that are found.

Computer programs developed in our office transfer data for engrossments to the legislative Web site.

In the 2005 regular and special session, 1183 engrossments were completed and in the 2006 session, 903 were completed. These figures include unofficial engrossments requested by the desks. Of that number, the office prepared 609 engrossments on House bills in the 2005 regular

and special sessions and 437 in 2006. The office prepared 574 engrossments on Senate bills in the 2005 regular and special sessions and 466 in 2006.

Engrossments



Enrollments

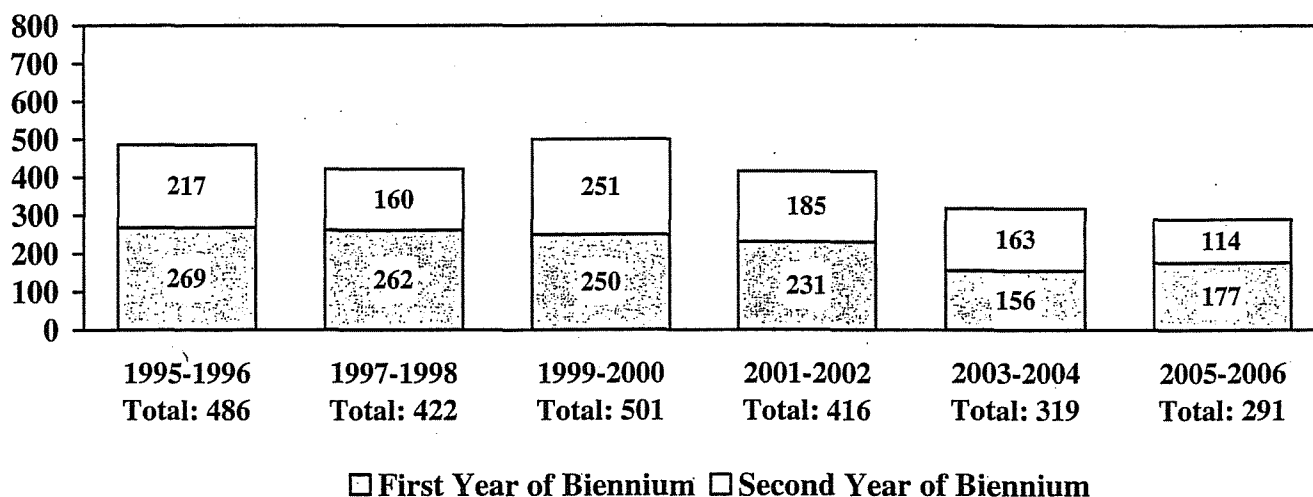
Source of mandate: Minnesota Statutes, section 3C.04, subdivision 5, and Joint Rule 2.07

After a bill has passed both houses in the same form, either as introduced or as finally engrossed, the bill is ready to be enrolled and presented to the Governor. Each enrollment is checked for technical accuracy and legal sufficiency.

Signatures of the presiding and chief administrative officers of each house, and the revisor, are obtained and the bill is formally presented to the Governor on behalf of the legislature. This work is done under time constraints imposed by the Minnesota Constitution.

In the 2005 regular and special sessions, 177 enrollments were prepared and in 2006, 114 were prepared.

Enrollments



ADMINISTRATIVE RULE DRAFTING

Rule Drafting and Form Approval of Rules

Source of mandate: Minnesota Statutes, sections 3C.03, subdivision 2, and 14.07, subdivisions 1, 2, and 4

The office provides administrative rule drafting services to agencies, providing assistance in proposing and adopting rules that are written clearly and concisely, consistent with legislative direction, and free of common drafting errors.

The office reviews and approves the form of all rules to ensure that they are numbered, formatted, and edited in a way that will fit smoothly into the published compilation of *Minnesota Rules*.

As part of this approval, the office certifies that documents incorporated by reference in rules are conveniently available to the public. In addition to form approval, substantive review is provided as a part of the drafting assistance performed by the office.

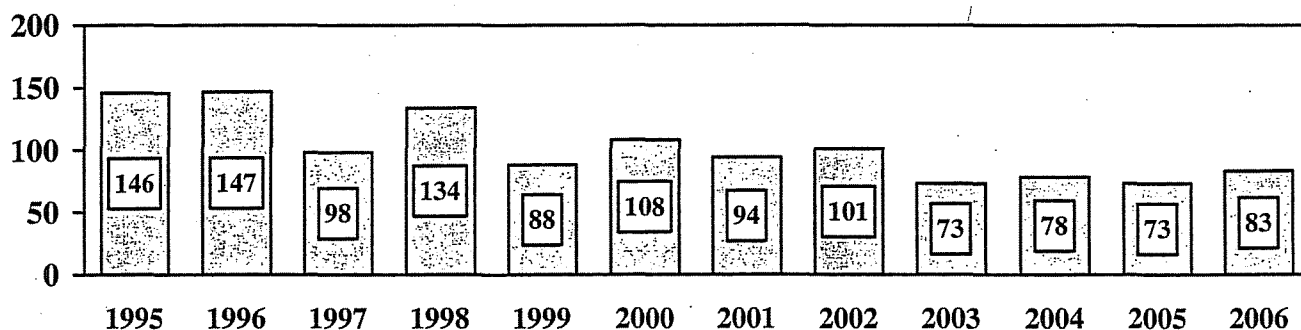
Quality controls for rule drafting include review and approval by the drafting attorneys and peer review by senior legal staff. Many redrafts of documents are typical as a part of the agencies' development of language for rules (see Average Document Drafts per File, next page). Other elements include clerical review, the use of specifically adapted computer programs, the text editing system, regular review of all processes, and formal and informal instruction of staff in quality control.

A relational database, for use by the Revisor's Office, stores status information on every action to Administrative Rules. The database contains information from 1981 to the present. In 2006 the data was converted to an Oracle database from an OpenText database. As part of the conversion, a new user interface was coded to allow staff to enter status information directly into

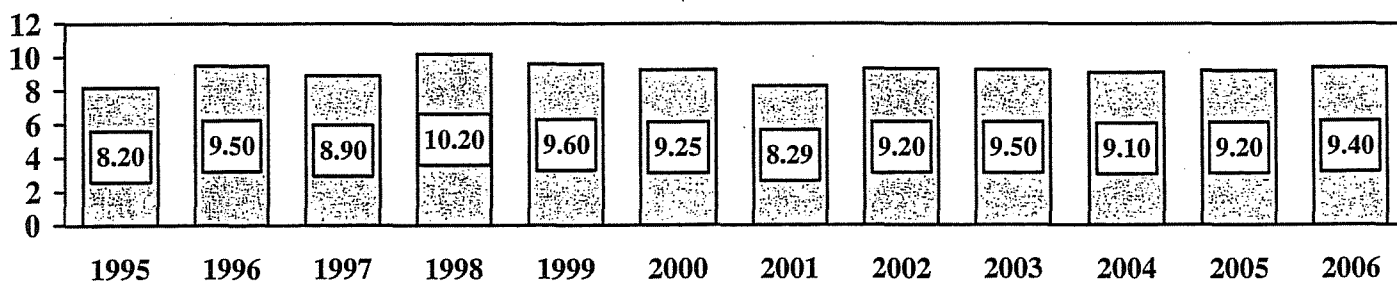
the Oracle database. This conversion allows the office to minimize complexity by standardizing on Oracle databases exclusively.

The office opened 73 rule drafting files in 2005 and 83 in 2006.

**New Rule Drafting Files
by Fiscal Year**



**Average Document Drafts per File
by Fiscal Year**

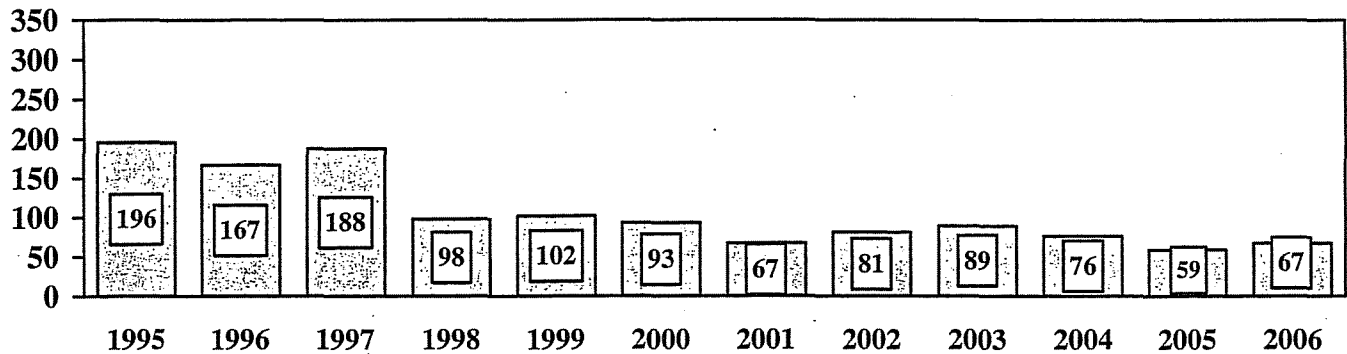


Proposed Rules

Source of Mandate: Minnesota Statutes, sections 14.07, 14.14, and 14.20

The Revisor's Office prepares the document that contains the text of a proposed rule, certified approved as to form, for publication in the *State Register*.

Final Proposed Rule Drafts Approved by Fiscal Year

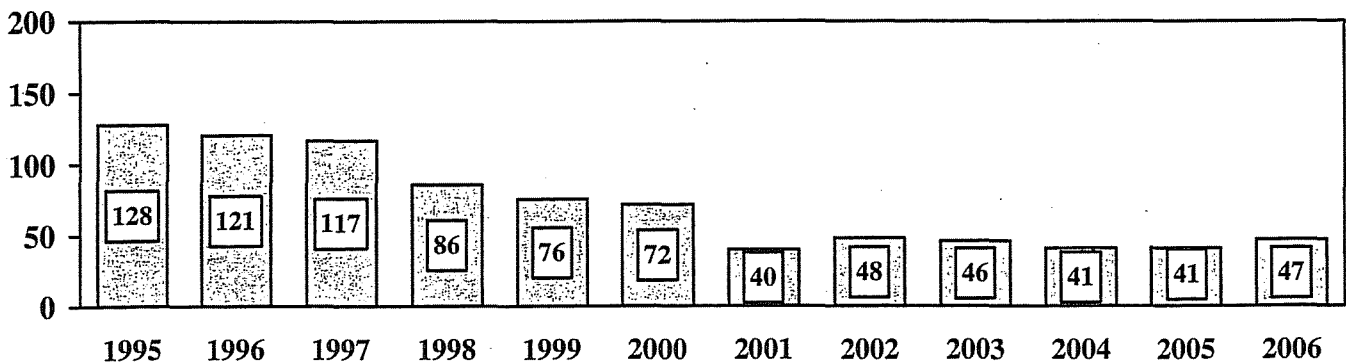


Modifications

Source of mandate: Minnesota Statutes, section 14.07

Agencies sometimes modify or change rules during the rulemaking process to correct defects found by the Office of Administrative Hearings, in response to public comment on the rules, on their own initiative, or to reflect suggestions made by the reviewing attorney in the office. The office prepares the text of these modifications to rules, approved as to form, for use by agencies.

Modifications by Fiscal Year

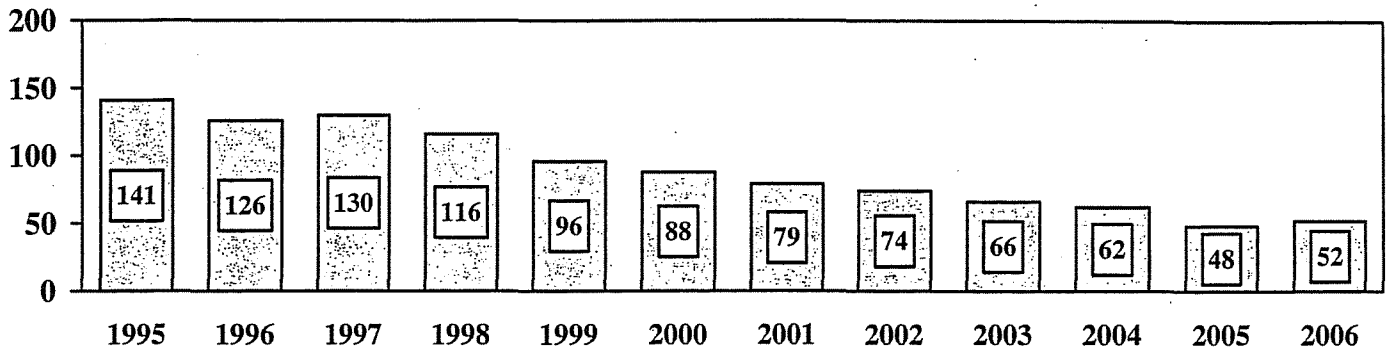


Notices of Adoption

Source of mandate: Minnesota Statutes, sections 14.18 and 14.27

Agencies are required to give the public notice of the adoption of rules. The office prepares and approves the form of these notices of adoption, which are then published in the *State Register*.

**Notices of Adoption
by Fiscal Year**

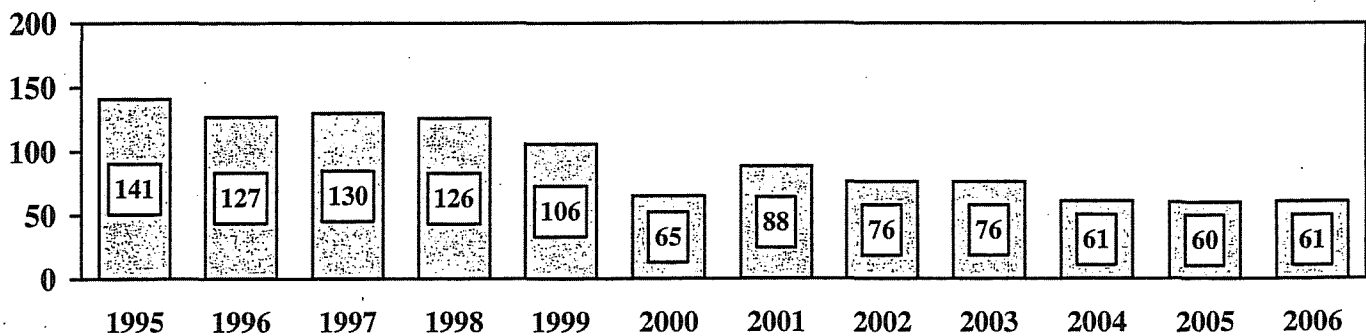


Adopted Rules

Source of mandate: Minnesota Statutes, sections 14.08, 14.20, 14.28, 14.38, 14.386, and 14.388

The office prepares copies of rules that have been adopted by agencies, approved as to form, for filing with the Secretary of State.

**Final Adopted Rules
by Fiscal Year**



PUBLICATIONS AND ACCESS TO DATA

Laws of Minnesota

Source of mandate: Minnesota Statutes, sections 3C.06 and 3C.08, subdivision 1

After each regular legislative session, the Revisor's Office publishes all laws enacted during that session. A computer program is used to check the integrity of the source statutory language in *Laws of Minnesota*.

Laws of Minnesota 2005 contains 169 chapters from the regular session and 8 chapters from the special session affecting 4,404 sections of *Minnesota Statutes*. The number of statutory sections affected in 2005, when compared with the comparable odd-numbered year session in 2003, represents a slight increase in acts passed and sections affected. The number of pages in the printed set increased by about 650 pages.

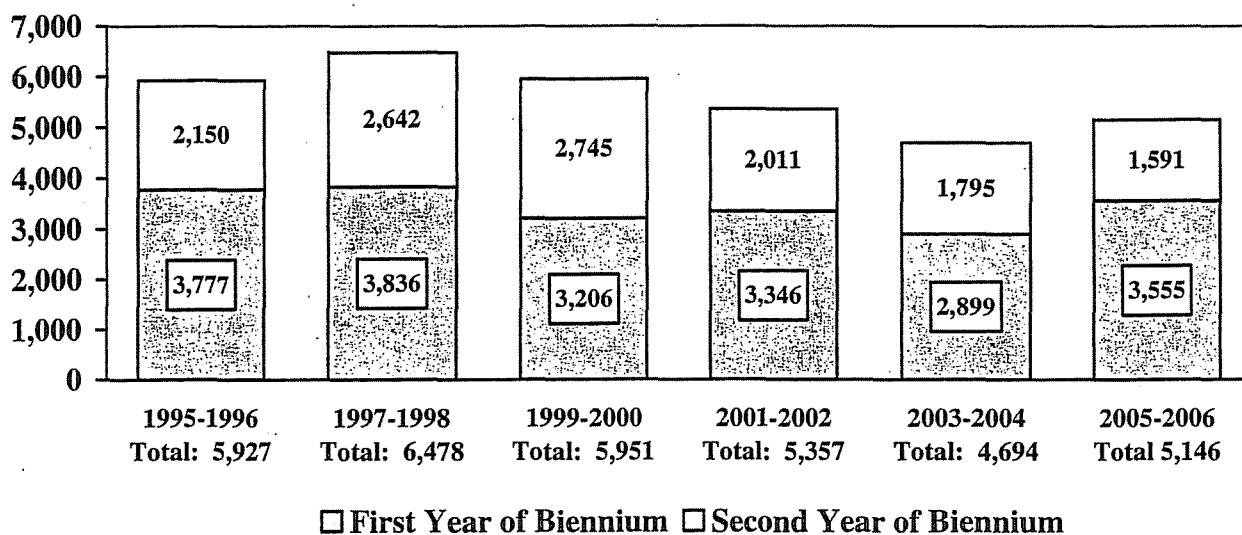
Laws of Minnesota 2006 contains 114 chapters affecting 2,077 sections of *Minnesota Statutes*. This is a slight decrease in the number of chapters over the comparable even-numbered year session in 2004. The actual bulk of the set, when comparing number of pages, decreased by about 200 pages.

The press run for *Laws of Minnesota* was again set at 2,500 sets, a reduction begun in 2001. Sales have decreased perhaps due to the online availability of the material.

Minnesota Statutes, section 3C.12, provides for free distribution of the session laws to certain listed bodies. The remainder are sold and the revenue is directed to the general fund.

Laws of Minnesota 2005 and *Laws of Minnesota 2006* are available to the public on the Internet, as well as in book form.

Session Law Pages



Minnesota Statutes and Supplement

Source of mandate: Minnesota Statutes, sections 3C.08 to 3C.12

Minnesota Statutes 2005 Supplement supplemented the 2004 edition of *Minnesota Statutes*. Because the revisor was planning a major conversion to a new computer system for the 2006

legislative session, many instructions to the revisor directing statutory changes were not included in the 2005 supplement. The decision to delay implementation of these changes was made in order to facilitate the data conversion needed for the new system as early as possible before the start of the 2006 session.

The full edition of *Minnesota Statutes 2006* will be available in December 2006. The publication includes section histories, tables, an index, and other editorial aids. The full set of *Minnesota Statutes* includes a volume of court rules.

Because the size of the statutes as a whole resulted in several large volumes unable to accommodate a supplement printed in pocket part format, the 2006 edition once again expanded to 15 volumes. Table, index, and court rules are printed in three soft cover volumes, while the statute text resides in 12 hard cover volumes. Volume breaks were also reconfigured. The expansion of the text into 12 full volumes will address the supplement issue as well as make the handling of individual volumes less cumbersome.

The 2006 edition contains the implementation of several major codifications and recodifications directed in 2005 and 2006 revisor instructions. For example, the child support provisions of chapter 518 were recodified into chapter 518A, Anoka County laws were codified as chapter 383E, and several other provisions were recodified. Other instructions directing terminology changes were implemented as well. For example, "mentally retarded," "mental retardation," "handicapped," and similar terms have been changed to "developmentally disabled," "developmental disability," and "disabled, disability, or people with disabilities" as appropriate.

The 2006 edition also reflects the implementation of *Laws 2005*, chapter 136, article 14, section 18, which directed the revisor to create a chapter in *Minnesota Statutes* that contains cross-references to Minnesota laws imposing collateral sanctions.

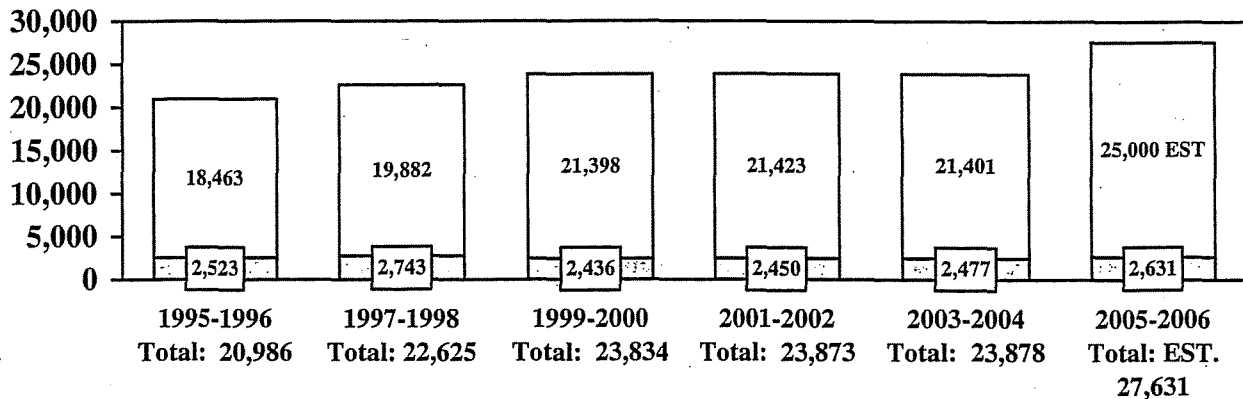
The result, *Minnesota Statutes*, chapter 609B, provides users of the statutes quick access to collateral sanctions by organizing the collateral sanctions into user-friendly categories under which cross-references fitting the category are placed.

All materials for the statutes are reviewed by staff attorneys and editors in two stages of the editorial work.

Like the session laws, free distribution of the statutes is provided for in *Minnesota Statutes*, section 3C.12. The remainder are sold and the revenue is directed to the general fund. The press run for the 2006 edition was reduced by 500 sets in response to a decline in sales, perhaps attributable to the availability of the text online.

Minnesota Statutes 2006 is available on the Internet, as well as in book form.

Statutes and Supplement Pages



☐ Supplement ☐ Full Publication

Laws Tables

Source of mandate: Minnesota Statutes, section 3C.08, subdivision 1

Laws that pertain to specific political subdivisions are infrequently coded in *Minnesota Statutes* and need finding aids to make them accessible. The Revisor's Office produces tables of these laws to accompany both the session law publication and the statutes. The tables are compiled by a staff attorney, not generated by a computer program. *Laws of Minnesota 2005*, Tables 4 to 6, and *Laws of Minnesota 2006*, Tables 4 and 5, list local laws passed alphabetically by the names of local government units. Also listed are the dates of local approval and the filing of approval with the Secretary of State if local approval has been filed. Table 1 of *Minnesota Statutes* also lists the acts alphabetically, from 1849 through the 2006 session.

The office also publishes other tables to help users find the law, including Table 1 of the session laws, indicating each time a previously enacted session law has been acted on in that legislative session. In 1999 the office began a project to prepare a consolidated, comprehensive Table 1. It now dates back to 1945 and is available on the Internet.

Other tables include, in *Laws of Minnesota*, a table to coordinate *Laws of Minnesota* with the permanent statutes and a table showing House or Senate file numbers with corresponding chapter numbers. *Minnesota Statutes* includes an allocation of acts table, a table representing the organization of state government, a statutory cross-reference table, and a table of statutory authority for administrative rules.

Statutory Editorial Operations

Session Year	Session Chapters	Session Law Pages	Average Pages Per Chapter	Statute or Supplement Pages	Statutory Units – Amended	Statutory Units - New	Statutory Units - Repealed	Total Statutory Units - Other	Statutory Units - Affected	Session Laws Press Run	Statutes and Supplement Press Run
1995	268	3,777	14.09	2,523	3,027	1,159	712	7	4,905	3,100	4,500
<u>1996</u>	<u>206</u>	<u>2,150</u>	<u>10.44</u>	<u>18,463</u>	<u>1,876</u>	<u>648</u>	<u>750</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>3,296</u>	3,100	4,500
Total	474	5,927	12.50	20,986	4,903	1,807	1,462	29	8,201		
1997	261	3,836	15.04	2,743	3,439	1,254	635	135	5,463	3,100	4,500
<u>1998</u>	<u>167</u>	<u>2,642</u>	<u>15.41</u>	<u>19,882</u>	<u>2,607</u>	<u>587</u>	<u>560</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>3,774</u>	3,100	4,500
Total	428	6,478	15.16	22,625	6,046	1,841	1,195	155	9,237		
1999	250	3,206	12.82	2,436	2,703	825	593	117	4,238	3,100	4,500
<u>2000</u>	<u>251</u>	<u>2,745</u>	<u>10.93</u>	<u>21,398</u>	<u>1,720</u>	<u>818</u>	<u>347</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>2,965</u>	3,100	4,500
Total	501	5,951	11.88	23,834	4,423	1,643	940	197	7,203		
2001	218	3,346	15.35	2,450	2,468	804	706	29	4,007	2,600	4,000
<u>2002</u>	<u>251</u>	<u>2,011</u>	<u>8.01</u>	<u>21,423</u>	<u>1,455</u>	<u>458</u>	<u>399</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>2,370</u>	<u>2,500</u>	4,000
Total	469	5,357	11.42	23,873	3,923	1,262	1,105	87	6,377	5,100	
2003	156	2,899	18.58	2,477	2,230	837	625	44	3,736	2,500	4,000
<u>2004</u>	<u>163</u>	<u>1,795</u>	<u>11.01</u>	<u>21,401</u>	<u>1,630</u>	<u>627</u>	<u>311</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>2,599</u>	<u>2,500</u>	4,000
Total	319	4,694	14.71	23,878	3,860	1,464	936	75	6,336	5,000	
2005	163	3,555	21.81	2,631	2,841	941	576	46	4,404	2,500	4,000
<u>2006</u>	<u>114</u>	<u>1,591</u>	<u>13.96</u>	<u>25,000 est.</u>	<u>1,218</u>	<u>501</u>	<u>342</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>2,077</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>3,500</u>
Total	277	5,146	35.77	27,631 est.	4,059	1,442	918	62	6,481	5,000	7,500

Minnesota Rules and Supplement

Source of mandate: *Minnesota Statutes*, section 14.47

A supplement to *Minnesota Rules 2003* was published in 2004. The supplement contained changes to *Minnesota Rules 2003* adopted through September 7, 2004.

A full edition of *Minnesota Rules* was published in 2005. In response to budget constraints, the edition was again published in soft, rather than hard cover. The official publication includes a table of *State Register* citations, a table of amendments, and a table of statutory authority.

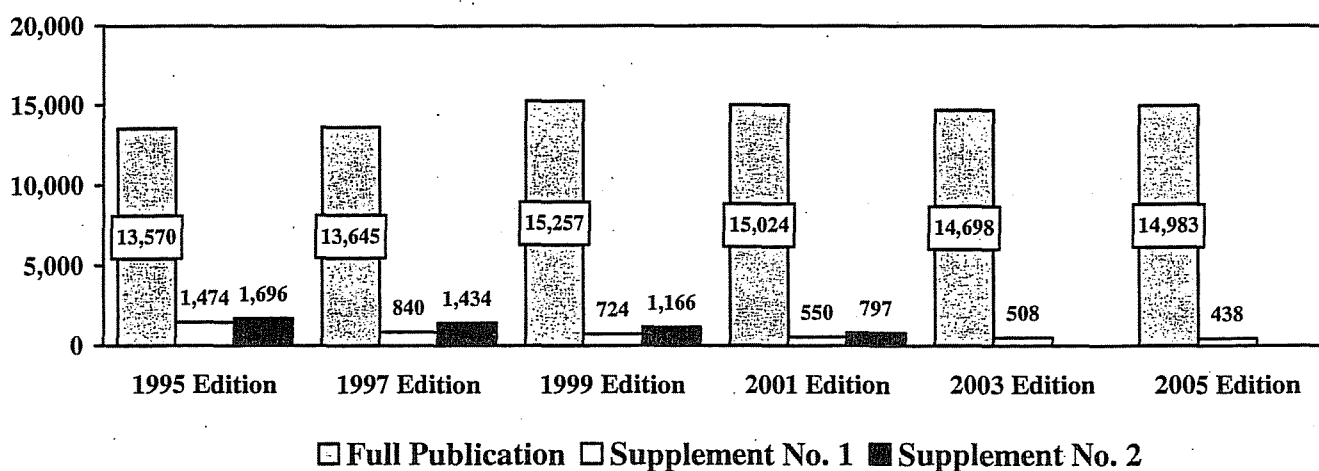
Like the statutes, many changes to the rules are directed by the legislature in the form of revisor's instructions. Legislation in 2005-2006 produced a number of such changes, adding both to the volume and complexity of the editorial work for the rules.

Over the last several editions of *Minnesota Rules*, the Revisor's Office has instituted a process to remove obsolete rules under its authority in *Minnesota Statutes*, section 14.47, subdivision 6. This process has enabled some agencies to avoid a lengthy and expensive formal rulemaking process.

The office is currently planning the complete migration of the rules to its new XML-based computer system. This conversion is planned for fall of 2007. The text of *Minnesota Rules* is available on the Internet, as well as in print form. The online text is updated throughout the year as changes are adopted.

The 2005 published edition was supplemented in 2006 in pamphlet format.

Rules and Supplement Pages



Indexes

Source of mandate: Minnesota Statutes, sections 3C.06, 3C.08, and 14.47

The Revisor's Office produced the following indexes in fiscal years 2005 and 2006:

- index to *Laws of Minnesota 2005*
- index to *Laws of Minnesota 2006*
- index to *Minnesota Statutes 2005 Supplement* (pocket part; work in progress at this writing)
- index to *Minnesota Statutes 2006* (full set published)
- index to *Minnesota Rules 2004, Supplement 2* (pocket part)
- index to *Minnesota Rules 2005* (full set published)
- index to *Minnesota Rules 2006 Supplement* (pocket part)
- indexes to the *Court Rules* volume of the statutes set in 2005
- indexes for internal publications as needed

Continuing the practice first implemented with the budget cuts of 2003, the Revisor's Office does the bulk of its indexing work in house. We use freelance indexers under contract to the office for the indexing of all-new statutory material only.

The plan begun in 2003 to shorten and simplify the statutes index has been further developed and carried out in 2005 and 2006. We expect to be able to publish the 2006 statutes index and tables together in two volumes. This will make it possible to reconfigure the other volumes as needed without increasing publication costs.

The full statutes index continues to be available on line as well as in print. The session law indexes are also available in print and electronic forms.

Court Rules

Source of mandate: Minnesota Statutes, section 3C.08, subdivision 1

In accordance with *Minnesota Statutes*, section 3C.08, the office publishes *Minnesota Court Rules* in a separate volume that accompanies *Minnesota Statutes*. Work on the 2005 supplement to the *Court Rules* volume was completed on schedule. The supplement included extensive amendments to the General Rules of Practice and Juvenile Court, as well as amendments to the Sentencing Guidelines, Civil Procedure, Professional Rules, and No-Fault Arbitration Rules. The *Court Rules* volume will be published in the fall of 2006 and will include amendments to existing rules and new sets of rules received through August 1, 2006. This volume will include extensive amendments to the General Rules of Practice, as well as amendments to Civil Procedure, Criminal Procedure, and Professional Rules.

Revisor's Manual

Source of mandate: Minnesota Statutes, section 3C.03, subdivision 4

The office publishes a manual of form requirements and drafting advice for the use of those who draft bills. A substantially revised edition of the bill drafting manual was published in November 2002. A PDF and HTML version of this manual is available on our Web site.

Rule Drafting Manual

Source of mandate: Minnesota Statutes, section 14.07, subdivision 1, clause (2)

The office publishes a manual of form requirements and drafting advice for the use of those who draft administrative rules. A new edition of the rule drafting manual is being prepared to replace the edition published in 1997. It will be substantially reorganized and revised. Many new forms and aids to the user will be included. An electronic version of this manual is available on our Web site.

Rulemaking Guide

Source of mandate: custom and usage

Since 1987, the office has published a guide to help agencies through the process of adopting rules. *Rulemaking in Minnesota: A Guide* describes each of the three types of rulemaking proceedings, explains what is required of agencies at each stage of the process, and provides references to the applicable laws and rules. The guide is periodically revised as necessary to include changes made to these laws and rules. A revised guide will be published in 2007, and will be available in electronic form on our Web site.

Computer Searches

Source of mandate: Minnesota Statutes, section 3C.03 (extension of bill drafting assistance)

The office has customized commercial software to perform word and phrase searches in documents. The public uses this software on the Web site to search statutes, session laws, and administrative rules. In 2006 the office's Web site became the principal site for text searches in these documents.

Legislative staff use customized search capabilities built into the XTEND legislative publishing system. These searches are displayed in a user interface designed to expedite proofing and editing. As well as doing such searches for our own drafting and editorial work, the office does searches at the request of members, agencies, and some outside entities such as the County Attorneys Association.

Copies of, and Access to, Public Data

Source of mandate: custom and usage

The legislative Web site is made available to the public by the Revisor's Office in conjunction with the House and Senate index offices and the Legislative Reference Library. Our office provides access to the text of bills, statutes, and administrative rules as well as finding aids such as indexes and search software. The Web site also provides public access to House and Senate bill status information. This information is input by House and Senate index staff, but computer support is provided by the revisor's data systems staff. Internet information is set out in more detail on pages 29 and 30.

The office also makes available, upon request, computer disks and paper extracts containing the text of portions of *Minnesota Statutes* and *Minnesota Rules*. Transfers are done for bills, statutes, and rules for state agencies, as well as for the general public. During the biennium, 79 paper and electronic extracts were requested for a total of 21,313 pages. Many of these extracts were customized combinations of statutes and rules. The Revisor's Office charges a fee for the

extracts with a \$500 maximum for large documents. Revenue from the extracts is transferred to the general fund. Extract requests for the biennium were reduced by almost half from the previous biennium, possibly due to the availability of statutes and rules on the Internet.

The office also sells copies of our entire databases or portions of our databases to outside sources as requested. Currently, the largest purchasers we have are Lexis-Nexis for use on its online services and West Group for use on the online Westlaw service.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND LIAISON

Counsel to Subcommittee on Claims

Source of mandate: Minnesota Statutes, section 3C.04, subdivision 6, and custom and usage of the legislature (requested by LCC)

At the request of the Legislative Coordinating Commission, since 1991 the office has assigned an attorney to act as counsel to the Joint Senate/House Subcommittee on Claims. Senior Assistant Revisor Craig Lindeke has acted as the counsel since the 1993 legislative session. Duties include reviewing the hundreds of claims made to the subcommittee, making recommendations on each claim, acting as counsel at subcommittee hearings, responding to telephone calls and correspondence from claimants and their lawyers, and drafting the annual claims bill. The work has included traveling to various places around the state to better understand claims.

Fifteen claims were paid in the 2006 claims bill. (*Laws of Minnesota 2006, chapter 238*).

Court Opinions Report

Source of mandate: Minnesota Statutes, section 3C.04, subdivision 3

As required by *Minnesota Statutes*, section 3C.04, subdivision 3, the office prepares a biennial report on Supreme Court and Court of Appeals opinions declaring a statute unconstitutional, pointing out deficiencies in a statute, or recommending statutory changes. To produce the report, staff attorneys read and review every case from the preceding two-year period. Reports are submitted in November of each even-numbered year. Since 1998, Senior Assistant Revisor Ron Ray has acted as lead coordinator and reporter for the report.

The report submitted in November 2004 contained ten cases. Four cases involved questions of constitutionality in particular statutory applications.

Uniform Laws Conference

Source of mandate: Minnesota Statutes, section 3.251

The revisor or the revisor's designated representative is one of Minnesota's four appointed Uniform State Laws commissioners. Michele Timmons attended the 2005 and 2006 meetings of the National Conference on Uniform State Laws. Upon completing service on the drafting committee for the Uniform Environmental Covenants Act, Ms. Timmons began serving on the drafting committee for the Uniform Collateral Sanctions Act.

Over the biennium, the conference approved thirteen new acts, five in 2005 and eight in 2006. The five approved in 2005 included uniform acts on Debt-Management Services, Foreign-

Country Money Judgments Recognition, Assignment of Rents, Certificates of Title, plus the Model Entity Transactions Act. In 2006, uniform acts approved were on the topics of Emergency Volunteer Healthcare Practitioners, Anatomical Gifts, Prudent Management of Institutional Funds, Child Abduction Prevention, Power of Attorney, Limited Liability Company, Representation of Children in Abuse, Neglect and Custody Proceedings, plus the Model Registered Agents Act. In addition, the conference took steps to enhance its role in international law and with Native American tribal law.

The office drafts uniform laws at the request of Minnesota commissioners for introduction and consideration by the Minnesota Legislature. In the 2005-2006 biennium, the office drafted more than 10 uniform acts. Important amendments to the Minnesota Common Interest Ownership Act were adopted in 2005, and the Uniform Securities Act was adopted in 2006. Minnesota has now adopted 60 uniform acts, placing the state in the top ten nationwide for uniform act adoptions.

Information for Other State Offices and the General Public

Source of mandate: Minnesota Statutes, section 3.251

Attorneys and other staff in the Revisor's Office respond to numerous questions from the public relating to laws, statutes, and rules. Attorneys and the office's language specialist also act as faculty for continuing legal education, addressing classes in law or public administration, and participating in organizations such as the Interagency Rules Committee. The computer searches we provide are also a source of information to state agencies and the public.

We provide information to state agencies in conjunction with our drafting duties. We have offered or assisted in offering seminars to agency staff on drafting in general and on specialized areas in drafting. We participate in the annual training for agency rulemaking staff coordinated by the Department of Employee Relations.

In 1999 the office began a series of educational seminars for attorneys and other staff. A total of 38.5 hours of continuing legal education credit has been obtained for these seminars, which have been attended by hundreds of legislative and executive branch staff, members of the legislature, and members of the public. The office offers as many seminars as it can fit into its workload each year. During the 2005 legislative interim, the office offered four seminars for a total of six hours of continuing legal education credit. In 2006 six seminars have or will be offered, for a total of eight hours of continuing legal education credit. Notices announcing the seminars are sent legislativewide and to the executive branch departments, the judicial branch, and various other members of the Minnesota bar. Seminars have been offered on a variety of topics with a focus on topics that may be of interest to the legislature. The topics have included a discussion of the newest version of the revisor bill drafting manual that was published in 2002, professional responsibility, elimination of bias, legislative research on the Internet, prisons and prisoners, redistricting, rulemaking, legislative immunity, and current Minnesota Supreme Court decisions.

The seminars are offered to provide educational opportunities particularly to legislative staff because of the very minimal number of seminars on topics with a legislative focus offered by outside vendors. Also, the seminars provide a service to all attorneys employed by the legislature who are required by the Minnesota Supreme Court to earn legal education credits. These free seminars reduce the cost of continuing legal education credits for all legislative, executive branch, and judicial branch staff attorneys, particularly during the current times of tight budgets and budget reduction.

During the biennium, office staff have also participated in meetings of the Council of State Government, the National Conference of State Legislatures, and the Minnesota Bar Association. The office also helped to staff the legislature's State Fair booth and the House of Representatives new member orientation.

Compiling Data on Operation and Effect of Laws

Source of Mandate: Minnesota Statutes, section 3C.04, subdivision 2

The office gathers information on the operation and effect of laws by encouraging staff to request specialized legal treatises relating to their assigned bill drafting subject areas. Several attorneys have acquired collections that they actively use in drafting. Acquisitions to these collections are made on a regular basis, but have been reduced due to budget reductions.

Internal Operations

The new computer development project has served as a catalyst for better documenting office procedures, and looking at new ways to improve them. For example, the new system can print in bold type, which has given us the possibility of making bill drafts look more like the published session laws. With a standards-based system, emailing of bill drafts to members is a much easier, quicker process. In redesigning our internal, Revisor's Office bill tracking system, we have added the ability to track amendments as well as bills. This improved tracking will help us give members better customer service when inquiring about the status of a particular drafting request.

In addition to our focus on improvements for the future, we have also been working on preserving the past. Session laws published prior to 1982 have been preserved only in book form, and many of those books are crumbling. The Revisor's Office is participating in two different grant projects to explore ways of archiving the session laws in a digital format. The Minnesota Digital Library has just completed a pilot project by scanning the volume of earliest territorial laws from 1849 to 1853, and this information is now available on their Web site. The Revisor's Office has received disks containing the scanned material, and we will experiment with getting the information into an accessible database. The Revisor's Office is also participating in a National Historical Publications and Records Commission grant project together with the Minnesota Historical Society, Legislative Reference Library, and several California partners including the San Diego Supercomputer Center and the California Legislative Counsel's office. The purpose of the grant is to explore and test the electronic transmission of Minnesota's XML-based legislative data to the San Diego Supercomputer Center for digital archiving. To date, specialized technology has been installed in the Revisor's Office, and initial tests have successfully transmitted data.

Following the devastation we all witnessed from Hurricane Katrina, the Revisor's Office has also placed greater emphasis on disaster recovery and business continuation. If data could be archived in a remote location such as San Diego, it would also serve as a deep backup in the event of a local disaster. The Revisor's Office has improved immediate backup capability by moving the backup hardware and software from the State Office Building basement to the computer unit location at Park Street. We will be continuing to review disaster plans, especially to consider the possibility of other disasters such as pandemic flu.

COMPUTER SERVICES

New System Development

Source of mandate: custom and usage

In March 2002, the Revisor's Office began a pilot project to determine the feasibility of replacing the existing 30 year-old bill-drafting system with an XML-based system. The pilot project concluded in September 2002 with the recommendation to immediately begin a project to develop an XML-based system. More specifically, a consultant who developed Ohio's legislative bill drafting system recommended that Minnesota purchase XML-based editing software, a widely used relational database, and an XML-based composition engine. In addition, the consultant recommended that the same widely used relational database be obtained to replace the bill status system.

The new XTEND (Xml-based Text Editor New Development) system was successfully used by the revisor and other legislative offices for the 2006 legislative session. Full development of the XTEND project began October 2002 and will continue through June of 2007. This project has vast implications for the Revisor's Office.

- Every piece of revisor computer hardware and software will be replaced during the project.
- 20 new Intel servers were purchased to run the commercial software recommended by the consultant and to support software development and testing.
- 60 new Wyse/Citrix terminals were purchased to support the XML editor.
- Data was meticulously converted from mainframe format (EBCDIC) to XML (UTF-8) format.
- Features produced over 30 years of software development on the old bill drafting systems (TE and XTE) are being replicated in the new system (XTEND).
- House, Senate, and Revisor software used to extract portions of documents must be rewritten to use XML files or Oracle databases.
- Bill status system data from 1995-2004 was migrated to an Oracle database. All data entry and reporting software was rewritten in different programming languages.

Today, both in-house and contract programmers are customizing off-the-shelf software to meet legislative needs. Other legislative offices have participated in the projects since its beginning and continue to be essential contributors to XTEND's evolution. To date, core bill drafting functions have all been programmed, including difficult features such as auto-engrossing and side-by-side creation. During 2006 and 2007, the ability to produce Administrative Rules and Court Rules will be added to the system.

Maintaining Information Systems

Source of mandate: custom and usage

Revisor information systems provide computer programs and equipment to support drafting and publication work of the Revisor's Office. Computer and network hardware, software, peripherals, and data are maintained to support the work of House, Senate, and LCC offices. Training and help desk support is provided to legislative users and the public. There are approximately 130 users who create and edit documents, and many additional users who access information through the Internet.

Revisor's information systems (IS) are used by the legislature, executive branch agencies, and the public. Legislative users include:

House

- Chief Clerk's Office
- House Research Department
- House Index

Senate

- Secretary of the Senate's Office
- Office of Senate Counsel and Research
- Senate Index

Legislative Coordinating Commission

- Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement
- Revisor's Office

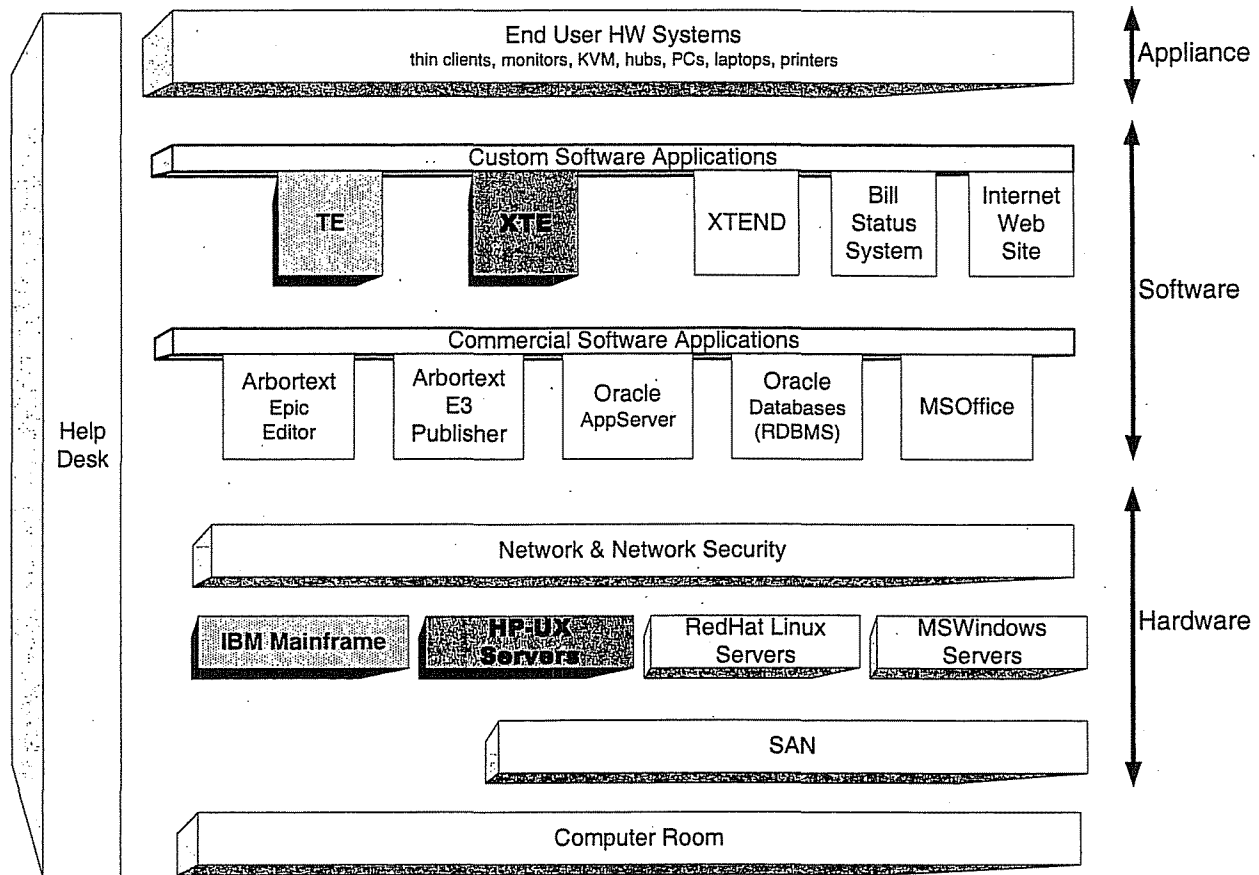
The core information technologies (IT) include: a secure and environmentally controlled computer room, network equipment, a storage area network (SAN), computer servers, relational database management system (RDBMS), commercial software products, and custom software products.

The information technologies are combined to create information systems (IS). The core information systems include: a) desktop Citrix terminals and office productivity software for revisor staff; b) a secure local area network (LAN) for digital communication within and outside the Legislature; c) customized software applications for production of Minnesota Legislature documents, Administrative Rules, and Court Rules; d) bill status system for data entry and retrieval; and e) Internet Web site.

These systems are used to manage the entire lifecycle of 45 document types. Forty of these document types are legislative documents and five are Administrative and Court Rules. The document lifecycle is creation, storage, revision, printing, and format conversion. Some documents (e.g. statutes) are also transmitted to the Web site and/or a compositor contractor for publishing.

Figure 1.1 shows the hierarchical dependencies of these technologies and systems.

Figure 1.1. Revisor Computer IT Hierarchy



1. Computer Room

The revisor maintains a secured and environmentally controlled computer room. This room contains the IBM mainframe and many other pieces of computer hardware. This room has a raised floor, contains 3 air conditioning units, and a Liebert UPS with battery backup. The Revisor, House, and LCC use this room.

Between 2005-2006 the revisor contracted for significant improvements to the fire suppression system, alarm system, and structure of the computer room to make it compliant with Saint Paul fire code. A cylinder of FM200 fire suppression agent was installed. New smoke detectors and notification devices, and a manual pull switch were installed. New piping to dispense the FM200 was installed in the computer room ceiling. Carpentry modifications were made to the room to keep the FM200 agent inside the computer room. The detectors, switches, and air conditioning system are integrated to reduce air circulation during a fire. After the systems successfully passed inspection, training was provided to users of the computer room and the Department of Administration.

Storage Area Network (SAN) –

The revisor maintains a one terabyte (TB) SAN. The SAN is a high availability, expandable device. It consists of a cabinet of disk drives that can be logically combined and allocated to multiple servers. Each connected server reads/writes data to the SAN, in addition to its internal disks. By using a SAN, disk space can be added and removed without disrupting server operations. Additionally, the SAN automatically monitors its health, rearranges data on the disks for fastest access, and employs RAID technology to prevent loss of data in case of a disk drive failure.

In 2005, statutes, session laws, bill drafts, and all Web site documents were migrated to the SAN. By mid-2007 Administrative Rules will be migrated from the mainframe to the SAN. At that time, all documents will reside on the SAN.

2. IBM Mainframe

The mainframe is scheduled to be retired from service in 2007. The mainframe hosts the TE software application that is being replaced by the XTEND application described below.

3. HP-UX Servers

The HP-UX servers are scheduled to be retired from service in 2007. These servers host the XTE software application that is being replaced by the XTEND application described below.

4. Red Hat Linux Servers & Microsoft Windows Servers

Red Hat Linux and Microsoft Windows servers run the revisor's commercial and custom software applications. Twenty servers are in use to run these production applications and to support continuous software development efforts.

5. Network & Network Security

Network security is a serious responsibility. Breaches in network security can render information systems unusable for a period of time, potentially interfering with the operation of the Legislature. The network hardware and software described below seek to minimize this pervasive risk. Additionally, the Revisor's Office participates in the Legislative Security and Infrastructure Group (LSIG) and plays a key role in network security. One staff person serves as the Security Firewall System Administrator (consuming approximately 33% of his time). This one person performs firewall administration duties for all offices participating in the LSIG.

The Revisor's Office network consists of hardware and software components dedicated to reliable and secure delivery of data. The core of the network is a pair of Cisco layer three switches responsible for the data routing decisions. The layer three switches are the network connection point for servers, access switches, and firewalls.

Servers connected to the layer three switches are: IBM mainframe, HP-UX servers, Red Hat Linux Servers, and Microsoft Windows Servers.

Access switches are the connection point for devices such as client machines and printers. They are located near end users and are distributed in nine locations in the Capitol, State Office Building, and the Park Street office.

The network uses a pair of redundant Cisco PIX (Private Internet Exchange) firewalls. A network firewall protects a computer network from unauthorized/malicious access from the

outside. The firewalls connect the Revisor's network to the Internet and act primarily as a security gateway. Through the use of access lists, the firewalls permit or deny inbound and outbound traffic based on certain criteria, such as source and/or destination IP addressing, and source and/or destination application port numbers. The firewalls are redundant in that one acts as the primary unit, while the other is in a standby mode. The secondary unit constantly monitors the primary unit in case it should fail, and has the capability to take over processing immediately so no active connections are lost.

The network uses a specialized device called the Cisco Intrusion Detection System (IDS) appliance. The IDS sits on the network between the Internet and the PIX firewalls looking for known virus and malware code in the incoming and outgoing data through the use of predefined strings. Monitoring software is also used in the network to alert support staff when problems occur. This software communicates with each network device and sends a page and/or an e-mail when a critical device or service stops responding. Other software is used to monitor bandwidth usage and device resources, such as cpu and memory utilization.

6. Commercial Software Applications

The revisor renews license agreements for multiple commercial software products. These products provide essential features that would be cost prohibitive to code and maintain in-house. In addition, these products can be extended by adding custom code to provide the unique functionality required by the Minnesota Legislature.

The Arbortext products are the base-line XML processing applications upon which XTEND customizations are built. The Oracle products support the XTEND system as well. The Oracle database supports multiple custom applications (storage of all XTEND documents, full text searching of documents, and multiple revisor-only databases) and is queried directly by House and Senate IS applications. The MS Office suite of applications is used for office productivity tasks and its file formats are the defacto standard for data exchange.

Custom Software Application

Source of mandate: custom and usage

1. TE (Text Editor)

TE is first generation, computerized document production system, customized for the Minnesota Legislature. TE and its predecessor have served the Revisor's Office and Legislature well for over 30 years. TE system design began in the mid-1970s with the installation and configuration of the commercial software package, Aspen Qwik-Draft. Between 1980 and 1990 the TE system was created by one consultant and two staff programmers. TE is written in the assembler language and runs on one IBM mainframe computer.

The TE application is scheduled for removal in 2007. It is being replaced by the XTEND application. Today, TE is used only for production of Administrative and Court Rules.

2. XTE (X-windows Text Editor)

XTE is the second generation, document production system, customized for the Minnesota Legislature. XTE attempted to move all the features of the TE system to less expensive Hewlett-Packard servers, to add a windows user interface, and to add the ability to print to PostScript laser printers. Between 1990 and 2002 the XTE system was under development by one consultant and three staff programmers. XTE is written in the C, X-Windows, and Uni-Rexx languages and runs on three Hewlett-Packard UNIX servers.

The XTE application is scheduled for removal in 2007. It is being replaced by the XTEND application. Today, XTE is used only for production of Administrative Rules.

3. XTEND (Xml-based Text Editor, New Development)

XTEND is the third generation, document production system, customized for the Minnesota Legislature. XTEND is replacing all features found in prior TE and XTE systems. XTEND architecture minimizes long-term maintenance costs by using popular computer hardware (Intel servers running Windows and Linux operating systems), and commercially available software products (Arbortext and Oracle) for common functionality. These products are extended with custom written software to provide features unique to the Minnesota Legislature.

XTEND system development began in September 2002. The system reached production ready status for the 2006 legislative session. All legislative document types and Senate document types were produced for the 2006 session. Support for Administrative Rules and Court Rules will be completed in 2007. At that time, XTEND will completely replace TE and XTE.

XTEND software development began in January of 2003 and will continue through June of 2007. Software is being written by four full time equivalent (FTE) consultants and three staff programmers. XTEND is written using multiple languages.

- Document structure definition
 - Document Type Definition (DTD)
 - XML Schema Definition (XSD)
- Document display and conversion
 - Arbortext FOSI
 - Arbortext Styler
 - XSL Transformations (XSLT)
- XML operations
 - XPath
- Software operations
 - Arbortext ACL
 - Java
 - J2EE (on the application server)
 - SQL (for database operations)
 - Ant (for deployment)

XTEND offers many legislature-unique capabilities. Examples are the ability to automatically generate a bill title; automatically engross, i.e. incorporate, amendments into a bill; create side-

by-side displays of two similar bills; extract data from many documents and databases to create Senate calendars and the Daily Journal; and transmit converted documents to Revisor, House, and Senate servers for display on Web sites.

Many legislative offices use the XTEND system.

- Revisor's Office - produces resolutions, bill drafts, engrossments, amendments, House committee reports, conference committee reports, side-by-side reports, enrollments, session law editing and publication, statute editing and publication.
- House Research & Office of Senate Counsel and Research – prepare resolutions, bill drafts, and amendments.
- Offices under the Secretary of the Senate - produce Senate agenda, calendars, daily and permanent journals; committee reports, floor amendments.
- Chief Clerk's Office staff – use XTEND to export documents that are then processed and included in the daily and permanent journals.

4. Bill Status System

The revisor maintains a bill status system that is utilized by House Index and Senate Index. The purpose of this system is to record each body's actions on each introduced bill and make this information publicly available. The bill status system consists of a user interface for entering information, a database for storing the information, and reporting programs to retrieve and display the actions on a specific bill.

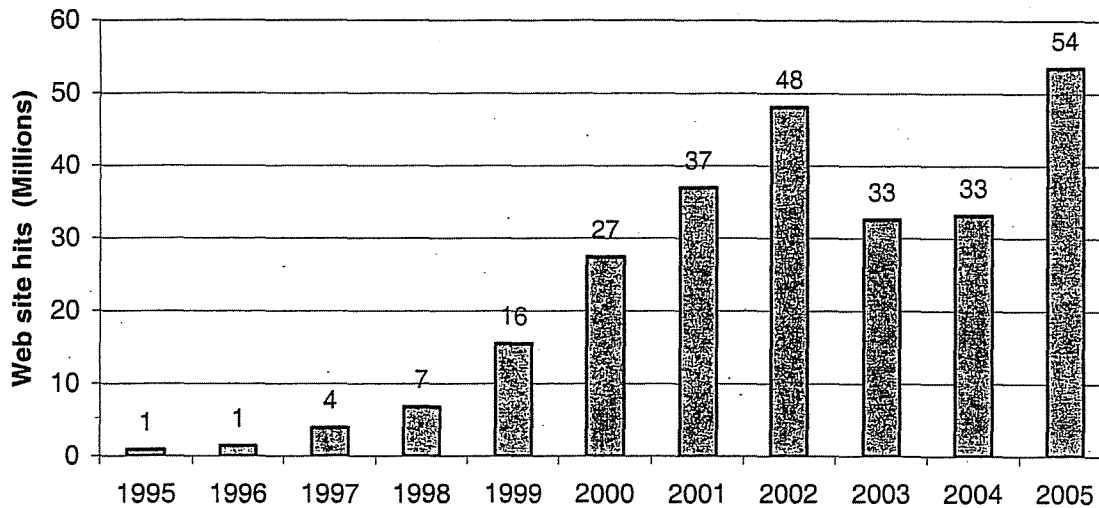
In the 1998 biennium, the House and Senate bill status systems were migrated from the IBM mainframe to a commercial RDBMS, called BASIS, running on a UNIX server. In the 2005 biennium the system was again migrated to an Oracle database running on Linux.

In preparation for the 2005 session, House and Senate status information was exported from BASIS and imported into Oracle database tables. New user interface programs were written using Oracle Forms. Oracle Forms allows House and Senate Index staff to enter information on a form and the data is then saved in the database. New reporting programs were written to retrieve and display the information for a user specified bill. These programs run on the revisor Web site.

5. Internet Web Site

Revisor efforts in providing Internet access to data have been very successful. We have been able to contribute a considerable portion of data to the main legislative Web site. Statistical counts for access to data on our Web applications are consistently high, especially during the legislative session when counts exceed 1,000,000 for a weekly time period. Figure 1.2 shows the annual number of revisor Web site "hits" (i.e., browser requests) since the 1995 introduction of a Gopher server.

Figure 1.2. Total annual access to revisor web server



Almost all official revisor's publications are available on the Internet via the legislative Web site, including *Minnesota Statutes*, *Laws of Minnesota*, and *Minnesota Rules*. The Revisor's Office provided the court rules database to the court system and consequently the court rules are now available through the Minnesota Supreme Court's Web site.

Minnesota Statutes is fully updated annually online although the printed publication is only fully updated every two years. In addition, *Laws of Minnesota* is available online from 1994 to the present. The office has begun to make a preliminary version of session laws available online shortly after the conclusion of each legislative session. This new practice provides session laws to the public much earlier than they could be made available in printed form.

The office uses a commercial software product, CINDEX, to create the indexes for *Laws of Minnesota* and *Minnesota Statutes* and to make them available on the Internet. Programs were written to format the indexes with internal links and with links to session laws and statutory sections. We hope to develop the capability of updating the index to *Minnesota Rules* as frequently as the rules text; when we can do so, we will be able to provide an online index to *Minnesota Rules*.

In 2004 the revisor Web site was rebuilt to access bill status information stored in Oracle and to replace 1990 web technologies with lower cost and higher performance technologies. A Linux server was purchased to replace the UNIX server. Two open source software products were selected to build the new Web site: Apache HTTP server, and the PHP scripting language. Also during the rebuild, new LNET specifications were implemented for legislative page content. These new specs standardize the appearance of the multiple legislative Web sites resulting in seamless and efficient navigation for Web site users.

Construction and improvements to the Web site continued in 2005 biennium.

- A revisor intranet was created to provide web-based access to revisor-specific information.
- A second web server was added for increased security and responsiveness. The second server resides in the DMZ and services all non-legislative users. Another web server is dedicated to legislative users.

- A dedicated Oracle database server is under construction. This server and database will respond to web-based queries exclusively, resulting in faster data retrieval for users.

In 2006 the revisor Web site assumed responsibility for performing text searches of Session Laws, Statutes, and Administrative Rules. Previously, the state's North Star Web site provided this service. Combined with online indexes, users have a powerful arsenal of tools to quickly find relevant documents.

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