

January 2002

Legislators and legislative staff have long relied on the publications *Minnesota Resources* and *Introductions* to keep abreast of selected new Minnesota documents and other public policy reports acquired by the Legislative Reference Library. People outside of the legislature have found these publications useful also.

In order to improve the quality of information and make it timely, we have combined the content into a new publication. The new publication, *Just In*, will replace *Minnesota Resources* and *Introductions*. *Just In* will be published once a month and the citations will be divided by subject categories. Minnesota documents and legislatively mandated reports will be marked as such.

We would also like to take this opportunity to tell our legislative patrons about the revised Library's Intranet for the Legislature. The new address is: http://venus.library.leg.state.mn.us/intranet/ You can access our Intranet directly, or follow the links from the House or Senate Intranets, provided you are accessing from a Capitol area terminal.

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- Check the Library's catalog for books and reports.
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- Find magazine articles on a particular topic.
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- Find out about Library services.
- Find historical data on the Legislature and state government.

If you have any questions about the Library or would like to request information on a topic, just email us at refdesk@library.leg.state.mn.us or call us at 296-8338.

New & Notable Books and Reports

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AGRICULTURE

DAIRY INDUSTRY: INFORMATION ON MILK PRICES AND CHANGING MARKET STRUCTURE. GAO. June 15, 2001. HD9282.U4U546 2001. www.gao.gov/new.items/d01561.pdf
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«title» «firstname» «lastname» («PATRONID»)

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February 2002

States around the country are dealing with greatly changed economic conditions from the fiscal situation of the past few years. As Minnesota begins attempts to remedy a projected budget shortfall, we have highlighted some recent items in the Library's collection on the topic.

The Minnesota Budget: A Fiscal Policy Analysis. Saint Paul, MN: Office of Fiscal Policy Analysis, Minnesota State Senate, 2000. (HJ2053.M6 M562 2000) http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/departments/FiscalAnalysis/briefs/fpsfinal.pdf

State Responses to Tight Fiscal Conditions. Washington, D.C.: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 2001. (HJ275.C37 2001) http://www.cbpp.org/9-9-01sfp-rep.pdf

Unbalanced Priorities: Dividing up the Surplus in the 2001 Legislative Session. St. Paul, MN: Minnesota Budget Project, 2001 (HJ2053.M6 U53 2001) http://www.mncn.org/bp/surplus.pdf

Zahradnik, Bob and Nick Johnson. "State Rainy Day Funds: What to do When it Rains?" Washington, D.C.: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 2002. (HJ 275.Z34 2002) http://www.cbpp.org/1-31-02sfp2.pdf

Noteworthy:

National Association of State Budget Officers (NASBO) – A December, 2001 draft report presents final data for FY 2001, as well as information on state budget actions for FY 2002. http://www.nasbo.org/

National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) – The NCSL Web site on the topic of Budgets -- State provides a wealth of current information. The Library receives their semi-monthly newsletter, "State Budget and Tax News." http://www.ncsl.org

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	THE EVOLUTION OF CARRYING CONCEALED WEAPONS (CCW) POLICIES IN MICHIGAN. Michigan State Legislature. July 2001. KFM 4579.D874 2001.
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	LEGISLATURES
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REDISTRICTING/REAPPORTIONMENT

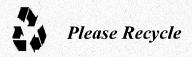
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	SUBSTANCE ABUSE
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March 2002

Last summer the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in New York Times vs. Tasini that publishers do not own the rights to distribute articles in electronic format without prior authorization from authors. The publishers have responded to the Supreme Court ruling by removing all articles by freelance writers from their vast electronic databases.

For several years, the Legislative Reference Library has funded access to the full-text of four regional newspapers (Star Tribune, Pioneer Press, Duluth News Tribune, and Grand Forks Herald) for legislators and legislative staff through NewsLibrary on legislative campus computers. MINITEX has funded full-text access to five papers (Star Tribune, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, and the New York Times) through ProQuest. Legislators, legislative staff, and Library staff have used these invaluable newspaper resources heavily. The newspapers page of the Library's intranet (http://venus.library.leg.state.mn.us/intranet/newspapersn.asp) has links to these two full-text newspaper databases.

The Tasini decision directly affects access to full-text articles in the Star Tribune, Pioneer Press, and other papers. While legislators and staff will still have access to the remaining full-text of the papers, potentially a large percentage of the articles may have been removed from all newspaper databases. MINITEX reports that it has been notified by ProQuest that 62% of the Star Tribune content has been removed from the ProQuest database as a result of the Tasini decision.

The Legislative Reference Library staff have a number of other ways to get articles you need. In addition to electronic databases, we have extensive newspaper clipping files, and can obtain articles through interlibrary loan. Call (296-8338) or email (refdesk@library.leg.state.mn.us) the Library for assistance in finding the articles you need.

New & Notable Books and Reports

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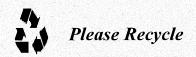
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April 2002

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Each year the Legislature mandates reports and studies to be completed by state agencies or other governmental entities. Some mandates are for one-time studies; others are for ongoing reports.

Legislative Reference Library staff track these mandates and obtain copies of the reports for the Library's collection. Each year we read the session laws to identify new mandates and to note repeals or extensions of mandates. For example, in the 2001 Session Laws we identified 232 new or changed mandates. The information is entered into our Library Acquisitions database. As reports are due, we send reminder letters to the publishing agencies.

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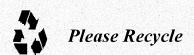
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May 2002

Exploring Minnesota

Summer is upon us! Now that the weather is warming up and the pressures from the Legislative session are winding down, it's time to start planning your summer travels. Whether you want to visit the world's largest turkey statue in Frazee or the world's largest otter statue in Fergus Falls; explore the Twin Cities' metro area on your bicycle; look for moose and sundews in the Black Lake Bog Scientific and Natural Area; or even just venture forth in your imagination with Minnesota travelers of years past, the Legislative Reference Library has many resources to guide you on your journeys.

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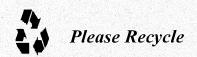
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June 2002

Newly arrived in the Legislative Library is Bjorn Lomborg's controversial book, *The Skeptical Environmentalist: Measuring the Real State of the World* (Cambridge University Press, 2001). Using well-documented statistical information, the author examines major environmental issues and concludes that the global environment has actually improved. Response was immediate and heated. Supporters and detractors have generated numerous reviews of Lomborg's book. Following is a selection of those reviews. They are available in the Legislative Library (296-8338).

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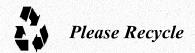
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July 2002

Families in Minnesota recently began reaching the five-year limit on public assistance. The 1996 Federal welfare reform legislation replaced the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Training (JOBS) programs with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). The biggest change was the imposition of a five-year lifetime limit on welfare benefits to reduce long-term reliance on welfare benefits. Has TANF been effective in getting families off public assistance? What has happened to families on TANF? Check out these reports at the Legislative Reference Library to find

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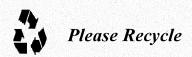
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August 2002

State Government Hiring Freeze

The omnibus budget balancing bill (Chap. 220), passed early in the 2002 legislative session, contained the governor's proposal for a statewide hiring freeze. An executive or legislative employer may not hire any permanent or temporary employees before July 1, 2003. This does not apply to MNSCU (Minnesota State Colleges & Universities), nor to student workers. The omnibus budget balancing bill was amended by Laws of Minnesota 2002, Chapter 374, Article 7, Section 12. This amendment allowed for further exceptions.

The law includes a provision that allows for hiring of persons to fill positions that are necessary to perform essential government services. The exceptions, or "waivers," are granted by House and Senate leadership for positions in the legislative branch, by constitutional officers for positions within their offices, and the governor for all other executive branch positions covered by this law.

Chapter 220 anticipates that application of the freeze to executive branch agencies will result in a general fund savings of \$40 million during the biennium. If the governor determines that \$40 million will not be saved, the governor must make proportional reductions in executive agency operating budgets to effect these savings.

Exceptions to the hiring freeze must be reported monthly by the entity granting the exception. The reports must be published on the entity's Web site and copies must be provided to the chairs of the House Ways and Means and Senate Finance committees and to the Legislative Reference Library. The Library maintains a notebook (Ref JK6158 .R49 2002) with print records of the exemptions. Web access to the lists of exemptions can be found at:

Department of Employee Relations list from executive branch agencies:

http://www.doer.state.mn.us/staffing/exceptions.htm

Minnesota Senate: http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/jobs/exceptions.htm

Minnesota House of Representatives: See print notebook in the Library.

Minnesota Legislative Coordinating Commission: See print notebook in the Library.

Minnesota Attorney General: See print notebook in the Library.

Minnesota Secretary of State: http://www.sos.stage.state.mn.us/office/HF351Report.html

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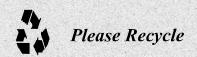
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September 2002

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

The discovery of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in the wild white-tailed deer herd in Wisconsin and a game farm elk in Minnesota has caused much discussion of the risks and effects of this disease. CWD is a brain disease that is related to "mad cow disease", but in this case, affecting elk, mule and white-tailed deer. The disease, most likely caused by an abnormal protein called a prion, was first detected in Colorado captive elk herds during the late 1960s.

The World Health Organization states that there is no indication that humans can be infected with CWD. However, the disease is a concern to the state of Minnesota due to its potential effect on the health of whitetail deer herd and the economic consequences of reduced hunting interest. Issues likely to be discussed during the legislative session include the role of captive deer and elk farms in the state and the common practice of deer feeding.

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Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources CWD Web page: http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/whealth/issues/CWD/index.htm

Additional articles on CWD can be found in our clipping files and online newspaper and periodical databases. Please ask our reference staff (296-8338) if you would like assistance in locating these types of materials.

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October 2002

The University of Minnesota has been in the press recently because of several reports.

The 2001 Legislature established the Commission on University of Minnesota Excellence. The Commission was charged with reviewing the University's current and potential areas of excellence, reviewing major interdisciplinary initiatives, examining the university's mission, examining the financing of programs, and proposing possible ways in which the university can refocus or refine its mission. The Commission's recommendations are important reading for those concerned with the University's budget in tight fiscal times.

The Commission's report was released in early October, just a few weeks after a report from a University of Florida think tank released its analysis of large research institutions. For the second year in a row, the University of Minnesota ranked as one of the top three public research institutions in the United States.

The reports:

Commission on University of Minnesota Excellence: Report to the Minnesota State Legislature. Minneapolis, Minn.: University of Minnesota, 2002. http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/govrel/excellence.htm

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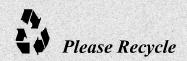
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November 2002

Since the 1950s, Minnesota has seen a number of state government reorganization and reform efforts, including Governor Youngdahl's Efficiency in Government Commission, Governor Anderson's LEAP, Governor Perpich's STEP, Governor Carlson's CORE, and Governor Ventura's Big Plan. Recently, the government reform efforts from the 1990s have been a popular topic in the library, with particular emphasis on the 1992-1993 Minnesota Commission on Reform and Efficiency (CORE). Below are some of the most frequently-requested items from and about this period.

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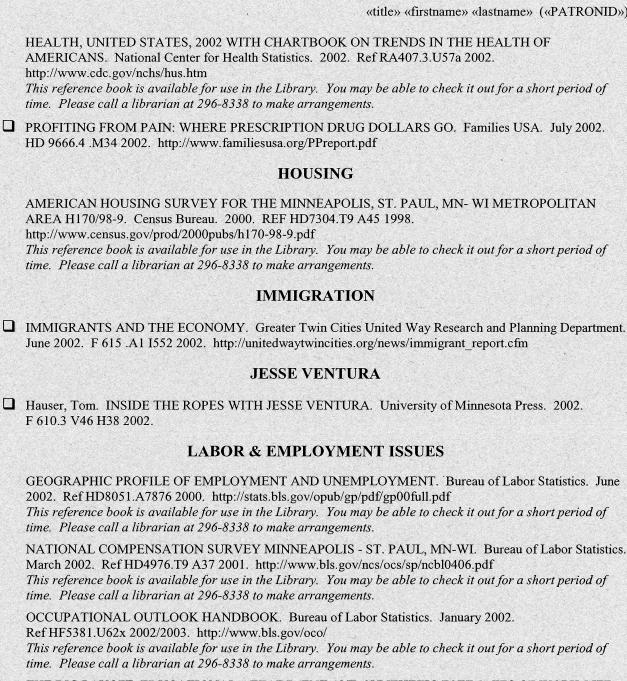
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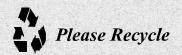
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December 2002

By all indications, the defining issue of the 2003 Legislative Session will be the state budget. During tough economic times, lawmakers will be challenged to address a shortfall in the current budget and to craft a new biennial budget.

Key budget documents for current and previous years are available in the Legislative Library; many of them are also available on the Internet. These documents can help you understand the budget process, access current and historical budgets, view forecasts of revenues and expenditures, and examine proposals for the new budget.

The Legislative Library's Internet guide, Resources on Minnesota Issues: State Budget, (http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/issues/budget.asp) provides links to a number of important reports including:

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