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BIENNIAL REPORT 1994-1996

March 1997

Commission on the Economic Status of Women

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Commission on the Economic Status of Women

Biennial Report December 1996

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Appendix I: Legislative Summary 1995

Appendix II: Legislative Summary 1996

The Commission gathers information and advises the legislature through the following activities:

- Public hearings are conducted at the State Capitol and throughout the state. The hearings may be focused on a particular top to they may be open as to topic.
- Task forces are established from time to time when more intensive study is needed on a particular topic.
- Research includes data gathered and analyzed by the staff from a variety of sources, including surveys, state agencies, the U.S. Bureau of the Census and the U.S. Department of Labor.
- Reports are provided to the legislature and the governor, including recommendations for legislative and administrative actions to improve the economic status of women.
- Legislative programs are developed each legislative session. The Commission provides information and assistance to the legislature as it considers proposals affecting women.
- Public information is provided through the Commission's publications and by responding to requests for information from a variety of individuals and organizations. Commission staff can provide basic information about women's legal and economic rights as well as statistical data about women in Minnesota.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION 1995-96

Representatives

Karen Clark
Tim Commers
Steve Kelley
Becky Lourey
Betty McCollum, Chair

Senators

Linda Berglin
Kevin Chandler
Janet Johnson
Sheila Kiscaden
Pat Piper, Vice-Chair

Staff

Aviva Breen, Executive Director
Christine Halvorson, Assistant Director
Cheryl Hoium, Assistant Director
Deanna Zachary, Coordinator of Children's Issues

COMMISSION ON THE ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN

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ONGOING ACTIVITIES

In addition to data collection, preparation of reports, publication of information and testimony in support of Commission-endorsed legislation, the following activities are conducted on an ongoing basis.

Assistance to legislators and legislative staff. The Commission provides statistical information about women, background information on legislative issues and information about women's resources and organizations on request from legislators and legislative staff.

Interaction with executive branch agencies. The Commission provides information to state agencies and works with agencies in monitoring areas of concern, avoiding duplication of effort in data gathering and providing assistance in implementing programs serving women's needs.

Public hearings. Public hearings, in conjunction with statistical research, form the basis for Commission reports and recommendations. Hearings may be on a particular topic or open to any concern participants which to express about the economic status of women. Each year the Commission holds hearings in various locations throughout the state.

Public information. The commission receives many requests for information from the press, private corporations and foundations, women's organizations and the general public. Information is provided by:

- Making newsletters, brochures and other publications and reports available;
- Preparing and distributing press releases about legislation, reports and hearings;
- Participating in seminars, panels, workshops and advisory committees;
- Reviewing grant proposals related to the economic status of women; and
- Providing information on a wide variety of topics relating to the economic status of women. A toll-free number is available to callers outside the metro-area. Resource and referral information is offered. Requests break down into the following categories:

Marriage dissolution, child support, spousal maintenance, domestic violence, welfare, housing, education;

Credit, insurance, starting a business and other financial matters;

Employment discrimination, parental leave and rights of pregnant employees, labor laws and other employment related questions; and

Data, including poverty and labor force statistics, demographics and requests for statistical information.

MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

February 21, 1995
St. Paul, MN

Legislative agenda.

June 14, 1995
St. Paul, MN

Review of legislation.

July 25, 1995
St. Paul, MN

Planning for hearings. Future of the Commission.

October 10, 1995
St. Paul, MN

Public hearing on housing.
(Tour of East Metro Place, White Bear Lake)

October 18, 1995
Chisholm/Hibbing

Public hearing on federal budget cuts.
Tour of Hibbing Family Resource Center
(with Commission on Children, Youth & Their Families)

November 1, 1995
St. Paul, MN

Public hearing on women's health issues.
(Teleconference with Mayo Clinic)

January 8, 1996
St. Paul, MN

Legislative issues. Sexual harassment hearing.

May 16, 1996
St. Paul, MN

Commission workplan.

June 12, 1996
St. Paul, MN

Review of legislation.

November 19, 1996
St. Paul, MN

Public hearing on micro enterprise, children's issues and welfare reform

December 16, 1996
St. Paul, MN

Legislative issues.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Each session the Commission works on legislative issues designed to improve the economic status of women in the state. The Commission's legislative principles are listed below. Summaries of legislation related to the principles which passed during the 1993 and 1994 legislative sessions are included in the appendix of this report.

COMMISSION ON THE ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN

- Support adequate funding to enable the Commission to fulfill its statutory mandate.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

- Support public assistance programs that provide for the basic needs of women and their children.
- Support education and training programs that allow women to achieve self-sufficiency.

CHILD SUPPORT

- Ensure that all children with absent parents are economically supported by those parents.
- Promote child support levels that are adequate and appropriate.
- Assure that child support orders are enforced.

HOUSING

- Promote the availability of affordable housing.

CHILD CARE

- Promote programs to help families pay for child care costs while parents are working or in training or educational programs.
- Support the development of quality child care programs for all ages and in all areas of the state.
- Support the development of other early childhood care and education programs that nurture children and help parents with parenting.

EDUCATION

- Promote sex equity at all levels of education and in all educational programs.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Promote the development of women-owned businesses in the state.

DISPLACED HOMEMAKER PROGRAMS

- Encourage funding programs that enable displaced homemakers to re-enter the workforce with adequate job-training and to obtain employment that can be self-supporting.

WOMEN'S HEALTH

- Support programs promoting the prevention and cure of health conditions specific to women.
- Support access to health insurance for all women and families, regardless of income.
- Support health and wellness programs such as sex education, adolescent health care, family planning, teenage pregnancy prevention, caregiver support services and nutrition programs.

VIOLENCE

- Promote the development of shelters, counseling programs, transitional housing or other support services that can help victims of domestic violence or sexual assault.
- Monitor enforcement and creation of laws regarding domestic abuse, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking and other crimes that disproportionately affect women.
- Support programs that seek to prevent crime and violence.
- Support adequate programming for female offenders.

CHILDREN'S ISSUES

- Promote creation of programs that improve the health and wellness of Minnesota's children and their families
- Support services for children who live in poverty.

PUBLICATIONS

The Commission published the following materials in 1995 and 1996:

Reports:

Public Assistance in Minnesota: Facts About Programs and Recipients, February 1995

Brochures Reprinted:

Are You Entitled to Family Leave?

Commission on the Economic Status of Women

Employment Rights for Women

The Legal Right to Child Support

Marriage Dissolution and the Law

Women and Finances

Women and Pay Equity

Women's Rights in Marriage

Data:

Minnesota Women 1990: County Tables

Women in Minnesota 1990: Detailed Tables

Other:

A Guide to Child Support Cost-of Living-Adjustments

Newsletter

The bimonthly newsletter (formerly monthly) provides announcements of Commission meetings and publications as well as summaries of legislative proposals, report summaries, statistical information and other information on the economic status of women. Newsletters are mailed to a list of approximately 2,000 readers. Every member of the legislature receives the newsletter. Newsletter topics for the last two years are listed on the next page.

1995

January	Legislative Proposals, 1995. Individual Income, MN Counties 1990
February	Households in the U.S., 1993
March	Educational Attainment & Households in Poverty, MN Counties 1990
April	Family Income in Minnesota, 1990
May	U.S. Wage Gap, 1993
June	Legislative Summary, 1995
Jul./Aug.	Women's Enrollment in MN Post-Secondary Schools, 1994
Sept./Oct.	Child Support Collections in Minnesota, 1994
Nov./Dec.	Women and Age in Minnesota, 1990

1996

Feb./Mar.	Marital Status of Minnesota Women, 1990
Apr./May	Legislative Summary, 1996
June/July	Child Care Cost and Expenditures, U.S. and Minnesota
Aug./Sept.	Women-Owned Businesses, U.S. and Minnesota
Oct./Nov.	Value Of Post-Secondary Education (U.S.)
Dec./Jan.	Women in Elective Office

BIENNIAL BUDGET

EXPENSE CATEGORY	FY 96	FY 97	TOTAL
Salaries	\$140,300	\$167,700*	\$308,000
Fringe	\$27,500	\$33,000*	\$60,500
Total Salary & Fringe	\$167,800	\$200,700*	\$368,500
Repairs & Maintenance	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000
Printing	\$1,600	\$3,000	\$4,600
Data Processing	\$0	0	\$0
Purchased Services	\$200	\$0	\$200
Postage	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$6,000
Telephone	\$1,300	\$1,600	\$2,900
Total Communications	\$4,300	\$4,600	\$8,900
Members' Per Diem	\$600	\$1,000	\$1,600
Members' Travel	\$800	\$1,200	\$2,000
Staff Travel	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,500
Total In-State Travel	\$1,300	\$2,200	\$3,500
Members' Per Diem	\$0	\$0	\$0
Members' Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0
Staff Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Out-of-State Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fees	\$0	\$0	\$0
Supplies	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000
Publications	\$700	\$700	\$1,400
Total Supplies/Publications	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$3,400
Equipment	\$600	\$500	\$1,100
TOTAL	\$179,100	\$214,700	\$393,800
*Includes 23.5 salary, 4.6 fringe for 8 mos. Position transferred from the Legislative Commission on the Children, Youth and Their Families			

Legislative Summary, Session 1995

TOPIC	BILL SUMMARY	CHAP. #
Legislative commissions	Ends the operation of all legislative commissions, including the Commission on the Economic Status of Women, on July 1, 1996. The Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC) can elect by January 1, 1996 to continue the operation of any commissions. Gives the LCC the responsibility for carrying out the statutory functions and duties of a commission that ceases operation.	248
	Eliminates funding for legislative commissions beginning July 1, 1996.	254

CHILD CARE

Basic Sliding Fee	Appropriates an additional \$16.2 million to the Basic Sliding Fee child care program, which subsidizes child care fees for low and moderate income families.	207
	Allows counties to discontinue contributions above the required match to the Basic Sliding Fee fund, as long as families enrolled on July 1, 1995 are continued until they become ineligible.	139
Resource & Referral	Appropriates an additional \$500,000 for child care resource and referral programs across the state.	207
Cultural Dynamics	Appropriates \$250,000 to train child care providers in cultural dynamics.	207
Post-secondary child care	Raises the maximum child care grant to eligible post-secondary students from \$1,500 per school year to \$1,700.	212
Licensing	Requires DHS* to study licensing and regulation of all child care programs and to make recommendations.	158
School-age child care	Requires child care programs serving more than 10 school-age children to be licensed in the same manner as drop-in child care centers. One staff will be required for every 15 children. Exempts school-based child care programs.	158
Migrant Child Care	Appropriates an additional \$200,000 for migrant child care.	207
Child care self-employment	Requires DHS and the Dept. of Economic Security to develop a plan to use a Community Action Program and a Child Care Resource and Referral Program to train AFDC caretakers as child care workers.	178
Child care cooperatives	Allows a county to collaborate with school districts and other organizations to provide child care services.	207
Seamless child care	Directs DHS to study the feasibility of consolidating all child care funds by July 1996.	178
ACCESS child care	Appropriates \$470,000 to provide additional slots in this program for families who are on AFDC and are in self-directed or non-STRIDE work or training programs.	207

HEALTH

Breast cancer treatment	Requires insurance companies to pay for bone marrow transplants to treat breast cancer, effective May 19, 1995. Prohibits insurance companies from charging co-payments or deductibles for this procedure greater than other covered procedures.	183
Teen pregnancy prevention	Appropriates \$250,000 and \$550,000 for the Education Now and Babies Later (ENABL) curriculum for adolescents ages 12 to 14 for an educational program about postponing sexual involvement. Grants will be awarded to community groups, local boards of health or school districts. Grants must be matched locally. Will also fund a statewide public information campaign.	SS 3
Male Responsibility	Appropriates \$750,000 for male responsibility and fathering grants.	SS 3
Home visiting	Appropriates an additional \$82,000 for public home health visits to expand this pilot program to one more county.	207
Crisis nurseries	Appropriates \$450,000 for this program.	207
MinnesotaCare	Expands Medical Assistance coverage to age two for "eligible" children. Exempts relative caretakers from MA asset standards.	234
Nursing grants	Establishes a nursing grant program for Minnesota health care facility employees seeking to complete a baccalaureate or master's degree in nursing.	234

*DHS=Dept. of Human Services **MFIP=Minnesota Family Investment Plan

APPENDIX I

Work First Program	<p>Allows DHS and the Dept. of Economic Security to develop and establish pilot projects to direct participants into working as soon as possible, minimizing the risk for long-term welfare dependency and promoting greater opportunity for economic self support, participation and mobility in the work force.</p> <p>The applicant must attend an orientation followed immediately by a job search. Payments for rent and utilities will be vendor paid for six months or however many months the applicant is eligible. The remaining amount of the grant, if any, will be paid to the recipient or used as a wage subsidy. Child care, transportation, medical assistance and other work related aid will be immediately available. An employment advisor and a financial specialist will be assigned to the applicant. Job search must be conducted for up to eight weeks and for at least 32 hours a week. Job search must begin within seven days of application. There are a number of exemptions from job search. A temporary public service jobs program will be established for participants who are not hired or are deferred.</p>	178
Temporary Cash Assistance	Establishes a temporary county assistance program for individuals who do not qualify for any other cash benefits.	VETOED
Minnesota Family Investment Plan	Expands a modified version of MFIP to Ramsey County. Limits higher education programs to two years with certain exceptions.	178

VIOLENCE AND CRIME

Violence prevention	<p>Appropriates \$3.6 million in FY96 and \$2.6 million in FY97 for drug policy and violence prevention. \$852,000 will be distributed each year according to the recommendations of the chemical abuse and violence prevention council. \$75,000 each year will be for community violence prevention councils. \$50,000 is for the development of plays, workshops and other educational resources to promote awareness of prevention of sexual abuse, interpersonal violence and sexual harassment.</p> <p>Appropriates \$3 million for violence prevention education grants.</p>	226 SS 3
Battered women	Appropriates \$325,000 for battered women's services including an Asian battered women's shelter, an African-American battered women's shelter, child advocacy services and community-based advocacy and support services in the judicial districts not served. This is in addition to same level funding for existing programs for battered women.	226
Sexual assault services	Appropriates an additional \$325,000 for maintaining current sexual assault services and six new programs for unserved and underserved populations.	226
Female offenders	Appropriates \$100,000 each year of the biennium to develop a continuum of care for juvenile female offenders.	226
Victim services	Requires the Departments of Public Safety and Corrections and the Supreme Court to provide a plan for consolidating victim services in one agency and make recommendations for a structure for constituent advisory participation. Must be completed by June 30, 1996 or funds for the next fiscal year will not be available.	226
Training	Requires judicial education and training for prosecutors and peace officers on sentencing sex offenders, particularly repeat and patterned sex offenders.	226
Tanning booth peeping	Makes tanning booth peeping a misdemeanor.	226
Domestic abuse	<p>Amends the Domestic Abuse Act to include persons who are involved in a significant romantic or sexual relationship. Allows a minor to petition on their own behalf against a spouse, former spouse or person with whom they have a child in common if the court determines that the minor is mature and it is in the best interests of the minor. Also allows a reputable adult age 25 or older to petition on behalf of a minor.</p> <p>Clarifies the standard for extending an expired order for protection (OFP) or granting a subsequent order.</p> <p>Extends from 4 to 12 hours the length of time in which a probable cause arrest for domestic abuse may be made.</p>	226
Domestic abuse hearings	Allows an ex parte order for protection to be issued without a full hearing, if neither party requests one. The ex parte order may be served by personal service or by published notice but it expires if neither occurs. If the order is mailed it must be accompanied by a form for requesting a hearing.	142

MISC

Legal services	<p>Appropriates \$5 million each year of the biennium for legal services to low income clients and for family farm legal assistance.</p> <p>Requests the Supreme Court to establish a committee to study state funding changes or alternatives needed to maintain legal services as a result of proposed federal cuts.</p> <p>Appropriates \$877,000 each year of the biennium for family law legal services.</p>	226
Affirmative action	Requires state agencies with 1,000 or more employees to have a full time affirmative action officer. Requires agencies to audit affirmative action compliance, justify non-affirmative action hires, develop innovative ways to promote diversity and affirmative action, and identify methods and programs to improve performance.	248
Displaced homemakers	Appropriates an additional \$300,000 for displaced homemaker programs.	224
Parental Leave	Removes the requirement that the Dept. of Labor and Industry annually report parental leave complaints.	248

APPENDIX I

Teen parents	Requires pregnant or parenting minors to live with a parent, guardian or other adult, or in an adult supervised living arrangement in order to receive AFDC. Exempts minors who have no living parent or guardian, are not allowed to live in the parent's home, have lived away from home for at least one year, whose physical or emotional health or safety would be jeopardized by living with a parent, or who have lived independently as part of a social services plan.	178
Unemployed parent	Seeks a federal waiver to eliminate the 100-hour rule and other work restrictions for AFDC-unemployed parent families.	178
Overpayments	Seeks a waiver to allow payment of a grant in the month that a recipient begins working without incurring an overpayment.	178
STRIDE	Establishes sanctions for STRIDE participants who do not cooperate with the development or the terms of the employability plan. Requires broader cooperation among agencies and local employers to maximize job opportunities for welfare clients. Relaxes requirements for how case management funds may be spent by the county. Requires the development of a performance model to analyze the success of STRIDE services. Establishes work or volunteer work requirements for participants in educational programs under STRIDE. Exempts full-time students. Work requirements for less than full-time participants and for those in a high school equivalency program can include hours spent assisting at a licensed day care center, attendance at parenting skill classes or documented volunteer work. Work must be for at least the minimum wage. Allows participation in an intensive, functional work literacy program instead of job search for persons who lack English proficiency.	178
Sanctions	Requires both caretakers in a two-parent family to be sanctioned when one fails to cooperate with work requirements unless the second caretaker is participating in job search, training or community work experience. Provides a sanction for a caregiver who voluntarily quits suitable employment without good cause.	178
AFDC budgeting	Requires development of a plan for supplemental payments to mitigate the effects of retrospective budgeting on recipients whose pay or child support is reduced.	178
Food Stamps	Establishes a food stamp outreach program to inform recipients of the existence and availability of food stamps.	VETOED
Food Stamp Work and Training	Establishes the food stamp work and training program.	178
MA coverage	Prohibits medical assistance coverage of fertility drugs when used to enhance fertility.	178
Social Security numbers	Requires provision of a Social Security number in order to be eligible for General Assistance.	178
Work-focused programs	Allows counties to design their own plans for programs that will stress employment and self-sufficiency for first-time AFDC and Family General Assistance applicants. The program may not reduce grant amounts or change eligibility categories, but may use vendor payments, mandatory job search or other features. The plan must be approved by DHS.	178
Administrative savings	Requires the commissioner to make administrative changes by requiring fewer income reviews and reports. Administrative savings may be used by the county for any lawful purpose.	178
Empowerment Zones	Allows counties to develop plans to improve employment opportunities by creating public works projects to develop communities with a declining tax base.	178
Fair Share	Requires Minnesota's Fair Share program to contain a community work experience component for participants who fail to cooperate. Fair Share is a work, training and support program for non-paying child support obligors.	178
Federal Waivers	Requires the commissioner to include all waivers in a single request to the federal government in order to reduce evaluation costs. The waiver package will include: 1) disallowance of parental income of a pregnant or parenting minor living with parents; 2) start-work offset; 3) elimination of the 100-hour rule and the work history requirement; 4) increasing the maximum equity value of a motor vehicle allowed as an excluded resource; 5) allowing dependent children and minor caretakers attending school to earn income which does not reduce the grant; 6) allowing AFDC payments to eligible families who have not resided in Minnesota for 12 months to be less than the maximum payment paid to Minnesota families; and 7) implementing a work incentive for disabled persons eligible for medical assistance who are not residents of a long term care facility.	178
Income Support and Transition	Requires MFIP participants to seek and accept full-time employment when the family support agreement specifies job search. Job search is limited to three months and then the caregiver must take any suitable employment.	178

APPENDIX I

CHILD SUPPORT

Driver's license suspension	Allows suspension of a driver's license when a child support obligor owes an amount equal to three times the monthly child support and maintenance payments. The suspension may be lifted any time the obligor enters into a written payment agreement. Allows a lien to be entered on a motor vehicle title when there is a three-month arrearage.	257
Occupational license suspension	Clarifies procedures for suspension of an occupational license if child support is more than 3 months in arrears and there is no written payment agreement. A hearing will be held before an administrative law judge.	257
Cooperation for the Children Program	Directs the commissioner of human services to develop and implement a child custody and visitation educational program, to provide a non-judicial forum to resolve custody and visitation issues and to provide mediation to resolve conflicts. The program must be voluntary and be administered by the office of administrative hearings.	257
Community Service Work Experience	Allows the courts to require a child support obligor who is physically able to work and who fails to pay child support to participate in a community work experience program up to 32 hours a week and up to six weeks when the obligor is found in contempt.	257
Work reporting system	Requires every employer to report hirings to DHS by sending the W-4 or W-9 form within 15 days, unless the new employee is hired for less than 2 months and will earn less than \$250 per month. The data will be retained for six months and may only be disclosed for child support enforcement purposes.	257
Liability for past support	Allows the court to deviate downward from child support guidelines when determining liability for past support if the obligor has additional children, the family income is less than 175 percent of the poverty level and the child owed support is over age 5, and if the obligor became aware of the child within one year of when the action began.	257
Child care by non-custodial parent	Allows non-custodial parents additional visitation rights to provide child care under certain circumstances if the arrangement is reasonable and in the best interests of the child, but does not make this a reason to deviate from child support guidelines.	257
Unwarranted denial of visitation	Clarifies that the court may modify custody based on unwarranted denial of or interference with visitation.	257
Seek-work orders	Allows a child support office to seek a court order requiring an obligor to seek employment if the obligor's employment cannot be verified, the obligor is three months in arrears and is not in compliance with a written payment plan.	257
Child support payment center	Establishes beginning January 1, 1997 a central collections unit for receipt and distribution of all child support payments in the state.	257
Publication of names	Allows DHS to publish names twice yearly of obligors who owe at least \$3,000 and are not in compliance with a written payment agreement. Requires a printed retraction and apology if a name is published in error. DHS may not publish names until January 1, 1997, but a county may.	257
Recognition of Parentage	Creates a presumption of paternity when a minor signs a Recognition of Parentage.	257
Supervised Visitation	Increases the marriage license fee to provide additional funding for supervised visitation facilities (formerly child safety centers) and the MN ENABL program.	257
County attorney services	Clarifies that representation by a county attorney in the child support enforcement program does not constitute an attorney/client relationship. Requires that the obligee be informed of other services and of the right to an attorney.	257
Administrative process	Extends the administrative process to contested cases and requires all counties to participate by July 1, 1998 except Hennepin County, which will have a pilot program by July 1, 1996. No county is required to participate until after training.	257

WELFARE REFORM

Welfare Reform Task Force	Establishes a task force of 10 legislative members to design a welfare reform program for the 1996 legislative session focusing on self-sufficiency and promoting work. The program must integrate STRIDE, MFIP**, targeted jobs and changes enacted by Congress.	178
Working Family Credits Joint Venture	Requires DHS and the Revenue Dept. to develop a plan and to seek federal waivers for a pilot project that will combine several tax credits and make them available to families on a monthly basis. This includes the working family credit, property tax refunds, the dependent care credit and the federal earned income tax credit. Also establishes a pilot program to provide an early refund of tax credits to AFDC and Family General Assistance recipients.	178
Immunization	Requires technical assistance to county agencies to help workers remind recipients to have their young children immunized.	178
Non-English speaking recipients	Establishes a pilot project to provide language assistance and translation services in Hennepin and Ramsey counties to applicants and recipients of public assistance. Requires that work experience participants be assigned to work and that functional work literacy programs be implemented for those lacking proficiency in English. Expands criteria for the employability plan required of STRIDE participants to reflect language needs of non-English speaking clients and to increase the criteria for determining the appropriateness of an educational or training program.	178

APPENDIX I

Work First Program	<p>Allows DHS and the Dept. of Economic Security to develop and establish pilot projects to direct participants into working as soon as possible, minimizing the risk for long-term welfare dependency and promoting greater opportunity for economic self support, participation and mobility in the work force.</p> <p>The applicant must attend an orientation followed immediately by a job search. Payments for rent and utilities will be vendor paid for six months or however many months the applicant is eligible. The remaining amount of the grant, if any, will be paid to the recipient or used as a wage subsidy. Child care, transportation, medical assistance and other work related aid will be immediately available.</p> <p>An employment advisor and a financial specialist will be assigned to the applicant. Job search must be conducted for up to eight weeks and for at least 32 hours a week. Job search must begin within seven days of application. There are a number of exemptions from job search. A temporary public service jobs program will be established for participants who are not hired or are deferred.</p>	178
Temporary Cash Assistance	Establishes a temporary county assistance program for individuals who do not qualify for any other cash benefits.	VETOED
Minnesota Family Investment Plan	Expands a modified version of MFIP to Ramsey County. Limits higher education programs to two years with certain exceptions.	178

VIOLENCE AND CRIME

Violence prevention	<p>Appropriates \$3.6 million in FY96 and \$2.6 million in FY97 for drug policy and violence prevention. \$852,000 will be distributed each year according to the recommendations of the chemical abuse and violence prevention council. \$75,000 each year will be for community violence prevention councils. \$50,000 is for the development of plays, workshops and other educational resources to promote awareness of prevention of sexual abuse, interpersonal violence and sexual harassment.</p> <p>Appropriates \$3 million for violence prevention education grants.</p>	226 SS 3
Battered women	Appropriates \$325,000 for battered women's services including an Asian battered women's shelter, an African-American battered women's shelter, child advocacy services and community-based advocacy and support services in the judicial districts not served. This is in addition to same level funding for existing programs for battered women.	226
Sexual assault services	Appropriates an additional \$325,000 for maintaining current sexual assault services and six new programs for unserved and underserved populations.	226
Female offenders	Appropriates \$100,000 each year of the biennium to develop a continuum of care for juvenile female offenders.	226
Victim services	Requires the Departments of Public Safety and Corrections and the Supreme Court to provide a plan for consolidating victim services in one agency and make recommendations for a structure for constituent advisory participation. Must be completed by June 30, 1996 or funds for the next fiscal year will not be available.	226
Training	Requires judicial education and training for prosecutors and peace officers on sentencing sex offenders, particularly repeat and patterned sex offenders.	226
Tanning booth peeping	Makes tanning booth peeping a misdemeanor.	226
Domestic abuse	<p>Amends the Domestic Abuse Act to include persons who are involved in a significant romantic or sexual relationship. Allows a minor to petition on their own behalf against a spouse, former spouse or person with whom they have a child in common if the court determines that the minor is mature and it is in the best interests of the minor. Also allows a reputable adult age 25 or older to petition on behalf of a minor.</p> <p>Clarifies the standard for extending an expired order for protection (OFP) or granting a subsequent order.</p> <p>Extends from 4 to 12 hours the length of time in which a probable cause arrest for domestic abuse may be made.</p>	226
Domestic abuse hearings	Allows an ex parte order for protection to be issued without a full hearing, if neither party requests one. The ex parte order may be served by personal service or by published notice but it expires if neither occurs. If the order is mailed it must be accompanied by a form for requesting a hearing.	142

MISC

Legal services	<p>Appropriates \$5 million each year of the biennium for legal services to low income clients and for family farm legal assistance.</p> <p>Requests the Supreme Court to establish a committee to study state funding changes or alternatives needed to maintain legal services as a result of proposed federal cuts.</p> <p>Appropriates \$877,000 each year of the biennium for family law legal services.</p>	226
Affirmative action	Requires state agencies with 1,000 or more employees to have a full time affirmative action officer. Requires agencies to audit affirmative action compliance, justify non-affirmative action hires, develop innovative ways to promote diversity and affirmative action, and identify methods and programs to improve performance.	248
Displaced homemakers	Appropriates an additional \$300,000 for displaced homemaker programs.	224
Parental Leave	Removes the requirement that the Dept. of Labor and Industry annually report parental leave complaints.	248

APPENDIX I

Custody & visitation education	Allows courts to require parties involved in a custody, visitation or child support proceeding to attend an orientation and education program regarding the process and the impact on children. Allows the court to require parties to pay a fee. Also allows the court, for good cause, to excuse a party from attending.	127
Urban Challenge & Rural Development Grants	Allows urban challenge grants and rural development challenge grants to be used to make micro-enterprise loans to small, beginning businesses, including sole proprietorships. The loans may be to qualified retail businesses for a minimum of \$1,000 and a maximum of \$10,000.	224
Family homeless prevention	Allows a single person to qualify for assistance under the family homeless prevention and assistance program.	224
Labor Education Advancement Grant	Establishes a program to facilitate the participation of minorities and women in apprenticeable trades and occupations. Grants will be awarded to community based organizations serving the targeted populations on a competitive basis.	224
Girl's and women's sports	Appropriates \$45,000, some of which will be used for the development of more amateur sports opportunities for women and girls. Of the total appropriation to the Amateur Sports Commission, \$2.5 million over the biennium is for grants for ice centers, \$400,000 for renovation of existing ice arenas and \$22,000 for ice arena technical assistance.	224
Dept. of Children, Families and Learning	Abolishes the Department of Education and creates the Department of Children, Families and Learning. Transfers some children and family programs from the Departments of Human Services, Economic Security, Corrections, Public Safety and the Office of Strategic and Long-Range Planning. Creates a consolidated funding account from which local programs can receive grants.	SS 3
Women's War Memorial	Appropriates \$16,200 for the women in military service memorial at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery.	254
New Moon Educational Program	Appropriates \$20,000 for a grant to develop a curriculum to instruct school-aged children on the purpose and experience of the United Nations Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995.	SS 3
Lead poisoning	Appropriated \$500,000 to fund swab teams to clean up lead-contaminated homes.	VETOED
Education & Employment Transitions Partnership	Adds increasing opportunities for women as a goal of the education and employment transitions program, part of the state's youth apprenticeship program. Includes exploring non-traditional career opportunities as an objective of local programs.	SS 3

APPENDIX II

SUMMARY OF THE 1996 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION	CHAP. #
CHILD CARE		
Child Care Assistance	Appropriates \$5 million to the Basic Sliding Fee program which helps families pay for child care costs while they are working or in school.	465
Insurance for Providers	Improves the ability of in-home family child care providers to obtain homeowners insurance. Claims arising from the child care business would have to be specifically covered in the policy or by rider.	326
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS		
MN JOBS	Creates the MN JOBS program which allows counties to require AFDC recipients to participate in an immediate job search. The Department of Human Services must approve the county program. Employers, non-profit organizations, educational and social service agencies, labor unions and community-based organizations must be involved in administering the MN JOBS program. Requires the commissioner to request all necessary waivers.	465
Relationship to STRIDE	MN JOBS will supersede STRIDE in the counties that adopt it. Individuals on the STRIDE waiting list or those eligible for STRIDE will be given priority. Current STRIDE participants making progress on their approved educational development plan will not be required to participate in MN JOBS, but may volunteer.	
Job search requirements	MN JOBS participants will be required to attend an orientation, have an assessment, develop an employability plan, conduct an intensive job search for 30 hours per week for four weeks and accept suitable employment. If no job is found, the individual may continue the job search or may be assigned to job training, community work experience, adult basic education, or college or community college programs for up to 2 years.	
Exemptions	Those not required to participate in MN JOBS are: AFDC caretakers under age 20 who do not have a high school education and are working toward a diploma; individuals age 60 or older; ill or incapacitated individuals; pregnant women; caretakers caring for an ill or incapacitated person in their home or who have a child under age 3; and AFDC recipients working at least 30 hours per week or those who would have to commute to employment more than 2 hours. Individuals experiencing a personal or family crisis making them incapable of participating may be exempted by the county. Others exempt from the job search requirement may include: those within two years of completing an educational program leading to employment; individuals in chemical dependency treatment; those whose English skills may be a barrier to employment; and those needing refresher courses to obtain professional certification or licensing. Exempt caretakers may volunteer for MN JOBS.	
Future welfare initiatives	The Department of Human Services must prepare a 1997 welfare proposal which sets goals and plans to evaluate existing welfare reform efforts. Several state departments must also develop a proposal by December 1, 1996 to allow counties to merge services and funding.	
Casinos/restrictions on electronic benefits	Disallows AFDC checks from being cashed or AFDC cash cards from being used at gambling establishments. If ATM overpays on an electronic benefits transfer, the county may immediately require repayment from the individual.	
Two-parent families	Two-parent AFDC families may be required to develop a Family Support Agreement by the seventh month of assistance if one parent is proficient in English. The caregiver is exempt from the job search if he or she is enrolled in an educational program of one year or less.	
Residency requirement of 30 days	Establishes a 30-day residency requirement for persons applying for public assistance programs. Exceptions to this requirement include if the caretaker applying for assistance or the children in the family: were born in Minnesota; lived in Minnesota at some time for at least one year; are joining a close relative who has lived in Minnesota at least one year; or came to Minnesota to accept a job offer. Counties will be allowed to waive the 30-day requirements in cases of emergency or hardship.	

APPENDIX II

Family Law		
Child Custody/Visitation	Allows a law enforcement officer or other appropriate person to accompany someone trying to enforce or comply with child custody visitation. Requires visitation orders to contain a specific visitation schedule if either party requests it and it is practical.	391
	Provides a form for individuals to use on their own to make a motion in court to resolve visitation disputes. The courts must provide instructions for serving and filing the court motion.	
	Allows courts, in resolving visitation disputes, to impose civil penalties up to \$500 and require posting bonds. Provides that unwarranted denial of or interference with visitation may constitute contempt of court and may result in custody being reversed.	
	Allows parents or the court to request appointment of a visitation expeditor. One party may be required to pay the expeditor costs and neither party would be required to participate if unable to pay.	
	Allows judicial districts to establish a mandatory visitation dispute resolution program, which requires the parties to use a visitation expeditor before going to court. The agreement or expeditor's decision is binding. Exemptions to mandatory dispute resolution would be cases where a party has an Order for Protection or if one party is unable to pay the costs.	
CHILD SUPPORT		
Withholding Financial Aid	Improves the process relating to withholding state financial aid grants for nonpayment of child support.	398
Interest on Child Support Arrearages	Allows courts to discontinue Interest accrual on past due child support if the child support obligor has paid both current and past due child support in full and on time for 3 years. The interest accrual will resume if the obligor fails to make complete and timely payments.	391
CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS		
Crisis Nurseries	Appropriates an additional \$250,000 to fund crisis nurseries which offer temporary care to abused or neglected children or those at high risk of abuse or neglect; and for children in families receiving child protective services.	408
Public Health Home Visiting	Appropriates \$250,000 for public health home visiting programs designed to prevent child abuse and neglect. Grants will be awarded by the Department of Health to programs that target at-risk families.	
Kindergarten, Extended-day and After-school Programs	Appropriates \$3.5 million for grants to ensure that students are ready to read and succeed in school. Grants are allocated to specified geographic areas. Programs may be for either full-day daily programs for five-year-olds or half-day programs for four-year-olds. Districts participating must provide extended-day services. Allows compensatory education revenue to be used for all-day kindergarten and extended-day and extended school-year programs. Allocates \$1 million for grants to incorporate technology in after-school programs.	398
HEALTH CARE		
Hospital Stay for Newborns and New Mothers	Requires health plans which cover maternity benefits to provide insurance coverage for a minimum of 48 hours of in-patient care for both the mother and the newborn child following a vaginal delivery and a minimum of 96 hours following a cesarean. Compensation or other incentives for the patients to leave in-patient care before the minimum duration of stay may not be offered. Health plans must also provide coverage for in-home post-delivery care for both mother and newborn if they stay less than the minimum. In-home care includes parent education, assistance in breast and bottle feeding, and clinical tests. The home visits must be conducted within four days following discharge from the hospital. Law is in effect.	335
WORKPLACE ISSUES		
Parental Leave	Effective July 1, employees no longer have to have worked for their employer for 12 months to be eligible to take up to 16 hours leave during a 12-month period to attend school conferences or classroom activities.	341

APPENDIX II

HOUSING & ENERGY ASSISTANCE		
Family Homeless Prevention	Appropriates \$300,000 to the Housing Finance Agency for grants to programs which will assist families who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. The grants are targeted to areas with a significant number or a significant increase in the number of homeless families.	452
Transitional Housing	Appropriates \$450,000 for transitional housing programs which provide independent living to persons or families with rents at 25 percent of the family income, up to 24 months.	
Energy Assistance	Appropriates \$750,00 for energy assistance, \$60,000 for energy-related repairs and \$90,000 for weatherization for low income persons.	
DOMESTIC ABUSE/VIOLENCE PREVENTION		
Violence Prevention	Appropriates \$75,000 for the Higher Education Center on Violence and Abuse.	408
Battered Women	Appropriates \$4,000 for the international women's shelter in Rochester to prepare and translate brochures on laws concerning violence against women and children into various languages. Topics to be covered will include, but are not limited to, child abuse, female genital mutilation and domestic abuse.	
Domestic Abuse	Requires the prosecutor to present relevant information regarding the victim's account of the alleged crime to the judge in determining the release on bail of a person arrested for domestic assault or harassment.	380
	Requires notification of a battered women's program, at the request of a victim, when the arrested person is about to be released. Also requires notice to the victim of a bail hearing for release from pretrial detention.	
	Changes the penalties for conviction of gross misdemeanor or felony domestic assault. Allows a sentence to be stayed if the person completes anger therapy or counseling but revokes the stay if the person fails to attend or complete the programs. Requires a minimum period of incarceration in each case.	
	Requires a domestic abuse assessment and a report to the court when a defendant is convicted of domestic abuse or another offense arising out of the same circumstances. The assessment must be conducted by an assessor approved by the court or the corrections department. The convicted person must be ordered to pay an assessment fee unless the court finds the person is indigent or payment of the fee would create a hardship.	
	The report must contain an evaluation of the defendant, circumstances of the offense, impact on the victim, prior record, history of chemical use and amenability to domestic abuse counseling, as well as recommendations on contact with the victim, counseling or aftercare, chemical dependency evaluation or other appropriate remedial action.	
	A person may be prohibited from possessing a firearm if the person is convicted of violating an order for protection and a firearm was used during the commission of the violation.	
	Establishes a state goal of zero tolerance for violence. For victims of violence the goal includes: crisis intervention services; safe housing; counseling and support services; and assistance in pursuing legal remedies and medical care. For child victims or witnesses to abuse the goal includes access to: crisis child care; safe supervised child visitation; appropriate counseling and support; and assistance with legal remedies, medical care and social services.	
	Creates a crime victims services roundtable to be convened by the commissioner of the Department of Administration to discuss methods for improving delivery of and increased funding for victims services and to present initiatives to the legislature.	
	The roundtable will include representatives from: the departments of Health, Human Services, Children Families and Learning, Corrections, Public Safety, Planning, and Attorney General; Office of Crime Victim Ombudsman and Office of Dispute Resolution; Supreme Court; county attorneys association; and the councils for Indian Affairs, Latinos/Chicanos, Asian/Pacific and Black Minnesotans.	
Insurance for Battered Women	Disallows life or health insurance carriers from: refusing to offer, sell or renew coverage; limiting coverage; or charging a rate different from the normal rate because the insured has been or is a victim of domestic abuse.	278

APPENDIX II

BONDING

Youth Initiative Grants	Authorizes \$16 million in bonds for youth initiative grants for after-school, evening, week-end and school vacation enrichment programs in parks and recreation or school buildings that provide equal access and programming for girls. Requires an assessment of programming needs in the community. Dollars are targeted to specific neighborhoods in Minneapolis and St. Paul and to other areas with high concentrations of low income children.	463
Youth Programs	Authorizes \$3.5 million in bonds for Head Start, early childhood learning programs, crisis nurseries, child visitation centers or facilities to serve homeless youth	
Housing	Authorizes \$2.5 million for transition housing loans for homeless youth, homeless families and battered women.	

MISCELLANEOUS

Woman's Suffrage Memorial	Appropriates \$250,000 for construction of the Minnesota Women's Suffrage Memorial Garden on the capitol grounds. \$50,000 of the appropriation must be matched by non-state funds.	390
Women's Athletics	Allows athletic events to be restricted to one sex if the restriction would preserve the unique character of the team, program or event and would not reduce the number of athletic opportunities available to the other sex.	431
Bias Crimes	Allows a civil cause of action against a person who has committed a bias offense and allows recovery of damages, including punitive damages, or injunctive relief.	468
Human Rights Enforcement	Requires the commissioner of Human Rights to consult with representatives of groups affected by the Human Rights Act to develop a plan to eliminate the case backlog and to process cases in a manner that complies with statutory time deadlines. The plan must be submitted to the legislature by January 1, 1997.	390
Nuisance	Allows a neighborhood organization or a resident to request a prosecuting attorney to bring a nuisance action when there is evidence of two or more separate incidents or convictions within 12 months. Nuisance actions include prostitution. A prevailing individual or neighborhood organization may receive actual damages or \$500. It is a defense to the action if the individual alleged to be a nuisance was coerced or if the basis of the prosecution was discrimination. The law sunsets 8/1/99.	453

NOT PASSED

Dependent Care	Would have required employers with 100 or more employees to offer Dependent Care Pre-Tax Accounts. Would have increased the amount of the Dependent Care Tax Credit to a maximum of \$5,000 for 1 child and \$10,000 for 2 or more children, up to 30 percent of out-of-pocket child care expenses. Would have increased the income level for obtaining the maximum credit from \$13,350 to \$30,000 annually.	HF 2540
Child Care Licensing	Would have directed a comprehensive study of child care licensing by the Institute of Early Childhood Professional Development. The study would have considered in-service training of child care staff and licensing child care workers rather than child care programs.	HF 2248
Women Veteran's Memorial	Would have provided for a memorial plaque recognizing Minnesota women veterans of all wars in the Court of Honor on the State Capitol grounds.	SF 2419

VETOED

MNCare	Would have extended coverage under this state health insurance plan for the uninsured to single adults whose income is up to 150 percent of the federal poverty level. Currently income limit is 125 percent of poverty.	
Minimum Wage	Would have raised the state's minimum wage from \$4.25 per hour to \$5 per hour beginning Sept. 1, 1996 and \$5.10 per hour beginning September 1, 1997.	Vetoed
Livable Wage	Would have required certain companies which receive economic development assistance from the state of Minnesota to pay their full-time employees a wage (including health and dental coverage) at least equal to the federal poverty level for a family of four.	Vetoed
Loan Forgiveness for Law Students	Would have provided loan repayment assistance to reimburse graduates of Minnesota law schools working full-time for an agency serving economically disadvantaged persons.	Vetoed