

# SENATE WEEK IN REVIEW

A PUBLICATION OF THE MINNESOTA SENATE INFORMATION OFFICE

For additional information contact Jim Pirius at (612) 296-4917

..FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE..

WEEK OF MAY 4 - 9, 1975

## NEWS IN BRIEF FOR FURTHER INFORMATION SEE INSIDE STORIES

### SENATE-HOUSE TAX BILLS READIED FOR COMPROMISE

*After nearly 5 hours of debate, the Senate passed an omnibus tax bill by a 40-23 vote. The Senate bill differs considerably from the House proposal. Both measures now go to a senate-house conference committee where a compromise bill is expected late next week. (p.2)*

### SCHOOL-AID MEASURE OKAYED BY 53-14 VOTE

*By a better than 3 to 1 margin, the Senate approved a \$1.59 billion school-aid package Monday. A joint senate-house conference committee is now meeting to work out differences between the House and Senate measures. (p.2)*

### \$538.6 MILLION HIGHER EDUCATION BILL PASSES SENATE

*The full Senate approved a \$538.6 million appropriation Thursday to finance the U of M, state and community colleges and the Department of Education. The House has also passed legislation calling for \$537.7 million for the next biennium. (p. 3)*

### STATE DEPARTMENTS BUDGET APPROVED AFTER HEATED DEBATE

*A \$350.3 million appropriation for some 60 state departments was approved late Thursday by the Senate. An attempt to kill a measure which eliminates three airplanes of the State Patrol failed by a 32-33 vote.*

### UNION DUES BILL SENT TO HOUSE SENATE APPROVES FEES ON TACONITE TAILINGS

(p.3)

### SENATE FLOOR ACTION MONDAY

### STATE INSTITUTIONS BILL ADVANCES

#### SENATE FLOOR ACTION-WEDNESDAY

*A bill which would close Hastings State Hospital and St. Peter Security Hospital, and reduce the inmate population at Stillwater State Prison was approved by a 55-10 vote. Cost of the bill is estimated at \$585 million. (p. 4)*

#### SENATE COMMITTEE UPDATE

(p.5)

#### HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 4 - 9

#### SENATE FLOOR ACTION-FRIDAY

(p.6)

## SENATE-HOUSE TAX BILLS READIED FOR COMPROMISE

After nearly 5 hours of debate, the Senate gave final approval to a complicated omnibus tax bill designed to ease tax burdens for most Minnesotans. The vote was 40-23.

The Senate bill, which differs considerably from the House version, is now scheduled for debate by a Senate-House conference committee. A compromise measure is expected late next week.

Central to the senate bill is a provision for state takeover of 90 percent of welfare aid costs. Such costs are now financed by local property taxes. The measure is expected to ease property taxes for residents of Ramsey, Hennepin and St. Louis counties.

Other provisions of the bill include:

AN INCREASE in the homestead exemption from \$12,000 to \$14,000--a savings of \$36.6 million a year to homeowners;

AN INCREASE in the maximum credit allowed renters from \$120 to \$150;

EXEMPTION of federal income-tax rebates from state income taxes;

AN INCREASE in the state income exemption for the "working poor" from approximately \$1200 to \$1400 a year;

REPEAL of the state payroll tax on state employers;

REPEAL of state law which limits assessment increases on residential property to 5 percent a year.

The bill also calls for an additional \$31 million in aid to municipalities and no additional aid to counties.

In contrast to the Senate bill, the House proposal calls for a "circuit breaker" tax relief plan which Governor Anderson introduced earlier this Session. The House bill also provides for an increase in tax on taconite production. No provision is made for state takeover of welfare cost aids. Both bills allow for an increase in the homestead exemption.

## SCHOOL-AID MEASURE OKAYED BY 53-14 VOTE

By a better than 3 to 1 margin, the Senate approved a \$1.59 billion school-aid package Monday. The four-hour debate centered on the issue of benefits allowed city schools as opposed to suburban and outstate school districts.

The bill realizes an increase of \$308 million over the next two years and provides some \$12 million in additional aid for districts which house a high percentage of families currently receiving AFDC benefits. An amendment to eliminate extra funds for such districts (most located in St. Paul, Minneapolis and Duluth) failed on a 20-44 roll-call vote.

Under the Senate bill, per pupil aid is raised from \$825 to \$890 for the 1975-76 school year, and increases to \$950 for the following year. The proposal also calls for a maximum local tax levy for schools of 30 mills the first year and 28 for the second. The drop in the mill rate levy is expected to decrease school property taxes in 1977.

The House-approved measure proposes an increase in the aid-per-pupil unit to \$910 in the first year and \$970 for the second.

A joint Senate-House conference committee is now meeting to work out differences between the two bills.

(MORE)

## \$538.6 MILLION HIGHER EDUCATION MEASURE PASSES SENATE

The full Senate approved a \$538.6 million appropriation Thursday to finance the University of Minnesota, state and community colleges and the Department of Education.

Under the bill, tuition hikes would average 11 percent this year and 9 percent in 1976. Faculty at community colleges would realize a 5.5 percent salary increase for both years of the biennium. State college faculty would receive 12 percent the first year and 6 percent in 1976, while U of M faculty realize an 11 percent salary hike in 1975 and a 6 percent raise in 1976.

Operating budgets include an appropriation of \$304 million for the University of Minnesota; \$48 million for community colleges; and \$110.5 million for state colleges.

The total appropriation is \$117 million over and above the current budget allocation.

The House has already passed a higher education measure calling for \$537.7 million for the next biennium.

## STATE DEPARTMENTS BUDGET WINS SENATE OKAY

A \$350.3 million appropriation for some 60 state departments was approved late Thursday by the full Senate.

The bill authorizes \$2.9 million in funds for the State Zoological Board to begin its operation. Also okayed was a directive to the Natural Resources Department to impose a \$2 surcharge on licenses for trout fishermen.

Under the measure three highway patrol airplanes would be eliminated, and thirty-nine patrolmen replaced with Civil Service employees.

The Senate bill calls for \$2.6 million in funding over the House request. The \$350 million appropriation represents an increase of \$57 million over the current biennial appropriation.

## UNION DUES BILL SENT TO HOUSE

### SENATE APPROVES FEES ON TACONITE TAILINGS

#### SENATE FLOOR ACTION- MONDAY

A measure which prohibits the use of union dues in state political campaigns passed to the House Monday on a 47-18 roll-call vote.

The bill, sponsored by George Perpich (Chisholm), was opposed by Labor groups and supported by the state ethics commission.

In other action, the Senate voted 39-28 to impose a fee on Reserve Mining Company on taconite tailings dumped in Lake Superior. Bill author is Eugene Stokowski (Mpls.). The fee, which begins at 50¢, increases to \$3 a ton by July, 1978.

The Senate confirmed the following Governor's appointments:

- Daniel Burton to the State Board of Education
- Robert Bonine to the Minnesota Higher Education Facilities Authority
- Jerome Daily, Russel Parta, Dr. Van Mueller, Duane W. Kronke, Mrs. Larry Lambert, Erling O. Johnson, Mrs. Duane Ditlevson, Robert Whaley, Tom Lykins, Char Mitau, and Mary Drenckhan to the Advisory Commission on Fluctuating Enrollments

(MORE)

MONDAY FLOOR ACTION (CONT)

The following Senate bills were approved and sent to the House:

- legislation authorizing the financing of solid waste disposal and recycling facilities through the municipal industrial development act (59-2)
- a bill which clarifies the authority of the Commissioner of Natural Resources in several areas including: management of certain bodies of water for wildlife use; reporting of game taken; providing certain limitations on the taking of fox; and altering certain seasons for taking of deer (47-20)
- a measure which increases the inheritance tax exemption for husbands and wives to \$60,000 and increases the exemption for dependent and adult children (56-11)
- a bill which prohibits the sale of intoxicating liquor at certain places (52-14)
- legislation which excludes persons employed by a municipality for a school year from unemployment compensation benefits (66-1)
- a bill which provides the salary setting authority and classification for certain positions in the office of Attorney General (52-14)
- a bill authorizing the training, development and compensation of state personnel designated as managerial (46-20)
- legislation which authorizes county boards and district courts to order the filing of amended viewers' reports to correct certain deficiencies (67-0)
- a bill which creates an upper northeast recreational authority (55-9)

Two local government bills also passed to the House.

STATE INSTITUTIONS BILL ADVANCES

SENATE FLOOR ACTION-WEDNESDAY

The Senate debated a \$585 million Health-Welfare and Corrections Bill Wednesday before sending it to a Senate-House conference committee by a 55-10 vote.

Under the bill, Hastings State Hospital would be closed by July 1, 1976, and Stillwater State Prison reduced from the current inmate population of 700 to around 250 maximum security prisoners. Minimum and medium security prisoners would be transferred to St. Cloud, Lino Lakes, or the Metropolitan Training Center at Shokopee.

Also scheduled for closing is St. Peter Security Hospital. Correctional inmates and welfare hospital patients would be sent to metropolitan facilities or Rochester.

The proposal calls for substantial increases for state welfare programs, the poor, blind and disabled.

In other business, the following Governor's appointments were approved:

- David Lebedoff, Mrs. Barbara Clark, Donald Hamerlinck, Mrs. Judy Hamilton, Jack Lynch, Harding C.

(MORE)



WEDNESDAY FLOOR ACTION (CONT)

Noblitt and Vladimir Shipka to the Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Commission

The Senate also approved and sent to the Governor the following House bills:

- a bill which allows teachers additional time to consider teaching contracts (63-0)
- legislation authorizing joint boards to hold title to property of school districts which use data processing services (63-0)
- a bill which eliminates the duty of the Commission on Public Welfare to appoint directors of community health services (61-0)
- a measure which clarifies retirement allowances, service annuities, etc. for Minneapolis city officials (63-0)
- a bill which provides that the Commissioner of Highways publish highway maps periodically (60-6)
- legislation providing for the transfer of filing fees when venue is changed in civil actions (64-0)
- a bill allowing fraternal beneficiary associations to use life insurance mortality tables and interest rates (65-0)

SENATE COMMITTEE UPDATE

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS committee members approved a number of bills this week including legislation that would make certain department heads coterminous with the governor. Such boards could serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Exceptions include the Commissioners of Education and personnel.

Members also approved a bill to create a state office of human services for a two-year period. The office would work with human services agencies to develop uniform policies and procedures and present a long-range reorganization proposal to the 1977 Legislature.

The committee approved a bill which provides various alternatives to state employees laid off due to the closing of state institutions, and a number of pension retirement bills. Most pension bills were also approved by the Senate Thursday.

A gay-rights bill that would make it illegal to discriminate on the basis of affectional preference passed the JUDICIARY COMMITTEE Tuesday. The measure would prohibit discrimination against homosexuals in employment, housing, public accommodations, education, credit availability and public services. Committee members also okayed a bill strengthening restrictions on lie detector tests. The bill, already passed by the House, would prohibit employers from requesting lie detector or other "honesty" tests of employees or prospective employees.

The METROPOLITAN AND URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE okayed a bill to increase the size of the St. Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority Board from seven to nine members. The measure also requires that at least one member be a resident of a neighborhood program and one a resident of a public housing area.

A House-passed bill calling for an "elective" Metropolitan Council was not heard by the committee.

Two labor-supported bills to increase workmen's compensation and to raise the state minimum wage suffered setbacks in the LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE. Both bills were laid over by the committee, but later amended on a Senate bill scheduled for hearing in the House.

(MORE)

COMMITTEE UPDATE (CONT)

A measure which bans the use of chart-type depth sounders for fishing passed the NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE Monday. The House has already approved a permanent ban on the depth sounders which can print out visual records of lake bottoms and schools of fish.

NOTE: From now until May 19, the Senate will meet in Session each day, except Sunday. The Senate will convene between the hours of 9:00 - 10:00 A.M. each day.

For exact scheduling information, please call the Information Office at 296-4916.

SENATE FLOOR ACTION-FRIDAY

At time of publication, the Senate was expected to meet in Session until 5:00 or 6:00 P.M. Action reported below includes bills passed from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon.

The Senate approved the Governor's appointment of Gerald Vizenor to the Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Commission.

The following House bills were approved and sent to the Governor:

- legislation which authorizes the release of certain lands and the conveyance of certain lands in Aitkin county (55-0)
- a bill which directs the State Board of Health to set standards (water supply, toilet facilities, etc.) for mass gatherings (37-16)
- a measure authorizing per diem compensation for regional development commissioners (56-0)
- a bill authorizing the deposit of certain securities with the federal reserve bank under certain conditions (55-0)
- legislation which authorizes governmental units to furnish services, property and money in connection with bicentennial projects (42-15)
- a bill which provides for issuance of limited general obligation bonds for the Minneapolis housing finance program (45-3)
- a bill which would allow employment for senior citizens in the city of Duluth (maintenance of city parks, public works, etc.)
- legislation which allows teachers complete access to files and teacher evaluations (51-0)

The following Senate bills were approved and sent to the House:

- a bill which would require a forfeiture of interest on usurious contracts, providing for recovery of an amount equal to twice the amount of interest paid on an usurious contract (35-14)
- legislation which permits Lincoln county to initiate weather modification activities (38-16)
- a measure which creates a private right of action (direct court action) to enforce human rights act (44-15)

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WEEK OF APRIL 26 - MAY 2, 1975

## NEWS IN BRIEF FOR FURTHER INFORMATION SEE INSIDE STORIES

### DRUG SUBSTITUTION BILL SENT TO GOVERNOR

By a 66-0 vote, the Senate gave final approval to a compromise generic drug substitution bill. The measure, already passed by the House, permits pharmacists to substitute less-expensive medication for brand-name drugs.

### SCHOOL-AID BILL READIED FOR FLOOR ACTION

Finance committee members approved a \$1.59 billion school-aid bill--a \$400 million increase over the current two-year budget. An attempt to remove \$12 million in aid to cities with a high concentration of children whose parents receive AFDC benefits failed. (p. 2)

### SALES TAX EXEMPTION OKAYED FOR ROAD MATERIALS

A bill which exempts road-building materials from the state sales tax passed out of the Taxes and Tax Laws committee this week. Also approved for Senate consideration is a bill that would deny landlords tax deductions on state income tax returns if substandard buildings are not repaired. (p. 2)

### MARATHON REGULATIONS SET

Judiciary committee members okayed a bill that mandates five-hour rest periods after endurance contests lasting 24 hours. (p. 2)

### SENATE FLOOR ACTION - SATURDAY APRIL 26 (p. 3)

### SMOKING RESTRICTIONS IN PUBLIC PLACES APPROVED

A bill which would designate 'no smoking' areas in most public places, and legislation to ban pay toilets unless half of the facilities at a location are free passed out of Health, Welfare and Corrections. (p. 3)

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE APPROVES GOVERNOR'S APPTS. (p. 3)

### SENATE FLOOR ACTION - MONDAY (p. 4)

### TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE OKAYS HOUSE BILLS (p. 4)

### 2ND HEARING FOR TRANSP. DEPT. BILL SCHEDULED (p. 4)

### SENATE FLOOR ACTION - THURSDAY (p. 5)



## DRUG SUBSTITUTION BILL SENT TO GOVERNOR

By a 66 to 0 vote, the full Senate gave final approval to a compromise generic drug substitution bill Thursday. The measure, already passed by the House, allows pharmacists to substitute less-expensive medication for brand-name drugs. Under the bill, doctors could prescribe brand-name drugs, but patients would have final say regarding substitutions.

The bill now goes to the Governor for his signature.

## SCHOOL-AID BILL READIED FOR FLOOR ACTION

Finance committee members met Monday and approved a \$1.59 billion school-aid bill. The measure realizes a \$400 million increase over the current two-year budget.

An attempt to remove \$12 million in additional aid to cities with a high concentration of children whose parents receive Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) failed. The cut in funds would have affected the cities of St. Paul, Minneapolis and Duluth.

The committee also rejected proposals for creating a permanent legislative school finance commission and a program to aid gifted students. A \$2.7 million cut in funds for screening and testing children prior to their entry in school was approved.

Essentially, the bill raises per pupil aid to \$890 for the first year of the biennium and allows a decrease in the property tax levy from 30 to 28 mills for the second year.

The House bill, approved late Wednesday evening, raises per pupil aid to \$910 in 1976 and \$970 in 1977.

Following full Senate action on the Senate bill, a conference committee consisting of members from both Houses will meet to iron-out differences.

## SALES TAX EXEMPTION OKAYED FOR ROAD MATERIALS

Although no definitive tax relief bill has yet been approved by the Taxes and Tax Laws committee, two measures passed to the floor this week.

One provides for an exemption of all road-building materials used on construction of any public road from the state sales tax. Estimated cost of the bill is \$2 million for the biennium.

Also approved was a bill that denies a landlord business deductions on state income tax returns if he does not properly repair property which endangers the health and safety of occupants.

Under the bill, persons who fail to repair substandard structures after being warned could not claim deductions for interest, depreciation, taxes, and trade or business expenses. Landlords would have six months to make repairs and/or file a repeal. Also, if the owner did not comply within a given amount of time, he would be deprived tax deductions on a proportional basis.

## MARATHON REGULATIONS SET

Judiciary committee members okayed a bill Tuesday that would mandate five-hour rest periods after endurance contests lasting 24 hours.

The committee also approved and sent to the floor a bill which allows for an interpreter for handicapped persons in legal hearings.

(MORE)



SENATE FLOOR ACTION - SATURDAY, APRIL 26

After lengthy debate, the Senate by a 51 to 10 vote, approved a bill which allows school expense tax deductions to families with children attending non-public schools.

On a 49-12 roll-call vote, the Senate agreed to a proposal which renames state colleges 'state universities'.

Senators also okayed six bills increasing the number of on-sale liquor licenses and requiring filing of whole-sale liquor prices. Sunday on-sale hours were extended by a 34-26 vote.

The following natural resources proposals were approved and sent to the House:

- a bill requiring a state certificate before any energy facilities may be constructed
- a measure authorizing certain conservation restrictions
- legislation allowing the commissioner of natural resources to regulate water permits
- a bill which revises priorities for appropriation and use of water.

In other business, the Senate passed a bill providing for toilet facilities on railroad vehicles (37-20).

Several local government bills also passed to the House.

SMOKING RESTRICTIONS IN PUBLIC PLACES  
OKAYED

A bill which would designate 'no smoking' areas in most public places passed out of the Health, Welfare and Corrections committee Monday. The bill would make it a petty misdemeanor to smoke in hospitals, restaurants, stores, schools and other public places except in designated smoking areas.

Committee members also okayed a bill which bans pay toilets unless at least half the facilities at a location are free.

Both bills have already been approved by the House.

In other business, the committee approved a bill that would prohibit the commissioner of the Department of Public Welfare from appointing directors of Community Health Centers. The committee also acted favorably on a child abuse bill.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE APPROVES GOVERNOR'S  
APPOINTMENTS

Education committee members approved the following Governor's appointments:

- Robert W. Bonine to the Higher Education Facilities Authority
- Daniel F. Burton to the State Board of Education
- Jerome E. Daily, Patricia Ditlevson, Mary Drenckhahn, Erling O. Johnson, Duane Krohnke, Beverly Lambert, Thomas Lykins, Charlotte Mitau, Van D. Mueller, Russell Parta, and Robert Whaley to the Advisory Commission on Fluctuating Enrollments

The following House bills were approved and sent to the floor: a bill which authorizes governing associations of vocational-technical institutes and community colleges to expend money to fund any need for legal counseling and service programs; a measure that lowers the ages of retired employees for whom a school board may purchase medical insurance. (Under this bill, an independent school district may use funds to pay premiums on hospitalization and major

(MORE)

EDUCATION COMM (CONT)

medical insurance coverage for officers and employees who retire prior to age 65 and who are between the ages of 55 and 65.

In other business, the committee passed a bill which gives teachers 10 days after they receive a contract to consider its tenets before returning it. The measure does not pertain to a final resignation date but rather to conditions for hiring teachers for teaching assignments.

At a meeting Wednesday, the committee approved the appointments of Barbara Clark, Donald Hamerlinck, Judy Hamilton, Jack Lynch, Harding C. Noblitt, Vladimar Shipka and David Lebedoff to the Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Commission.

SENATE FLOOR ACTION - MONDAY

In Session Monday, the Senate approved the following bills.

- a bill which specifies and prescribes penalties for persons who are in possession of shoplifting devices or gear (61-0)
- legislation which authorizes county boards to direct county and municipal courts to hold conciliation court sessions during the evening and on Saturday at specified locations (61-0)
- a measure which authorizes the planting, care and maintenance of trees in St. Paul (50-13)
- a bill allowing the city of St. Paul to directly negotiate contracts for solid waste collection and disposal (50-12)
- legislation authorizing the Commissioner of Natural Resources to establish limitations on fishing contests and to issue special permits for fishing contests (58-5)
- a measure to issue general obligation bonds to the city of Brainerd for razing of hazardous buildings (62-0)

The Senate also passed and sent to the House a number of local government bills.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE OKAYS HOUSE BILLS

Four House proposals were approved at a meeting of the Transportation and General Legislation committee this week. They include a measure to allow persons time off from jobs to attend meetings where they must act in a public official capacity; a bill which reduces speed limits during school hours; a bill authorizing the periodic publication of highway maps; and legislation that transfers the number plates of vehicles used in driver education courses.

The bills are now pending final action by the full Senate.

BILL WOULD CREATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Although tabled earlier this Session, another attempt to pass legislation creating a state Department of Transportation is scheduled for May 5 by the Governmental Operations Committee.

In business this week, the committee voted to establish an advisory committee to make recommendations for the operation of Voyageurs National Park. Also approved were bills which reorganize the office of legislative auditor; a measure requiring that the registration fee for the practice of healing be fixed by rule; legislation which adds a representative for physical therapists and hospital administrators on the committee of allied health manpower credentialing; and a bill which provides that the Department of Aeronautics supervise state telecommunications facilities for air navigation.

(MORE)

## TRANSPORTATION (CONT)

The committee also approved a measure Wednesday which revises state personnel laws, and a bill which allows small businesses owned and operated by socially and economically disadvantaged persons to have special bidding rights.

## HOME BUILDERS GUARANTEE OKAYED

Labor and Commerce committee members approved a bill Tuesday that would require home builders to guarantee, by warranty, their work up to 10 years.

The bill, already passed by the House, allows for a one-year warranty on faulty workmanship, a two-year warranty on plumbing, heating and electrical work, and a ten-year warranty against major construction defects.

Another measure which sets and regulates fees for persons engaged in the service of selling tickets also passed to the floor.

## BILL WOULD BAN UNION DUES FROM POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS

### SENATE FLOOR ACTION-THURSDAY

By a 47-16 vote, the Senate gave preliminary approval to a bill that bans the use of union dues in political campaigns. The vote represents a defeat for the Minnesota AFL-CIO which has fought the bill since its introduction earlier this Session. The state ethics commission has supported the bill to bring state law in line with federal law.

Senators also gave preliminary approval to legislation that raises the inheritance exemption for husbands and wives from \$30,000 to \$60,000. Minor children could receive up to \$30,000 and adult children up to \$12,000 before being taxed.

In other business, the Senate approved the following bills:

- a measure which rearranges laws regulating campaign practices and penalties (65-1)
- a bill which requires insurers of employee group insurance policies or group non-profit health service plan contracts covering hospital and medical expense to coordinate benefits when two family members are covered under separate policies (66-0)
- legislation which permits gifts of agricultural lands to nonprofit educational, religious or charitable corporations (66-0)

The following House bills were approved and sent to the Governor for his signature:

- a bill which provides that workmen's compensation is not considered salary (66-0)
- a measure that prohibits removing, altering or obliterating identifying marks on property (66-0)



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WEEK OF APRIL 20 -26, 1975

NEWS IN BRIEF  
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION SEE INSIDE STORIES

## SENATE QUICKENS PACE

*With only three weeks remaining in the '75 Legislative Session, Senators met Monday, Wednesday and Thursday this week to consider a flood of bills approved by Senate committees and sent to the floor. A Session is also scheduled for Saturday, April 27.*

## TAX PLANS AIRED AT JOINT CAUCUS

*Several different tax-package plans drew attention of both DFL and Republican caucus members this week. Although no consensus was reached, support emerged for a \$227 million tax proposal. For details of the 4-point plan see page 2.*

## METROPOLITAN RECYCLING BILL OKAYED BY SENATE

*By a 38-26 vote, the Senate approved and sent to the House a bill which creates a waste collection, disposal and recycling program for the metro area. The legislation is designed to save millions of dollars each year in fuel costs while recycling resources which currently are lost in waste. See page 2.*

## MAJOR HEALTH, WELFARE, CORRECTIONS BILL ADVANCED TO FINANCE COMMITTEE

*A \$586 million omnibus health, welfare and corrections bill passed out of a finance sub-committee this week. Under the bill Hastings State Hospital would be closed by July 1, 1976, and Stillwater State Prison phased down from its present inmate population of 700 to around 250. See page 3.*

SENATE APPROVES ETHICS COMMISSION  
APPOINTMENTS  
SENATE FLOOR ACTION - MONDAY (p.3)

## METROPOLITAN COUNCIL OUTLINES BUDGET REQUESTS

*Metropolitan and Urban Affairs committee members met this week to review the '75 Metro Council budget and budget requests for the next two years. (p3)*

SENATE FLOOR ACTION-WEDNESDAY (p.4)  
SENATE FLOOR ACTION-THURSDAY (p.5)



## SENATE QUICKENS PACE

With only three weeks remaining in the '75 Legislative Session, Senators met Monday, Wednesday and Thursday this week to consider a flood of bills approved by Senate committees and sent to the floor.

In order to meet the April 19 cut-off date for hearings on Senate-authored legislation, committees met around-the-clock last week. Only the Taxes and Tax Laws committee and Finance committee can act on Senate bills. Other Senate committees will step-up action beginning next week to hear House-sponsored bills.

The legislature is expected to conclude its business on May 19.

## TAX PLANS AIRED AT JOINT CAUCAUS MEETING

Several different tax-package plans drew attention of both DFL and Republican caucus members Wednesday. The joint meeting was held to discuss alternative tax proposals currently under study by the Taxes and Tax Laws committee.

While no consensus was reached at the meeting, support emerged for a \$227 million tax proposal.

Essentially, the plan, as outlined, includes a state takeover of 90 percent of county welfare cash payments. The cost to the state would be close to \$139 million and would work to increase tax relief for both businesses and home-owners. Currently, the state pays only half of the non-federal share of county welfare program costs, while county units must assume additional costs.

Also included in the tax-package is an exemption of federal income tax rebates from state income taxes.

Under the bill, the payroll tax on businesses would be repealed and the "working poor" tax relief program, approved last year, expanded. The plan raises the ceiling for exemption of state income taxes for low-income persons at an estimated cost of \$15 million for the next biennium.

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In action Monday, the committee approved a bill which exempts bingo receipts of veterans' organizations from the state sales tax.

Officials at the State Department of Revenue estimate that some \$150,000 will be lost in sales tax monies. The purpose of the bill is to allow more bingo proceeds to be used for activities financed by veteran's groups.

Committee members also okayed a bill that sets up special boards to review property tax assessments. The legislation is designed to free local officials from "center spotlight" in making decisions.

## METROPOLITAN RECYCLING BILL OKAYED BY SENATE

By a 38 to 26 vote, the Senate approved and sent to the House a bill that creates a waste collection, disposal and recycling program for the metro area. The program would be responsible to the Metropolitan Council.

Under the bill, the council could levy up to one-twentieth of a mill in property taxes in the seven-county metropolitan area to plan the program. The bill also calls for the council to sell general obligation bonds to finance building of facilities on purchased sites.

The legislation is designed to save millions of dollars each year in fuel costs while recycling resources which currently are lost in waste.

(MORE)

## \$586 MILLION HEALTH, CORRECTIONS BILL

### WINS SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVAL

A Senate finance subcommittee voted Thursday to appropriate a \$586 million omnibus health, welfare and corrections bill.

Hastings State Hospital would be closed by July 1, 1976, and Stillwater State Prison gradually phased down from its present inmate population of 700 to around 250.

The bill calls for a thirty-five percent increase in state spending, a hike of \$152 million allocated for this biennium. The Department of Welfare would also realize a sizable increase of \$115 million over and above its current operating budget of \$380 million.

In addition to the closing of Hastings State Hospital and partial closing of Stillwater, the omnibus bill provides \$1.6 million to make the Metropolitan Training Center at Lino Lakes a minimum and medium security facility; and a \$200,000 appropriation for St. Cloud Reformatory to aid in remodeling.

Although no immediate plans to close St. Peter Security Hospital are yet set, a special corrections committee would be asked to report to the 1976 Legislature on possible sites for relocating patients in or near the metropolitan area.

### SENATE APPROVES ETHICS COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

#### SENATE FLOOR ACTION-MONDAY

In Session Monday, the full Senate voted to confirm the appointments of all six Gubernatorial nominations to the State Ethics Commission.

They include Mrs. Elizabeth Ebbott, Mrs. Rosemary Davis, Stanley W. Yolmquist, Judge Spencer Sokolowski, David Durenberger and Irene Scott.

The following Senate bills were approved and sent to the House:

- legislation which authorizes the levy and expenditure of funds for certain purposes to Chisago county
- a bill which defines jurisdictional amounts in conciliation court actions
- a measure which extends the time counties have to publish and file financial statements

The following House bills were approved and sent to the Governor:

- a bill appropriating money to the Department of Administration for the restoration and rehabilitation of the Capitol building
- a measure which regulates state government publications, duplicating services, guidebooks, state vehicles and disposition of surplus state lands

### METRO COUNCIL BUDGET REQUESTS STUDIED

Metropolitan and Urban Affairs members met this week to review the '75 Metro Council budget and budget requests for the next two fiscal years.

John Boland, Council chairman, outlined in detail expenditures of the Council's various departments and rationale behind funding of its many programs.

Following Boland's testimony, several senators requested

(MORE)

METRO COUNCIL (CONT)

further staff research to determine the amount of taxes assessed metropolitan homeowners to support various meto agencies and commissions.

SENATE FLOOR ACTION - WEDNESDAY

The following Senate bills were approved and sent to the House:

- a bill which permits the addition of premiums to open-end insurance premiums (59-2)
- a bill restricting the right to repurchase tax-forfeited lands (65-0)
- a measure authorizing the establishment of additional state trails (66-0)
- legislation that requires state employees to receive prior written approval before traveling out of state
- a bill which authorizes the investment of state retirement system funds in obligations guaranteed by the federal small business administration (67-0)
- legislation which invalidates provisions limiting pension or profit sharing rights if an employee joins a competing employer (56-10)
- a measure which exempts lands acquired for growing asparagus from ownership by certain corporations (57-9)
- a bill allowing the leasing and building of private industries on the grounds of state correctional institutions, employing inmates (64-2)
- legislation that covers costs of foster care for delinquent children (67-0)
- a measure providing Vietnam veterans bonuses to the next of kin of those veterans missing in action (67-0)
- a bill authorizing direct loans to cities, counties and towns throughout the state (66-0)
- legislation authorizing blanket performance bonds covering all county officers and employees in lieu of individually required bonds (66-0)
- a bill which exempts certain vehicles from the motor vehicle excise tax (66-0)

Also passed was a bill which would make littering in state parks a misdemeanor. The bill provides that offenders could work off fines up to \$50 a day by working in a "Litter Patrol" and doing clean-up work in state parks. (63-1)

The Senate also approved a bill which restricts the taking of turtles throughout the state. The Department of Natural Resources would establish protective regulations. Under the bill, commercial turtle trappers would have to purchase a \$25 license. Licensed fishermen could take up to 10 turtles. (59-5)

(MORE)

SENATE FLOOR ACTION-THURSDAY

In Session Thursday the senate confirmed the appointment of Edward Driscoll as Commissioner of the Division of Securities, Department of Commerce.

After preliminary approval Wednesday, the Senate rejected by a 31 to 34 vote a bill to return Memorial Day to May 30.

Another measure to allow lending institutions to charge interest rates on business and agricultural loans up to five percent more than the federal discount rate at the time the loan was made passed by a 46 to 16 roll-call vote

By a 64-0 vote, the Senate also approved a bill which increases and extends payments on a per diem basis to members of county public health nursing committees.

The Senate okayed a measure which provides authority for the Commissioner of Corrections to establish minimum standards for the management and physical condition of state correctional facilities (56-9), and a bill which excludes from the terms sale and purchase meals and drinks delivered or served to senior citizens or the handicapped by governmental or nonprofit organizations (65-0).

Preliminary approval was given to a bill that would rename Minnesota's seven state colleges 'state universities'.



# SENATE WEEK IN REVIEW

A PUBLICATION OF THE MINNESOTA SENATE INFORMATION OFFICE

For additional information contact Jim Pirius at (612) 296-4917

..FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE..

WEEK OF APRIL 13-19, 1975

## NEWS IN BRIEF FOR FURTHER DETAILS SEE INSIDE STORIES

### SENATE COMMITTEES STEP UP PACE TO MEET DEADLINE

Both committees and subcommittees scheduled extra meetings this week to meet the April 19 deadline for hearings on Senate-authored legislation. (p.2)

### HANDGUN BILL STILL ALIVE DESPITE SETBACK

Handgun control legislation which passed the Judiciary committee last week by a 2 to 1 margin and failed this week by an 8-6 vote in Finance, is, at time of publication, scheduled for another hearing to remove portions of the bill which necessitate funding. If amended, it would probably be referred to the Rules committee before going to the floor for debate. (p.2)

### REFERENDUM ON LEGALIZED GAMBLING OKAYED

A bill which would allow a state-wide constitutional referendum on legalized gambling passed the Labor and Commerce committee. No further action is expected until the '76 Legislative Session. (p. 2)

### MAJOR SCHOOL-AIDS BILLS SENT TO FULL SENATE

A \$1.6 billion appropriation for public school funding and a \$12 million appropriation for parochial and private schools won approval at Education meetings this week. (p.3)

### INHERITANCE TAX EXEMPTIONS AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOL TAX BREAKS OKAYED BY TAXES AND TAX LAWS (p.3)

Two major tax bills, one raising the inheritance tax exemption and the other allowing for further tax breaks for families with children attending parochial schools passed to the full Senate.

### PRIVACY COMMISSION WOULD DETERMINE PUBLIC AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION (p.3)

### STANDARDS SET FOR MANAGEMENT LEVEL EMPLOYEES

A number of bills passed the Governmental Operations committee this week including legislation that establishes standards for management level state employees. The bill requires the Personnel Commission to establish plans for training and development and mobility and compensation for persons in management positions. (p. 5)

CORPORATE FARM  
BILL ADVANCES  
(p.4)

SENATE FLOOR ACTION  
MONDAY  
(p.5)

METRO IMPACT BILL  
APPROVED  
(p.4)

SENATE COMMITTEE UPDATE  
(pgs. 6-7)

SENATE FLOOR ACTION  
THURSDAY  
(p.7)

## SENATE COMMITTEES STEP UP PACE TO MEET DEADLINE

Under joint rules approved earlier this Session, Senate committees considered a virtual flood of bills this week in order to meet the April 19 cut off date for hearings on Senate-authored legislation.

Committees, which normally meet at determined times throughout the week, scheduled special sessions during days and evenings to allow hearings on several pending bills.

The joint rules provide that only legislation heard in Taxes and Tax Laws and Finance committees may be extended beyond April 19. Beginning next week, the Senate will consider bills already approved by the House and the House will tackle legislation which has been okayed by the Senate.

The 1975 Session is expected to conclude its business on or around May 19.

## HANDGUN BILL STILL ALIVE DESPITE SETBACK

Handgun control legislation is not dead this Session--this despite a "no" vote by the Finance Committee Wednesday.

At time of publication, the bill is expected to be re-routed to the Rules committee where it would be amended to delete portions of the bill which necessitate funding.

Last week the bill passed by a 2 to 1 margin by the Judiciary committee and was sent to Finance where it lost on an 8 to 6 vote.

Bill author Nicholas Coleman (St. Paul) urged committee members to move the bill to the floor, but several Senators questioned the costs of the bill estimated at \$88,000 for the next two years.

Unless the bill is amended to remove provisions which require funding, and thus action by the Finance committee, it most likely will not reach the floor for debate.

## REFERENDUM ON LEGALIZED GAMBLING OKAYED

A bill which would allow a state-wide constitutional referendum on legalized gambling won approval at a meeting of the Labor and Commerce committee Wednesday.

Under the bill, authored by Edward Gearty (Minneapolis), the state legislature, by constitutional amendment, would establish various forms of gambling in addition to a gambling commission to oversee and regulate gambling practices.

In other business, the committee defeated a measure to permit pari-mutuel horse racing at the state fairgrounds.

The committee also passed a bill authorizing the creation of a legislative study commission to consider the state usury law which boasts an 8 percent interest ceiling on home mortgages and other loans.

The commission would report back to the 1976 legislature with any proposed recommendations.

Also approved was a \$5million loan fund to aid small business. Sponsored by John Milton (White Bear Lake), the fund would be administered by the state economic development commissioner and financed through issuance of bonds at the rate of \$ 5 million annually for the next four years.

(NOTE: Further legislation passed out of Labor and Commerce is reported on page 6).

(MORE)

## MAJOR SCHOOL-AIDS BILLS SENT TO FULL SENATE

Education committee members tackled one of their biggest headaches of the '75 Session this week--bills which appropriate monies for public and non-public schools.

Senators approved a \$1.6 billion appropriation which would increase basic foundation aid from \$825 per pupil to \$890 for the first year and up to \$950 for the second.

The school-aid bill realizes an increase of about \$300 million in educational funding over the current biennium.

An attempt by Rochester Senator Nancy Brataas to amend the bill to add \$110 million more in school foundation aid failed.

Committee members also passed a bill which would provide \$12 million yearly in aid to children attending private and parochial schools.

The appropriation would cover costs for textbooks, films, counseling, speech and hearing therapy and other non-religious services.

(NOTE: Other legislation approved by the Education committee this week can be found on page 6).

## INHERITANCE AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOL TAX BREAKS OKAYED

Two major tax bills, one raising the inheritance tax exemption and the other allowing for further tax breaks for families with children attending parochial schools, passed the Taxes and Tax Laws committee this week.

The inheritance tax exemption would raise the amount of money that could be inherited by either a husband and wife to \$60,000 before being subjected to state income taxes. Currently, a wife may inherit \$30,000 and a husband \$6,000 before being taxed by the state.

An exemption for dependent children was increased to \$30,000 and for an adult child the exemption would be \$12,000.

Brothers and sisters also are allowed up to \$12,000 before paying income tax.

The bill is authored by Clarence Purfeerst (Faribault). The amendment to up the exemption for wives and husbands to \$60,000 was made by Mel Frederick (West Concord).

Committee members also approved a bill authored by Joseph O'Neill (St. Paul) which provides a tax break for families with children in private or parochial schools.

The proposal would remove the present \$200 limit on the amount that can be deducted from taxable income and allows families to deduct the actual amount spent on textbooks, transportation and tuition.

Estimated cost of the bill is \$3.3 million.

Also approved was a bill which provides exemptions from the motor vehicle excise tax, and a bill exempting sales and use taxes on meals and drinks delivered or served at home to senior citizens or handicapped persons by nonprofit or government organizations.

## PRIVACY COMMISSION APPROVED

The Judiciary committee voted to create a legislative commission on Privacy which would provide lawmakers recommendations on what types of information concerning individuals should be made public and what should remain confidential.

(NOTE: Other bills approved by Judiciary are listed on page 6).

(MORE)

## METRO IMPACT PROPOSAL GIVEN FINAL APPROVAL

At a meeting Tuesday, Metropolitan and Urban Affairs members gave final okay to the Metropolitan Council's Rules and Regulations for Metropolitan Significance Act.

Rules and regulations, created to fulfill a legislative mandate, would determine what projects in the metro area are of metropolitan importance, and what the project's impact is on metro systems such as transit, sewers, parks and open spaces.

Under the proposal, the council could halt for one year any public or private project it feels adversely affects the metropolitan area.

The committee, in approving the bill, also reaffirmed the Metropolitan Council's position as a primary agency responsible for coordinating and promoting the orderly and economic development of the Twin Cities seven-county metropolitan area.

## CORPORATE FARM BILL ADVANCES TO FLOOR

Natural Resources and Agriculture committee members approved a major corporate farm bill which allows farming corporations until May 1978 to purchase or lease additional farm land above original holdings. Bill author is Wayne Olhoft (Herman).

Senators also okayed a bill to create the position of state archeologist, and a bill which permits county boards to sell forfeited land to veterans for agricultural purposes.

In other business, a bill to discourage the Reserve Mining Company from dumping taconite tailings into Lake Superior won unanimous approval. Authored by Eugene Stokowski (Minneapolis), the legislation begins with a 50¢ fee per ton on tailings dumped into the Lake and increases to \$3 by July 1, 1978.

(NOTE: Additional legislation approved by the Natural Resources and Agriculture committee is listed on page 6.)

## CITIES COULD RECEIVE DIRECT BANK LOANS

A bill which permits cities to receive direct loans from banks, and legislation allowing blanket performance bonds for county employees are now pending final Senate action.

The Local Government committee also approved a bill which expands the metropolitan shade tree disease control program. Authored by Hubert Humphrey III (New Hope), the bill establishes a state-aid program for shade tree disease control.

The committee also acted favorably on a number of measures relating to local units.

BILL WOULD PROVIDE ADDITIONAL MONIES FOR ROAD  
CONSTRUCTION

Transportation and General Legislation committee members okayed a bill this week which adds \$56 million for road construction.

The extra monies would come from a fund composed of gasoline taxes and motor vehicle license fees.

In other business, the committee approved a bill that allows state residents to purchase personalized license plates.

The fee would be \$50 per plate.

Bill author Robert Ashbach (Arden Hills) said the service would be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

(MORE)



## STANDARDS SET FOR MANAGEMENT LEVEL EMPLOYEES

A number of bills passed the Governmental Operations committee this week including legislation that establishes standards for management level state employees. The bill requires the Personnel Commission to establish plans for training and development, in addition to mobility and compensation for persons in management positions.

Also approved was a bill pertaining to the state administrative boards which standardizes procedures for compensations, removal, filling of vacancies, advice and consent and length of terms for board members.

The state Bicentennial Commission, which operates under executive order, was entered in the state statutes, and legislation passed which increases benefits to dependents of peace officers killed in the line of duty from \$25,000 to \$50,000.

(NOTE: Other bills approved by the Governmental Operations committee are recorded on page 7).

## SENATE FLOOR ACTION - MONDAY

In Session Monday, the Senate confirmed the following Governor's appointments:

- Darwin Draisey to the State Board of Electricity
- Howard Casmey, Richard Hawk, Ruth Myers, Dr. Karl Grittner to the Education Commission

The following legislation was passed by the Senate and sent to the House:

--a measure that eases the current 8 percent usury law during times of high inflation and high interest rates. Under this legislation, state-chartered banks could make loans at 1 percent more than the Federal Reserve discount rate. (50-12)

--a bill which authorizes the Commissioner of Natural Resources to acquire land along canoe and boating routes (55-4)

--legislation that exempts persons under 18 who deliver flyers door to door from the minimum wage law (55-9)

--a bill requiring sheriffs and chiefs of police to issue permits for persons who wish to use explosives (63-2)

--legislation which mandates that any places serving meat substitutes must indicate so on menus, etc. (53-9)

--a measure outlawing the baiting of bear by using bottles, cans, plastic, paper, wood, etc. (64-1)

--a bill allowing school districts to invest funds which are currently not in use (65-0)

--legislation requiring school districts to file with the commissioner of education a report of energy consumed by the school district each year (59-6)

--a bill which removes racoons from the unprotected list and provides for a "seasonal hunting" period (58-4)

--a measure okaying the use of portable fish houses within the boundary waters canoe area (40-24)

--legislation which permits on-sale liquor licenses to certain establishments, primarily nonprofit organizations (42-19)

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Among House bills passed by the Senate and sent to the Governor, a measure to allow women to retain their maiden names after marriage and to regain their family name after divorce was approved by a 38 to 24 vote.

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Several local government bills also passed and were sent to the House.

(MORE)

## SENATE COMMITTEE UPDATE

The LABOR AND COMMERCE committee approved several bills including legislation which requires provision for insurance coverage after certain employees terminate employment; a bill which requires any owner or wholesaler of distilled liquor or wine to list a price schedule; a measure to establish an office of business assistance in the Department of Economic Development; a bill providing for local emergency telephone service; legislation to abolish the office of Liquor Control Commissioner, transferring duties to the departments of Public Safety and Revenue; a bill redefining, for legal purposes, what constitutes "discriminatory practices"; a measure to step up the procedure by which the public service department will handle complaints. This legislation provides for city councils, etc. to schedule hearings on complaints; legislation which more clearly defines and regulates the relationship between gasoline retail dealers and other petroleum enterprises; a bill which mandates insurance coverage for passengers on airplanes even if they are in violation of federal or civil air regulations, state law regulations or local ordinances. Certain exclusions are provided; and a measure allowing any seven residents of the state to apply to the Commissioner of Banking for permission to organize a credit union.

In meetings this week, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURE committee members okayed a bill to appropriate funds to the University of Minnesota agriculture experiment station to develop a comprehensive plan for irrigation and specialty crops; a measure to appropriate money for research at the University of Minnesota on corn improvement; appropriation of funds to the State Planning Agency for development of recreation facilities to fit the needs of the handicapped at the Island of Peace Park in Fridley; legislation to give forest officers the power to arrest and issue summons to persons violating fire regulations; a bill which provides that no large energy facility is to be constructed in the state after a certain date without a certificate of need issued by the Director of the Energy Agency; an appropriation for monies to the Pollution Control Agency giving it the authority to issue bonds.

Bills okayed by the EDUCATION committee include legislation which authorizes the establishment of higher education extension centers to serve St. Paul; a bill appropriating money to build a state community college at Cambridge; legislation providing for post-secondary education projects in the Fairmont area; a measure creating higher education programs for older citizens; a bill to provide a statewide testing program; legislation authorizing district exceed levy limitations for the purpose of operating a community recreation program; and a measure which increaces school district interest rates to eight percent.

The JUDICIARY committee passed and sent to the floor legislation which provides that conciliation courts of county courts may conduct personal receiverships, and a bill which applys prohibitions of the crime of conspiracy to persons outside the state; a bill specifying that any person who has in his possession any device, gear or other instrumentality to be used in shoplifting, would be subject to certain penalties; and a measure which would make it a crime to alter or remove an owner's identification numbers on property.

Committee members on HEALTH, WELFARE AND CORRECTIONS okayed legislation that would allow private corporations to lease buildings on the grounds of state correctional institutions for the purposes of operating a factory employing inmates; a measure to establish a dental health program in the state's elementary schools; a bill to extend and increase

per diem payments to members of county public health nursing committees; and a bill which sets minimum standards for management and physical conditions of state correctional facilities and annual inspection.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS committee members okayed a number of bills relating to the bicentennial observance including a measure providing grants to local governments; a bill which increases the membership authorized to approve expenses for the Indian Affairs Commission; a measure which sets the authority and classification for certain positions in the office of the Attorney General; and a bill exempting the Minnesota veteran's home from certain license fees.

#### SENATE FLOOR ACTION -THURSDAY

The following Governor's appointments were approved:

- Richard Brubacher as Commissioner of the Department of Administration
- Stella Jensen, Vincent Kubiak, Reverend Bruce Buller, Curtis Chivers and Helen Gamradt to the State Board of Human Rights
- Earl D. Craig to State Board of Human Rights
- Manuel Guerrero and Jose Valdez to State Board of Human Rights
- Edward Ziegler as Commissioner of the Department of Finance

The Senate approved a bill that would require scuba divers to post red diving flags above water as a warning to boaters. (64-0)

Preliminary approval was given to the following bills:

- a bill which exempts United States flags from sales and use tax
- legislation which would ban pull-tab openers on metal beverage containers after July 1, 1976
- a measure which establishes the classification of collector's vehicles and provides for their registration and taxation

A number of other bills also were given preliminary approval and placed on the Senate calendar pending final action.



# SENATE WEEK IN REVIEW

A PUBLICATION OF THE MINNESOTA SENATE INFORMATION OFFICE

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..FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE..

WEEK OF APRIL 6-12, 1975

NEWS IN BRIEF  
FOR FURTHER DETAILS SEE INSIDE STORIES...

## JUDICIARY COMMITTEE OKAYS HANDGUN BILL BY 2 TO 1 MARGIN

*The long-debated handgun control bill passed out of the Judiciary committee Tuesday on a 10 to 5 roll call vote. The bill, now to be considered by the Finance committee, would require individuals to obtain permits before purchasing handguns. (p. 2)*

## BILL WOULD CREATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

*Transportation and General Legislation committee members approved a bill Wednesday to create a state Department of Transportation. The proposal would place several existing departments under the jurisdiction of the new Department. (p. 2)*

## REPAIR ESTIMATES LEGISLATION TO HELP CONSUMER

*A bill which would require repair shops to honor estimates passed out of the Labor and Commerce committee. (p. 2)*

## UNION DUES BILL RETURNED TO SENATE FLOOR

*Legislation to prohibit union dues as contributions in political campaigns was voted out of the Senate Rules committee, and will now be returned to the Senate floor for debate. (p. 2)*

### SENATE FLOOR ACTION-MONDAY

*Complete listing of bills approved by the Senate (p.3)*

## "WORKING POOR" TAX BILL DRAWS AMENDMENTS

*Amendments to free federal tax rebates of state income taxes, and a repeal of the employer payroll tax were added to the working poor tax bill now under consideration by the Taxes and Tax Laws committee. (p. 3)*

## INCREASED BENEFITS FOR "UNINSURABLE" APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

*Health, Welfare and Corrections committee members approved a measure to provide health insurance benefits for people considered poor risks or "uninsurable." (p. 4)*

## STATE BUILDING CODE WOULD BOAST ENERGY CONSERVING STANDARDS

*Governmental Operations committee members approved a bill Monday which would impose a deadline for enforcement of energy conserving building designs and construction standards by the Commissioner of Administration. (p. 4)*

## MOVE TO REPEAL FISCAL DISPARITIES LAW TABLED IN COMMITTEE (p. 4)

## COUNTY BILLS OKAYED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT (p. 5)

### SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

*P. 5)*

## HEARINGS BEGIN ON "EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EDUCATION" (p. 6)

### SENATE FLOOR ACTION-THURSDAY (p. 6)

## HANDGUN BILL OKAYED BY 2 TO 1 MARGIN

After lengthy discussion, Judiciary committee members voted 10 to 5 to approve the handgun control bill requiring individuals to obtain permits before purchasing handguns.

Bill author Nicholas Coleman (St. Paul) addressed the committee urging passage of "an excellent piece of legislation that will save some lives in the state."

Before approving the bill, which now goes to the Finance committee, two amendments were added. One stipulates that provisions of the bill would be uniform throughout the state, including the cities of Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth which presently have strict handgun laws. Another amendment removed a provision which would allow confiscation of guns illegally possessed.

The bill requires a 14-day waiting period for persons who wish to obtain handguns and prohibits carrying handguns in public places unless there is a specific purpose for doing so.

In effect, the proposal would prohibit any person with drug, alcohol and mental problems from purchasing a handgun.

## BILL TO CREATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION APPROVED

A bill that would create a state Department of Transportation won committee approval Wednesday. Transportation and General Legislation committee members okayed the proposal which would replace the highways and aeronautics departments while taking over some duties of the Public Service Department and State Planning Agency.

Although opponents of the bill claimed that another department would just "add" to the already growing bureaucracy, Senator Roger Laufenburger (Lewiston) said the proposed department would have the opposite effect as it would work to bring the bureaucracy under control and promote more efficient efforts in the field of transportation.

In other business Monday, the committee approved a bill which establishes a railroad track inspection program for the state. The program would work in conjunction with the federal rail safety act. Currently, the federal government only inspects tracks if half of the funds are provided by the state.

## LEGISLATION WOULD GUARANTEE REPAIR ESTIMATES

A "truth" in repairs bill passed the Labor and Commerce committee Tuesday on a 10-7 roll call vote.

Sponsored by the Attorney General's Office and Senate author Gene Merriam (Coon Rapids), the bill makes a work order required for all repairs. No unauthorized work would be allowed. Costs for the repairs could not exceed the estimate, although an estimate would not be mandatory.

In other business, Darwin Draissey was approved for reappointment to the State Board of Electricity. Committee members also passed a measure which defines the qualifications for a "legal" newspaper.

## UNION DUES BILL TO RETURN TO SENATE FLOOR

A bill to prohibit union dues as contributions in political campaigns was voted out of the Rules committee Monday and will now be returned to the Senate floor for debate. Last week an effort was made to rerefer the bill to the Labor and Commerce Committee after it had passed out of the committee on General Legislation.

State union leaders have expressed strong opposition to the bill.



SENATE FLOOR ACTION - MONDAY

THE Senate approved the following Governor's appointments:

- Kenneth Sovereign to the Occupational Safety and Health Review Board
- Sherry Chenoweth as Director of the Division of Consumer Services, Department of Commerce
- Russell Green as Commissioner of the Department of Veteran Affairs

The Senate approved and sent the following bills to the House:

-- legislation which requires real estate brokers and salespersons to take additional educational courses before receiving a license. The legislation also provides licensure exemptions for sellers of franchises and provides for reciprocity for licensees from other states (64-1)

-- a bill which redefines the scope of review organizations to gather and review information relating to the care and treatment of patients (65-0)

-- a measure which allows a person to submit a petition in lieu of a filing fee when seeking public office (47-17)

-- a bill authorizing automobile insurers to refuse to issue a new policy if an insured person fails to pay a renewal premium (65-0)

-- legislation which permits any organization, association or society licensed by the Department of Public Welfare to receive payment for expenses for adoption services and child-caring services (65-0)

-- legislation which requires coverage of emotionally handicapped children in health benefit plans (65-0)

-- a bill which exempts certain vehicles (such as those used exclusively by educational institutions for transportation) from registration, taxation and licensing requirements (64-1)

Five local government bills also passed and were sent to the House.

The following House bills were approved and sent to the Governor:

-- a bill which allows cities to provide decorations, signs, plaques and other accessories for public streets, buildings and parks (65-0)

-- legislation permitting left turns on red lights or stop signs at intersecting one-way streets and other certain intersections (48-17)

-- a measure to regulate student discounts on automobile insurance, mandating that all post high school students attending any accredited school be allowed equal benefits (65-0)

-- a bill which provides grant relief to individuals or families adversely affected by a major disaster. This would be in conjunction with federal relief laws. (64-0)

WORKING POOR TAX BILL DRAWS AMENDMENTS

Amendments to free federal tax rebates of state income taxes, and a repeal of the employer payroll tax were added to the working poor tax bill now under consideration by the Taxes and Tax Laws committee.

Expansion of the working poor bill passed in 1974 would increase costs from \$14 million to \$29 million for the next biennium.

(MORE)

## TAXES AND TAX LAWS (CONT)

Under the proposed expansion, a family with five dependents would be allowed complete tax forgiveness up to earnings of \$7800 a year.

Committee chairman Tony Perpich (Eveleth) said it will probably take three or four weeks before any tax bill is voted out of committee.

## BENEFITS FOR "UNINSURABLE" APPROVED

Health, Welfare and Corrections committee members okayed a bill Monday which would provide health insurance benefits for people considered poor risks or "uninsurable."

Funding for the program would come from a risk pool boasting contributions from health insurance companies and the state.

The committee also passed a bill which mandates that all rate increases for hospitals and insurance premiums be reported to the state.

In other business this week, the committee voted to abolish the State Board of Health. Senator George Conzemius (Cannon Falls) said there is increasing concern that the board is not able to enforce nursing home regulations. The bill will now be considered by the Governmental Operations committee.

## STATE BUILDING CODE WOULD BOAST ENERGY CONSERVING STANDARDS

Governmental Operations committee members approved a bill Monday which would impose a deadline for enforcement of energy conserving building designs and construction standards by the Commissioner of Administration.

Authored by Humber Humphrey III (New Hope), the legislation would define standards as part of the building code effective six months after promulgation (August 1, 1975).

At Wednesday's meeting, the committee passed a bill which creates an advisory committee to study and report on matters such as the size of the legislature, compensation of legislators and organizational questions.

Also approved was a bill which would authorize the State Board of Investment to purchase loans approved by the Small Business Administration and handled through Minnesota banks.

In other action, the committee approved two bills relating to firemen's pension and relief associations, and a bill which would establish an outdoor recreation system.

The following Governor's appointments have been approved and recommended to pass:

- Edward Ziegler as Commissioner of Finance
- Richard Brubacher as Commissioner of Administration
- Vincent A. Kubiak, Curtis Chivers, Reverend Bruce Buller, Helen Gamradt, Jose Valdez, Manuel Guerrero, Earl D. Craig, Stella Jensen to State Board of Human Rights
- Elizabeth Ebbott, Rosemary Davis, Stanley W. Holmquist, Judge Spencer Sokolowski, David Durenberger, Irene Scott to State Ethics Commission

## MOVE TO REPEAL FISCAL DISPARITIES LAW TABLED

A move to repeal the fiscal disparities law lost Tuesday in a 10-4 vote at a meeting of the Metropolitan and Urban Affairs committee.

Senator Howard Knutson (Burnsville) testified that the existing law promotes inequities in the metropolitan area. Other opponents claimed that the present law causes a decrease in education funds

## METRO AND URBAN AFFAIRS (CONT)

in various communities, additional taxes on business and industry and delays in assessing property.

Supporting the bill, Charles Weaver of Anoka said that the bill provides for tax base sharing from fast growing areas to slower growing communities, thus promoting a more rational development pattern in the metropolitan area.

### LOCAL GOVT. COMMITTEE OKAYS BILLS

Several bills were passed out of the Local Government Committee Monday. They include:

--a bill which revises the procedure for filling vacancies in the office of county commissioner

--legislation which authorizes the governing bodies of cities and counties to advance expense money

--a measure to extend the time period counties have to publicize financial statements

--a bill which provides an increase in filing fees charged by the register of deeds relating to plats and surveys in counties and municipalities.

### SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

The Senate FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION turned down a proposal to allocate \$17.5 million to freeze tuitions at the University of Minnesota and state and community colleges. Committee members said tuition hikes may be necessary to provide aid for students and help meet rising costs.

The OPERATIONS AND STRUCTURE subcommittee approved a policy statement which rules out any use of property-tax funds for the construction of a new sports facility in the metro area. The committee expects to study, in conjunction with the House, proposals for the building of a new stadium with a recommendation forthcoming sometime early next year.

Members of the REGULATED INDUSTRIES subcommittee approved two gambling bills, one asking for a constitutional amendment which would permit legalized gambling in the state; and a second bill to create a state gambling commission. Referred to LABOR AND COMMERCE.

STATE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS subcommittee members okayed a bill providing for representation of the state examining committee for physical therapists and the advisory council for hospital administrators registration on the advisory committee on allied health manpower credentialing of the State Board of Health. Also passed was a bill which increases fees received by medical examiners from \$10 to \$25. Members passed a bill which defines "physical therapists" and prohibits certain conduct relating to the practice of physical therapy. All referred to GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS.

The subcommittee on ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION approved a bill which would set a fee up to \$3 a ton on the Reserve Mining Company for any waste material deposited in Lake Superior. Committee members also okayed a bill authorizing solid waste collection and disposal collection, and a bill which defines energy terms. Referred to NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURE.

A bill providing for the appointment of a state archeologist passed the PUBLIC LANDS subcommittee. Also approved were bills to allow county boards to sell forfeited land to veterans for agricultural purposes and legislation to add more land to the Helmer Myhre State Park in southeastern Minnesota. The subcommittee on AGRICULTURE recommended to pass a corporate farm bill which would allow farming corporations until May 1978 to purchase or lease additional farm land above original holdings. All referred to NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRIC.

Additional workmen's compensation legislation was passed by the subcommittee on LABOR. One amendment to the bill removes the 8-year limitation on action after compensation is paid. Referred to LABOR AND COMMERCE.

In meetings this week, education committee members heard testimony on a bill that would equalize education benefits throughout the state.

Basically, the proposed legislation provides for the distribution of educational aids such as auxiliary services and instructional materials. The intent of the bill is to insure that every school child in the state share equitably in such benefits and also to insure Minnesota students and their parents freedom of choice in education.

Opponents to the bill will testify next week.

The committee also continued hearings on assessment, testing and accountability programs. Dr. Dale Foreman of the Westinghouse Clearing Corporation told Senators that it is imperative that schools look to the future. He said students need basic "survival" skills to deal in society, and schools should not lose perspective in planning future programs.

In other business, the committee voted to approve the appointment of Karl Grittner as Education Commissioner.

#### SENATE FLOOR ACTION-THURSDAY

The Senate, after lengthy debate, approved the appointment of Vera Likins as Commissioner of the Department of Public Welfare. The vote to confirm was 35 to 27.

Mrs. Toyse A. Kyle was also approved for a term on the State Board of Community Colleges.

A bill requiring the use of mud-flaps on most trucks was reconsidered and okayed by a 41-18 roll call vote. Dump trucks and truck tractors not carrying trailers would have to use mud-flaps.

Also approved was a bill requiring towns to file financial reports with the state auditor.

In other business, the Senate gave preliminary approval to several bills.

One would eliminate Minnesota's 8-percent usury law when interest rates are especially high. State-chartered banks could make loans at 1 percent more than the Federal Reserve discount rate.

Also recommended to pass is a bill which would allow women to retain their maiden names after marriage, take their husband's name, or use a combination of both.

A bill to set the official Memorial Day Holiday on May 30 failed on a 23-25 roll call vote.

The Senate also approved a final version of the veterans preference bill which abolishes absolute preference for veterans seeking government jobs. Veterans would be given 5 points and disabled veterans 10 points as a bonus on civil-service tests. The bill now goes to Governor Anderson for his signature.



# SENATE WEEK IN REVIEW

A PUBLICATION OF THE MINNESOTA SENATE INFORMATION OFFICE

For additional information contact Jim Pirius at (612) 296-4917



..FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE..

WEEK OF MARCH 30 - APRIL 4, 1975

## NEWS IN BRIEF FOR FURTHER DETAILS SEE INSIDE STORIES

### LIKINS APPOINTMENT RECOMMENDED IN CLOSE VOTE

*The reappointment of Vera Likins as State Commissioner of Welfare was narrowly approved by the Health, Welfare and Corrections committee. The vote was seven to five for confirmation. (p. 2)*

### COMMITTEE VOTES TO UP OUTPATIENT TREATMENT BENEFITS

*Labor and Commerce committee members okayed a bill which would cover ninety per cent of medical costs up to \$600 for outpatients seeking mental health treatment. (p. 2)*

### FAMILY COUNCIL UNIT TO STUDY IMPACT OF STATE PROGRAMS

*A bill to create a Family Council consisting of 10 legislators and 9 public members was okayed by the Governmental Operations committee. The Council would study the impact of state programs on the family. (p. 2)*

### BILL TO ESTABLISH RECYCLING CENTERS PASSES TO SENATE

*Legislation to develop garbage recycling centers in the metropolitan area was okayed by the Metropolitan and Urban Affairs committee. The bill will now be considered by the full Senate. (p. 2)*

### VET'S PREFERENCE BILL READIED FOR FINAL VOTE

*A Senate-House conference committee reached agreement Wednesday on a bill which abolishes absolute preference for veterans seeking government jobs. (p. 2)*

### MOVE TO OUTLAW SEX DISCRIMINATION IN AMATEUR ATHLETICS APPROVED

(p. 3)

### SENATE FLOOR ACTION- THURSDAY (p. 3)

### SPECIAL WINE LICENSE FOR RESTAURANTS TABLED

*A bill to allow special wine licenses for restaurants seating up to 25 people was tabled. The bill will be considered again at a later date. (p. 3)*

### JONATHAN CORPORATION FACES BACK TAX PAYMENT OR LOSS OF LAND

*Taxes and Tax Laws committee members heard testimony on a bill that would allow Chaska to force the Jonathan Corporation to pay \$250 thousand in delinquent taxes or lose 6,000 acres in land. (p. 3)*

### BILL OKAYED TO MAKE STATE COLLEGES "UNIVERSITIES" (p. 3)

### SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE p. 4)

## LIKINS APPOINTMENT OKAYED IN CLOSE VOTE

The reappointment of Vera Likins as State Commissioner of Welfare won narrow approval Monday at a meeting of the Health, Welfare and Corrections committee. The vote was 7 to 5 in favor of confirmation.

Mrs. Likins, who has been a state employee for over thirty years, was questioned extensively by committee members. The Department of Welfare has been criticized for poor fiscal management and lack of planning concerning the future of state hospitals and community treatment centers.

In other action, members approved a bill which would change the eligibility standards for those seeking aid to families with dependent children (AFDC). Under the bill, applicants would be allowed more personal property and higher valued homes.

The bill now goes to the Finance committee.

## HEALTH TREATMENT PLAN FOR OUTPATIENTS APPROVED

A bill which requires first dollar coverage for outpatient mental health treatment passed out of the Labor and Commerce committee Tuesday. Coverage will include 90% of medical costs up to \$600.00

Committee members also okayed a bill which mandates that self-insured employers cover alcoholism, drug addiction and chemical dependency in their health care plans.

## FAMILY COUNCIL PLAN TO STUDY IMPACT OF STATE PROGRAMS

Governmental Operations committee members approved a bill Wednesday which establishes a "Council on the Family" to look across jurisdictional lines and focus on the impact state programs have on the family.

Unlike most councils which are appointed by the Governor, the Family Advisory Council would be under the legislature. It would consist of 10 legislators and 9 representatives from the public and family service agencies.

## BILL TO ESTABLISH RECYCLING CENTERS PASSES TO SENATE

An initial step to recycle solid waste in the metropolitan area gained approval Tuesday at a meeting of the Metropolitan and Urban Affairs committee. The committee unanimously passed a bill which provides for development of garbage recycling centers designed to recover potentially reusable materials now being dumped in landfills in the metro area.

The bill calls for each metropolitan county to submit to the Metropolitan Council a development program for disposal of solid waste, resource recovery and collection regulation. Under the bill, the Metropolitan Waste Control Commission (MWCC) would also submit a development program for resource recovery and hazardous waste disposal.

Committee passage of the legislation marks the first time a committee-developed bill has emerged from a policy committee in the Senate.

## VET'S PREFERENCE BILL READIED FOR FINAL VOTE

A Senate-House conference committee reached agreement on a veterans preference bill Wednesday. It will now be reconsidered by both the House and Senate for final approval.

The bill abolishes absolute preference for veterans seeking government jobs, but provides five bonus points for veterans and ten bonus points for disabled veterans on civil service tests.

## MOVE TO OUTLAW SEX DISCRIMINATION IN AMATEUR ATHLETICS WINS COMMITTEE APPROVAL

A bill to eliminate sex discrimination in amateur athletics was recommended to the Judiciary Committee Tuesday.

Senator John Milton (White Bear Lake) termed the bill "a compromise between full integration and complete segregation forces," while Robert Tennesen (Minneapolis) questioned the constitutionality of "separate but equal" provisions.

In other business, Tom Triplett, Governmental Operations counsel, explained a plan to reorganize the Department of Human Rights in an attempt to increase responsiveness and clear the backlog of discrimination litigations. Further hearings are scheduled.

### SENATE FLOOR ACTION - THURSDAY

The Senate met briefly Thursday to confirm the appointment of John Knapp to the Tax Court.

A bill permitting county welfare boards to charge fees for social services was approved and sent to the House.

Two local government bills also passed and were sent to the House.

The Senate will meet in Session Monday, April 7, at 11:45, and Thursday, April 10, beginning at 9:00 A.M.

### RESTAURANTS MAY HAVE TO WAIT FOR WINE LICENSES

Legislation to allow restaurants seating at least 25 people to be issued wine licenses was tabled by the subcommittee on Regulated Industries.

Authored by Senate Majority Leader Nicholas Coleman, the bill ran into opposition from lobbyists representing on-sale liquor license holders and persons representing restaurants which serve liquor.

Senator Ed Schrom (Albany) said he would like further communication with his constituents before casting a vote for or against the bill.

### BILL WOULD FORCE JONATHAN TO PAY BACK TAXES

Taxes and Tax Laws committee members heard testimony on a bill Wednesday that would allow Chaska to make the Jonathan Development Corporation pay \$250,000 in delinquent taxes by August 10 or lose some 6,000 acres in land.

The legislation calls for payment to be made within 90 days. If the delinquent taxes are not paid, the land would be sold to the highest bidder and the money used to pay back bills.

Committee members also passed a bill which doubles the amount of money going for trails in Minnesota including snowmobile trails. Funds would be made available from state gasoline taxes.

### "FROM COLLEGE TO UNIVERSITY"

A bill which would make the seven Minnesota state colleges "universities" was approved by the Education committee Wednesday.

The name of state college board would also be changed to University Board.

Committee members also heard from Bob Bonine, chairman of a special Citizens Ad Hoc Advisory Task Force. The Task Force has met



EDUCATION (CONT)

Thursday evenings for the past two months to consider recommendations relative to the problems involved in high cost school districts. In addition, the Ad Hoc committee is studying the problems of districts which boast declining school enrollments.

SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

THE CHILD ABUSE subcommittee recommended to pass a bill to protect children from abuse while maintaining the integrity of the family. The identify of the reporter of suspected abuse would remain confidential except under certain circumstances. Referred to HEALTH, WELFARE AND CORRECTIONS.

THE JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION subcommittee approved a court reorganization bill which sets a common boundary for county and district courts. Referred to JUDICIARY.

STATE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS subcommittee okayed a bill which standardizes procedures in four areas: (1) standard 4-year terms with 1/4 of the members appointed each year; (2) standard per diem compensation of \$35.00; (3) standard removal and filling of vacancies; and (4) standard advice and consent of the Senate. Periodic meeting requirements would be eliminated. Referred to GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS.

THE CRIMINAL LAW AND CORRECTIONS subcommittee approved a bill that would specify the acts constituting the offense of shoplifting devices or gear; a bill which provides minimum sentences for first time offenders who commit felonies relating to the sale of certain narcotic drugs; a bill which establishes a contingent fund to be used by law enforcement agencies for the purchase of contraband; a bill which allows the issuance of search warrants upon oral request. All referred to JUDICIARY.

THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE passed a bill authorizing the public service commission to prescribe storage rates and other charges assessed by public local grain warehousemen; and a bill which would appropriate money for a state farm census. Referred to NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURE.

TEACHER PREPARATION STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION subcommittee okayed a bill which establishes a commission of 17 members, appointed by the Governor for 4-year terms. Referred to EDUCATION.



# SENATE WEEK IN REVIEW

A PUBLICATION OF THE MINNESOTA SENATE INFORMATION OFFICE

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..FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE..

WEEK OF MARCH 23-29, 1975

NEWS IN BRIEF  
..FOR FURTHER INFORMATION SEE INSIDE STORIES..

## BILL TO OUTLAW THROWAWAY CONTAINER FAILS BY 8-6 VOTE

*Natural Resources and Agriculture committee members ended the long debate on returnable container legislation by turning thumbs down on legislation to phase out throwaway bottles and cans. (p. 2)*

## HANDGUN CONTROL BILL ADVANCES TO JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

*By a 4 to 1 vote, the Criminal Law and Corrections subcommittee okayed an amended bill to control the sale of hand guns. (p. 2)*

## COMMITTEE APPROVES WELFARE COST TAKEOVER BY STATE

*A bill which would permit the state to take over some \$106 million a year in welfare costs now financed by state counties won approval and will be considered by the full Senate. (p. 2)*

SENATE FLOOR ACTION-MONDAY (p. 3)

SENATE FLOOR ACTION-THURSDAY (p. 5)

## COMMITTEE VOTES TO OUTLAW USE OF UNION DUES FOR POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS (p. 3)

## SCHOOL TESTING PROGRAMS UNDER STUDY

*Education committee members heard testimony this week relating to testing procedures used in public schools. The committee also considered a bill which would make post-secondary education opportunities accessible to residents of central city neighborhoods in St. Paul. (p. 3)*

## GASOLINE PRICE SIGN CALLED "VISIBLE POLLUTION"

*Labor and Commerce committee members defeated a proposal which would require gas stations to post price signs visible from 500 feet distance. (p. 4)*

## FAMILY DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION COUNCIL CONSIDERED (p. 4)

## COMMITTEE OPENS HEARINGS ON INCOME TAX REDUCTION PLANS

*The Taxes and Tax Laws committee began initial hearings on a number of bills to allow tax credits on state income taxes. (p. 4)*

## RECREATIONAL FACILITIES STUDY PLAN OKAYED

*By a 10 to 4 roll call vote, Natural Resources and Agriculture committee members approved a bill to study existing recreational facilities to see where improvements and expansions are needed. (p. 4)*

## PARI-MUTUEL BETTING BILL WINS INITIAL O.K. (p. 5)

## HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVES CATASTROPHIC INSURANCE PLAN (p. 5)

## BILL LIMITS RIGHT TO PURCHASE FORFEITED LAND (p. 5)

## RETURNABLE CONTAINER BILL DEAD-ENDED

Natural Resources and Agriculture committee members ended the long debate on returnable container legislation by turning thumbs down on a mandatory deposit bill Wednesday.

Senator Winston Borden (Brainerd) testified before the committee stating that this would be his last attempt to pass legislation outlawing throwaway containers.

"If I can't convince this committee at this point after spending five years on it, I never will," he said.

Labor and industry groups appeared en masse, warning the committee that economic and employment problems would only increase if the members voted in favor of the bill.

Essentially, Borden's bill attempts to phase out nonreturnable beverage containers by imposing a mandatory deposit on all beer and pop containers sold in the state.

An amendment offered by Wayne Olhoft (Herman) would have delayed mandatory deposits until 1980, thus providing a five-year waiting period for labor and industry to gradually phase out throwaways in favor of refillable containers.

Among those testifying against the bill, St. Paul Mayor Larry Cohen told committee members that "ban-the-can" legislation is not a "priority" environmental problem and any comprehensive legislation should come from the federal government.

On a roll-call vote, the bill failed by an 8 to 6 margin with one abstention.

## AMENDED HANDGUN CONTROL BILL ADVANCES TO JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

By a 4 to 1 vote, a handgun control bill authored by Majority Leader Nicholas Coleman (St. Paul) won approval and will now be considered by the full Judiciary Committee.

The bill requires a permit before purchasing a hand gun and includes a 14-day waiting period to prevent sales to minors, felons, and persons with alcohol, drug or mental problems.

At Wednesday's meeting of the Criminal Law and Corrections subcommittee, Coleman added amendments to "clarify language" and alleviate what he termed "legitimate concerns."

A permit must now stipulate the date of application, and if not acted upon within 21 days, it must be automatically issued. If the application is denied, the reason for denial must be clearly stated.

Also included is an amendment which grants a permit to any person who may have experienced an alcohol problem if okayed by either a doctor or treatment center.

## WELFARE COST TAKEOVER OKAYED BY COMMITTEE

A bill which would permit the state to take over \$106 million a year in welfare costs now financed by state counties was approved by the Health, Welfare and Corrections committee Tuesday.

At present, welfare costs are shared between federal, state and county governments with the state and counties sharing 21% of the cost.

The bill would, in effect, reduce local property taxes. Counties would continue to administer the programs and absorb administrative costs.

Under the bill, the state would finance 100% of the non-federal share of Aid to Families with Dependent children in addition to medical, supplemental and general assistance.

## SENATE APPROVES VETERANS PREFERENCE BILL

### SENATE FLOOR ACTION - MONDAY

By a 49 to 10 vote, the full Senate approved and sent to the House a compromise veterans preference bill that reduces the preference now given to veterans in government employment.

The Senate also gave preliminary approval to a bill allowing pharmacists to substitute less expensive generic drugs for brand-name prescriptions.

A bill which requires dump trucks and truck-tractor units to have mud flaps installed by January 1, 1976 also gained preliminary approval.

In other business, the following bills were passed by the Senate and sent to the House:

- a bill providing for natural gas pipeline safety changing the procedure by which civil penalties may be imposed for violations of the natural gas pipeline safety act (58 to 0)
- a bill which provides for optional forms of town government and authorizes the combination of certain offices in towns (59 to 0)
- a bill that removes the 10 percent interest limit brokerage houses may charge on margin accounts (58 to 8) - approved by House-sent to Governor
- a bill which furnishes culverts on approaches to certain state highways (59 to 0)

Three local government bills were also passed and sent to the House.

### COMMITTEE VOTES TO OUTLAW USE OF UNION DUES AS POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

By a 10 to 5 vote, the Transportation and General Legislation committee passed a bill which would prohibit union dues from being used for political contributions.

Executive members of the AFL-CIO testified against the bill maintaining that passage would seriously hinder their political activities.

Senator George Perpich (Chisholm), bill author, told committee members that the legislation is needed in order to develop a more equitable manner of collecting political monies from the rank and file union members.

A similar bill is also under consideration by the House.

### SCHOOL TESTING PROGRAMS UNDER STUDY

Education committee members heard testimony Monday on assessment, testing and accountability programs administered in schools throughout the state.

Several persons addressed questions concerning overtesting and undertesting of students, and the extent such tests can and should be used in developing and monitoring public policies. Further discussion is planned at a later date.

At a meeting Wednesday, committee members approved a bill authorizing the state college board to provide certain residence hall grants. Bill author is Gerald Willet (Park Rapids).

Also under consideration is a bill which would make post-secondary education opportunities accessible to residents of central city neighborhoods in St. Paul.

(MORE)



## EDUCATION COMM. (CONT)

The bill would establish neighborhood higher education centers and provide counseling services for diagnostic assessment and educational planning while providing skill development services in basic reading, writing, listening and mathematics.

### GASOLINE PRICE SIGN CALLED "VISIBLE POLLUTION"

A bill to require gasoline stations to post price signs visible 500 feet away was defeated by the Labor and Commerce committee Tuesday.

Authored by John Keefe (Hopkins), the bill drew criticism because it would create "visible pollution." Keefe contended that many stations post signs when prices are low and then remove them when prices rise.

In other business, the committee laid over a bill which would allow liquor in certain buildings and dormitories on college campuses.

The appointment of Sherry Chenoweth as State Director of Consumer Services was recommended for Senate confirmation.

### FAMILY DEVELOPMENT PLAN GAINS FIRST HEARING

Governmental Operations committee members met Wednesday to discuss a bill which would create a council on family development and education. It would consist of legislators and several public members.

The idea of the council is to focus on the family while studying the impact of various state programs on the family unit.

Alternative plans will be discussed at a future meeting.

Committee members also approved a bill which regulates publications, the sale of public lands and other matters relating to the Department of Administration.

### COMMITTEE OPENS HEARINGS ON INCOME TAX REDUCTION

First hearings on several proposed tax cut bills began Wednesday.

Senator George Conzemius (Cannon Falls) outlined his tax reduction bill which would boast a graduated tax credit for families according to income level. Conzemius referred to a complex table which outlines the percentage of credit families would receive based on taxable incomes.

A bill to raise credits against tax due for low income persons was laid over for further discussion.

### RECREATIONAL FACILITIES STUDY PLAN OKAYED

A bill which requires the Department of Natural Resources to initiate a comprehensive study plan of all existing recreational facilities passed on a 10 to 4 roll call vote Monday at a meeting of the Natural Resources and Agriculture committee.

The bill provides for a detailed study of parks to see where improvements and expansions are needed.

Some opposition was expressed by state sportsmen's clubs who accused the government of "land-grabbing."

(MORE)



## PARI-MUTUEL BETTING WINS INITIAL O.K.

A subcommittee on Regulated Industries passed a bill Tuesday to allow pari-mutuel betting on horse races at the Minnesota State fairgrounds.

The bill would give the authority to establish pari-mutuel betting to the Minnesota state Agriculture Society.

Senator Jack Kleinbaum (St. Cloud) said that establishing pari-mutuel racing would increase the state tourist industry and thus increase money brought into the state.

## HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVES CATASTROPHIC INSURANCE PLAN

A Senate subcommittee on Health forwarded legislation which encourages employers to offer additional health care insurance to cover major illnesses and injuries. It would also create an insurance pool to provide coverage for those not able to obtain adequate policies.

Under the plan, insured persons would be required to spend at least \$5,000 a year before being eligible for benefits up to a life-time maximum of \$250,000. The required individual expenditure would be reduced gradually to \$3,000 per year by 1979.

## DRUG SUBSTITUTION BILL PASSES SENATE - GOES TO CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

### SENATE FLOOR ACTION - THURSDAY

The Senate amended and passed a House bill allowing ing pharmacists to substitute less expensive generic drugs for brand-name prescriptions. The vote was 62 to 1. The bill now will be considered by a joint conference committee.

The Senate approved the following Governor's appointments:

- Todd J. Lefko, Gladys S. Brooks and Robert Short to the Metropolitan Council
- Joseph Strauss to the Metropolitan Waste Control Commission

The following bills were passed and sent to the House:

- a bill authorizing the commissioner of natural resources to acquire land along canoe and boating routes (52 to 8)
- a bill which regulates equipment on motor vehicles including bug deflectors, fenders and other wheel devices and truck weighing (58 to 3)
- a bill which defines the powers and duties of the Commissioner of Corrections (44 to 16)
- a bill authorizing the removal of fish from dark houses (45 to 16)

The Senate passed a House bill which requires motorcycle operators to either install windshields or wear goggles as a protective device.

The Senate will meet in Session Monday, March 31 at 7:30 P.M.

## BILL LIMITS RIGHT TO PURCHASE FORFEITED LAND

Local Government committee members passed a bill Tuesday which limits the right to repurchase forfeited land to within one year from the date of forfeiture.

# SENATE WEEK IN REVIEW

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...FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE...

WEEK OF MARCH 16-22, 1975

NEWS IN BRIEF  
..FOR FURTHER INFORMATION SEE INSIDE..

## 2¢ GAS TAX HIKE OKAYED BY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

*By a close 7 to 6 vote, committee members approved a raise in the gas tax from seven to nine cents a gallon. (p. 2)*

## BRAINERD REFUSED FLUORIDE EXEMPTION

*Health, Welfare and Corrections committee members tabled a bill which would exempt Brainerd from state law requiring water fluoridation. (p. 2)*

## REFUND DEPOSIT ON BEVERAGE CONTAINERS APPROVED

*A bill which would require a five-cent refund deposit on all beverage containers won approval at Environmental Subcommittee meeting. (p. 2)*

## VETERANS HOME BOARD OF TRUSTEES ABOLISHED AS IND. STATE BOARD (p. 2)

## LIQUOR PRICE ADVERTISING BILL FAILS IN COMMITTEE

*A bill to mandate price advertising of liquor was defeated by a 9 to 6 vote; on-sale liquor licenses for cultural corporations was approved. (p. 3)*

## METROPOLITAN COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS APPROVED (p. 3)

## INTEREST RATE ON DELINQUENT TAX PAYMENTS MAY RISE

*A bill to standardize the interest rate charged on all tax payments to nine percent passed Taxes, Tax Laws Comm. (p. 3)*

## JOINT SESSION OF SENATE AND HOUSE ELECTS U OF M REGENTS (p. 3)

## DWI LEGISLATION CONSIDERED BY JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE

*A number of bills dealing with minimum penalties and rehabilitative drivers' clinics were heard at a meeting of the Criminal Law and Corrections subcommittee. (p. 3)*

## BILL ALLOWING LIQUOR ON CAMPUSES APPROVED (p. 4)

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE PASSES BILLS (p. 4)

## AUTHORITY TO REGULATE NOISE POLLUTION MAY BE TRANSFERRED (p. 4)

## LOCAL FUNDING PLAN REVIEWED BY JOINT COMMITTEE

*A joint Senate-House subcommittee voted Tuesday to consider a proposal made by Governor Anderson that gross earnings taxes received by the state be given to local governments. (p. 4)*

## TELEPHONE SOLICITATION BILL LAID OVER (p. 4)

SENATE FLOOR ACTION-MONDAY (p. 5) SENATE FLOOR ACTION-THURSDAY (p. 6)
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## STATE ADVISORY BOARDS STANDARDIZED (p. 5)

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE PASSES BILLS (p. 5)

## STATE ARTS COUNCIL BILL DEBATED (p. 6)

## 2¢ GAS TAX BILL OKAYED BY COMMITTEE

A bill to increase the state gasoline tax by two cents passed in a close 7 to 6 vote at a meeting of the Transportation and General Legislation committee Monday.

The bill ups the tax from seven to nine cents a gallon. According to Highway Department officials, it would raise an additional \$40 million a year for road construction projects.

The Highway Department has warned legislators that unless additional revenues are raised, further road construction throughout the state is impossible.

Opponents to the bill believe that the 2¢ increase represents only a piecemeal approach to the problem.

## BRAINERD REFUSED FLUORIDE EXEMPTION

After hearing testimony Tuesday, the Health, Welfare and Corrections committee voted 13 to 2 to table a bill which exempts the city of Brainerd from mandatory water fluoridation.

The bill would exempt Brainerd for the next five years and establish an alternative fluoride program of dental education and municipally financed fluoride pills to those who request them. Brainerd is the only major community in Minnesota that is not complying with the 1967 state law requiring fluoridation of drinking water.

Senator Winston Borden (Brainerd), author of the bill, testified that the citizens of Brainerd, "Ought to be able to resolve and decide the issue for themselves." The Brainerd City Council held a special election last July and the majority of people voted against complying with the state water fluoridation law.

Jack Graham, Brainerd attorney, questioned the constitutionality of the law and said that water fluoridation is a question of freedom of choice.

Opposing the bill, Brainerd dentist, Dr. John Echternacht stated that the alternative fluoridation plan was not discussed with the city's dentists and that it would not be as effective as water fluoridation.

## REFUND DEPOSIT ON BEVERAGE CONTAINERS OKAYED

A bill requiring a five-cent refund on all beverage containers won approval of the Environmental Protection subcommittee. It will now be considered by the Natural Resources and Agriculture committee.

In Tuesday's wrap-up testimony, Senator Winston Borden (Brainerd) stressed that the bill provides considerable savings in energy, natural resources and litter. Labor and management joined in opposition voicing concerns about possible job losses and job relocation.

In other action, a proposal prohibiting pull tabs on beverage containers was okayed by the committee.

## VETERANS HOME BOARD LOSES INDEPENDENT STATUS

The Governmental Operations committee passed a bill Monday to abolish the Veterans Home Board of Trustees as an independent board and to transfer its functions to the Veterans Affairs Department.

Board members will now serve in an advisory capacity until their terms expire.

(MORE)



## LIQUOR PRICE ADVERTISING BILL FAILS IN COMMITTEE

A bill to allow price advertising of liquor failed by a 9 to 6 vote Tuesday at a meeting of the Labor and Commerce Committee.

Bill author Nicholas Coleman (St. Paul) said regulating and admitting price advertising would provide consumers with correct information. He displayed area liquor store newspaper ads which promote the variety and extent of stock in liquor stores without mentioning specific prices, but claiming "the lowest prices in town."

Small retailers voiced opposition to the bill because they would be unable to compete with larger liquor stores in advertising. They also stated that price advertising contradicts the objectives of current programs designed to modify people's drinking habits.

In other business, the committee approved on-sale liquor licenses to cultural corporations in Minneapolis. The amended bill deleted the section concerning plans to build a restaurant on city-owned property near Orchestra Hall.

## METROPOLITAN COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS APPROVED

At a Tuesday meeting of the Metropolitan and Urban Affairs Committee, members unanimously approved the appointments of Robert Short, Gladys Brooks and Todd Lefko to the Metropolitan Council.

Also confirmed was Joseph Strauss as Chairman of the Metropolitan Waste Control Commission.

The appointments now go to the Senate floor for final action.

## INTEREST RATE ON DELINQUENT TAX PAYMENTS MAY RISE SOON

A bill to increase the interest rate charged persons who are delinquent in state tax payments was approved by the Taxes and Tax Laws committee Wednesday.

Under the bill, the interest rate charged for all types of taxes will be standardized at nine percent. Revenue Commissioner, Arthur Roemer said that now the interest rate varies with a charge of six percent on delinquent income taxes and eight percent on sales tax.

Opponents to the bill said that the interest charged by the state should not be higher than the eight percent allowed by the state usuary law.

The bill passed by a narrow 8 to 7 vote.

## JOINT SESSION ELECTS U OF M REGENTS

The Senate and House met in Joint Session Thursday and approved a slate of 9 nominees as University of Minnesota Regents.

Elected for six-year terms, the regents include: George Latimer, Neil Sherburne, Robert Latz, Wenda Moore, Erwin Goldfine, Lauris Drenik, L. J. Lee, Lloyd Peterson, and Dr. David Utz.

## DWI LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

The Criminal Law and Corrections subcommittee heard testimony Tuesday on a number of bills dealing with DWI (driving while intoxicated) legislation.

Several persons testified about proposed changes in the law calling for mandatory minimum penalties and driver improvement clinics. Further testimony will be taken at a later date.

(MORE)



## BILL WOULD ALLOW ALCOHOLIC BEV. ON CAMPUS

A bill allowing liquor on the campuses of state and community colleges was approved by the Labor and Commerce subcommittee on Regulated Industries.

The bill, passed by a 4 to 1 vote Wednesday, will ammend the current state law to permit consumption of alcoholic beverages in dormitories and some other buildings on campuses.

## LOCAL GOVT. COMM. PASSES BILLS

Local Government committee members okayed a bill Tuesday which authorizes the city of Moorhead to construct and maintain certain electrical power transmission systems.

As part of a continuing effort to revise and consolidate municipal laws, the committee also passed an amended bill authored by Senator Alec Olson (Spicer) which will recodify municipal laws.

In other business, the committee discussed and amended a law passed in 1974 that allows the Itasca County Board to be the governing body for certain townships for the purposes of creating a hospital district.

## NOISE POLLUTION AUTHORITY MAY BE TRANSFERED

A bill to transfer noise regulation authority in agricultural areas to the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture won approval by an 8 to 5 roll call vote at a meeting of the Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee Wednesday.

A representative of the Pollution Control Agency, which currently has the authority to control noise pollution, testified against the bill.

In other business, the committee passed a turtle protection bill authored by Senator Ed Schrom (Albany). The legislation stipulates that only Minnesota residents are eligible for commercial turtle licensing, thus prohibiting persons from other states to trap and transfer turtles to markets out of the state.

At a meeting Monday, committee members also voted to place raccoons on the protected animal list. The bill would allow for a "seasonal" hunting period only.

## LOCAL FUNDING PLAN REVIEWED BY JOINT COMM.

A joint house-senate committee voted Tuesday to consider a proposal made by Governor Anderson that gross earnings taxes received by the state be given to local governments.

The committee is studying the possibility of using the extra monies to meet rising costs and, at the same time, reducing property taxes.

At present, local communities are allowed to increase their spending by only six percent a year.

## TELEPHONE SOLICITATION BILL LAID OVER

Labor and Commerce committee members voted to lay over a bill which would require those persons objecting to solicitations for sale of merchandise to have a mark of some kind after their names in the telephone directory.

A representative from Northwestern Bell Telephone Company testified against the bill.

(MORE)

## SENATE FLOOR ACTION - MONDAY

The Senate confirmed the following Governor's appointments:

- Donald G. Jackman, Arnold C. Anderson, Robert Irvine, Mary Thornton Phillips to the State College Board
- Charles L. Rafferty, Alton J. Gasper, Charles R. Weaver, Marcia Bennett, Opal M. Petersen to the Metropolitan Council
- Harold Field, Carol Buckmann to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- Katherine Sasseeville as Public Service Commissioner
- John C. McKay as Director of the Minnesota Energy Commission
- Lawrence Anderson as Director of the Public Service Commission
- E. I. Malone as Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry
- Emmet Cushing as Commissioner of the Department of Employment Services
- James Heltzer as Commissioner of the Department of Economic Development

- Passed - a bill authorizing state banks to acquire and lease personal property to customers
- a bill covering administrative expenses relating to unemployment services and unemployment compensation
  - a bill charging costs of investigation procedures of the public service commission to telephone companies
  - a bill defining qualified voters for school district elections

The Senate also passed and sent to the House three bills relating to Local Government units. One House bill was passed.

## STATE ADVISORY BOARDS STANDARDIZED

Two subcommittee reports were passed as amended at a meeting of the Governmental Operations committee Wednesday.

The first standardizes procedures and common language for all state advisory boards, and the second stipulates procedures for licensing and certifying boards.

In other business, the committee considered and laid over a bill which provides preferential treatment for the production of certain products for state use.

## EDUCATION COMM. PASSES BILLS

Several bills were approved and recommended to pass by the Education Committee this week.

At a meeting Monday, members okayed a bill which requires each school district to make reports concerning the consumption of energy to the commissioner of education. The bill permits extended time for each school district to comply with the request.

Also passed was a bill which permits school districts to invest monies which are currently not needed in its treasury or in securities issued by the U. S. government.

A bill which appropriates to the Department of Education \$175,000 for payment of a deficiency in funds available for reimbursement aids for shared time instructional programs was re-referred to the Finance committee.

Senators approved a House bill which mandates that local school districts provide bus transportation for both public and non-public school children in the district or contiguous districts.

The committee also passed a bill that permits school boards to lease rooms or school buildings for school purposes when necessary.

(MORE)

EDUCATION COMM. (CONT)

In action Wednesday, the committee okayed a bill to appropriate funds to the University of Minnesota Department of Anthropology for the purpose of exploration and excavation of artifacts of early Viking visits to Minnesota. Mayor Vernon J. Bisson of Alexandria testified in support of the bill.

Another bill which authorizes the state college board to provide residence hall grants passed, while a bill relating to compulsory attendance and enforcement of attendance rules was laid over for further discussion.

SENATE FLOOR ACTION-THURSDAY

The Senate approved the following Governor's Appointments:

- Grant Merritt as Executive Director of the Pollution Control Agency
- Jon Wefald as Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture
- Robert Herbst as Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources

The Senate amended and recommended to pass H. F. 84, Veterans Preference Bill.

SALARY INCREASES FOR LINCOLN COMMISSIONERS GRANTED

Local Government committee members passed a bill Friday validating salary increases for Lincoln County Commissioners, retroactive to January 1, 1975.

In other business, Senator Baldy Hansen, citing Mower County as "a little bit of heaven" pleaded for a special purpose levy which would allow the county to repair and maintain its bridges. Under an 1885 special law, Mower County has the responsibility to build and maintain all bridges in the county. Aware of the implications of such a special purpose levy, the committee defeated a motion to pass the bill out of committee. Committee chairman, Alec Olson suggested a number of possible remedies to solve the "unique" problem of Mower County.

STATE ARTS COUNCIL BILL DEBATED

Opponents to the reorganization of the State Arts Council testified before a Governmental Operations subcommittee Friday. The bill, authored by Senator Ralph Doty (Duluth), is a response to a finance report citing "significant conflict of interest" within the Arts Council, incomplete bookkeeping and unfair distribution of funds.

Representatives of the arts spoke against the 10 percent restriction on the amount of funds one organization can receive and also the membership requirement of one appointment from each of the eight congressional districts as well as three appointed at-large.

Small art organizations said they couldn't afford minimum wage payments to performers as required by the bill.

The bill imposes strict bookkeeping procedures and requires the Council to distribute its funds "equitably according to population throughout the geographical regions of the state."

MISSOURI LAW SCHOOL PROF TESTIFIES

At a Friday meeting of the Metro and Urban Affairs Committee, Professor Robert Freilich, Director of the Urban Legal Affairs Program at the University of Missouri, spoke to committee members on the question of urbanization and land use. His presentation clearly pointed out how urban and regional development has occurred in the past and what must be done by states and other governmental units to effectively implement planned development.

Professor Freilich is recognized as a national authority on urbanization and land use.



# SENATE WEEK IN REVIEW

A PUBLICATION OF THE MINNESOTA SENATE INFORMATION OFFICE

For additional information contact Jim Pirius at (612) 296-4917



...FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE...

WEEK OF MARCH 9 - 15, 1975

## NEWS IN BRIEF

..FOR FURTHER INFORMATION SEE INSIDE..

### NAT. RES. COMM. REJECTS GRAHEK APPOINTMENT

*Committee members turned thumbs down on the appointment of Dr. J. P. Grahek to the Environmental Quality Council while narrowly approving the appointment of Grant Merritt as Director of the Minn. Pollution agency. (p. 2)*

### OBJECTIONS AIRED TO HANDGUN CONTROL BILL

*Some 20 opponents of handgun control legislation testified Wednesday at a meeting of the Judiciary subcommittee on Criminal Law and Corrections. (p. 2)*

### STATEWIDE HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM PROPOSED

*Members of the Health, Welfare and Corrections Comm. approved legislation to change the Human Services Board from a pilot project to a state program. (p.2)*

### METRO AND OUTSTATE BOARD OF REGENTS APPTS. APPROVED

*Nominees for the University of Minnesota Board of Regents were questioned by Education committee members and approved for consideration by a joint session. (p. 3)*

### METRO COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS GO TO SENATE FLOOR

*Five council members won enthusiastic approval from Metropolitan and Urban Affairs committee members. (p. 3)*

### DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAM OKAYED BY GOV. OP. COMMITTEE

*Governmental Operations committee members approved a House bill which provides up to \$2 million in federal and state monies for individuals and families suffering major disasters. (p. 3)*

### CONSUMER SERVICES TRANSFER STUDIED BY SUBCOMMITTEE

*A bill which combines the consumer services section of the Department of Commerce and consumer protection division of the Attorney General's Office was approved. (p. 4)*

### SELECT COMMITTEE TO STUDY COST AND QUALITY OF NURSING HOMES

*A special select committee has been formed to study problems of nursing homes. It will function over the interim into the 1976 Session. (p. 4)*

### MINIMUM WAGE BOOST APPROVED (p. 4)

### HENNEPIN COUNTY DELEGATION DEBATES SALARY CUT (p. 4)

### INSURANCE BENEFITS FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN APPROVED (p. 5)

### SENATE APPROVES JOINT AND PERMANENT RULES (p. 5)

### SALES TAX MODIFICATION PROPOSED (p. 5)

### OPPONENTS TO RETURNABLE CONTAINER LEGISLATION TESTIFY (p.6)

### LOCAL GOVT./TRANSP. COMMITTEES PASS BILLS (p. 6)



## GOVERNOR APPOINTEE REJECTED BY NAT. RES., AG. COMM.

By an 11-4 roll call vote, Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee members turned thumbs down on Governor Anderson's appointment of Dr. J. P. Grahek to the Minnesota Environmental Quality Council.

Opposition to Grahek's appointment surfaced when several Senators raised doubts that a person with such an active interest in area industrial development should be placed on a committee which is designed to protect the environment.

The committee's refusal to confirm Grahek stems from his controversial stand advocating immediate copper-nickle mining on the fringes of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area.

Committee chairman Roger Moe (Ada) stated that while the committee respects Dr. Grahek's sincerity and frankness, "his basic beliefs make him totally unacceptable as a member of a committee created to protect the environment."

At a meeting Monday, Grant Merritt, Director of the Minnesota Pollution Agency, won narrow approval by the committee. Several rural Senators questioned Merritt about PCA policy which feasibly could hurt Minnesota farmers.

A motion to table Merritt's appointment failed by an 8-6 vote.

In other action, committee members approved the appointments of Jon Wefald as Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture; Robert Herbst as Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources; and Harold Field and Carol Buckman to the PCA Board.

A bill to outlaw certain methods of bear baiting was okayed by the committee as was a bill which requires any place serving meat substitutes to indicate such on their menus.

## OPPONENTS TO HANDGUN CONTROL PRESENT TESTIMONY

The Criminal Law and Corrections subcommittee heard testimony Wednesday from opponents of a bill to regulate the possession and sale of handguns. The bill is authored by Senate Majority Leader Nicholas Coleman.

During the three-hour hearing, more than 20 opponents raised objections ranging from the charge that the bill is a violation of a person's God-given right to bear arms to the complaint that the bill is a foot in the door that would lead to confiscation of all guns.

Opponents told the committee that the bill, which has the backing of Attorney General Warren Spannaus, would cost the taxpayers too much money and would give too much discretion to local law enforcement officers at the expense of citizens' right to privacy. Some argued that the Twin Cities's newspapers have not been objective in their reports and have published polls which erroneously show that 70 per cent of the population favor the bill.

## HUMAN SERVICES BILL PASSES COMMITTEE

The Health, Welfare and Corrections Committee passed a bill Tuesday that amends the state Human Services Act of 1973.

The bill sets legislative policy to promote the development of the human services boards and to have operational boards in all 87 counties by 1978. Provision is made for financial assistance to counties and for general supervision and coordination by the State Planning Agency.

The effect of the legislation is to change the Human Services Board from a pilot project to a state program.

(MORE)

## METRO AND OUTSTATE NOMINEES TO U OF M REGENTS BOARD APPROVED

Education Committee members approved nominees from the metropolitan area to the University of Minnesota Board of Regents at a meeting Monday. They include George Latimer, Neil Sherburne, Robert Latz and Wenda Moore.

Senator Joseph O'Neill (St. Paul) raised a question of possible conflict of interest regarding Latimer's nomination. Latimer, who is chairman of the fourth congressional district, said he believes no conflict exists but would resign his chairmanship if it takes too much of his time.

Erwin Goldfind, Lauris Drenik, L.J. Lee, Lloyd Peterson and Dr. David Utz were also confirmed Wednesday as outstate nominees to the Board of Regents.

Lee, who was considered separately due to concern over his actions concerning the U of M Presidential selection, stated again that he had no reservations about his questioning of candidates.

"There is a fine line between religion and morality," he said, "so fine the two cannot be separated. He was approved by a 12-2 vote.

A joint session of the House and Senate will meet later this month to act on the nominations.

## METRO COUNCIL MEMBERS CONFIRMED

Metropolitan and Urban Affairs committee members voted unanimously to approve the appointments of five members to the Metropolitan Council.

Marcia Bennett, District 13, and Opal Petersen, District 14, both voiced uncertainty on the question of whether or not members should be elected and not appointed to the Metropolitan Council.

Councilman Alton Gasper, representing District 8, stated that present controls over the Council are sufficient to prevent it from overstepping its delegated authority.

Former state representative, Charles Weaver who represents District 12 said he favors the appointed Council system and doubts whether the Council could have made the decisions they have in the past if they had been elected.

Charles Rafferty, District 3, also testified that a two-year learning process is probably necessary for him to become an effective council member.

The nominations now go to the Senate floor for final approval.

## \$2 MILLION DISASTER RELIEF PROG. WINS COMM. SUPPORT

A House bill which provides grant assistance for federal disaster relief programs was okayed by the Senate Governmental Operations Committee Monday.

At stake is a \$2 million fund combining 75 percent in federal monies and 25 percent in state monies to individuals and families for relief when affected by major disasters. Persons would qualify for assistance after first applying for funds such as loans through the Small Business Administration.

The committee also considered a bill which provides for heads of certain departments and other governmental units in the state (in the executive branch) to have terms coterminous with the Governor. No action was taken.

## BILL WOULD COMBINE CONSUMER SERVICES

A bill which transfers the consumer services section from the Department of Commerce to the Attorney General won approval at a meeting of the Government Structure subcommittee Wednesday. It will now be considered along with another bill authored by Senator Robert North (St. Paul) at a meeting of the Governmental Operations Committee.

Authored by Baldy Hansen (Austin), the legislation attempts to make government more understandable to the consumer by combining the consumer services section of the Department of Commerce and the consumer protection division of the Attorney General's office.

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In other business, the subcommittee considered an amended bill which would replace the present State Arts Council with a Board of Arts, Crafts and Humanities. According to author Senator Ralph Doty (Duluth), present law is vague and results in inadequate standards, reporting methods, and unequal distribution of funds. He also indicated that new legislation could remedy apparent conflicts of interest on the present Council while revising the procedure for appointment of the executive director.

Both proponents and opponents of the bill testified.

## SELECT COMMITTEE ON NURSING HOMES FORMED

A select committee to study the cost and quality of care in nursing homes, especially in the metropolitan area, has been appointed by Senator George Conzemius (Cannon Falls), chairman of the Health, Welfare and Corrections Committee.

Chaired by John Milton (White Bear Lake), the committee will have full subpoena powers and will be empowered to investigate several areas of nursing home care.

Conzemius said that the committee will make recommendations to the Legislature this Session while carrying several projects over the interim and into the 1976 Session.

## MINIMUM WAGE BILL APPROVED

The subcommittee on Labor approved a bill Thursday which would raise the present minimum wage of \$1.80 to \$2.10 an hour after January 1, 1976 and \$2.30 per hour after July 1, 1976. Persons under 18 years of age would also be eligible to receive full minimum wage benefits.

## SALARY CUT PROPOSED FOR HENNEPIN OFFICIALS

The Hennepin County delegation considered a measure Monday to cut salaries of the five Hennepin County Commissioners, the county attorney, sheriff and two court administrators. Although the measure did not gain the needed support to become a delegation bill, it was debated for two hours.

The salary rollback was proposed by Senator Al Kowalczyk (Brooklyn Park), who said it would return the power to grant raises for county officials to the Legislature.

Commissioner Thomas Olson testified against the plan. He stated that the pay raise commissioners voted themselves was the same percentage increase afforded all county workers.

(MORE)

## INSURANCE BENEFITS FOR EMOTIONALLY HANDICAPPED PASSED

A bill to ensure that insurance benefits cover emotionally handicapped children in residential treatment facilities as well as hospitals passed out of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee Tuesday. According to bill author, George Conzemius (Cannon Falls), projected increases in premium costs are minimal.

In other business, the committee sent to the floor a bill which provides for summer employment of young persons for state and local service. The measure calls for state funds to be used in coordination with federal programs and monies.

The Labor subcommittee approved a bill Wednesday to raise maximum jobless benefits in Minnesota by more than 30%. A similar bill has also been passed by the House. The legislation, if passed by the full Senate, would increase top payment from \$85 a week to \$113 a week.

## SENATE APPROVES GOVERNOR'S APPOINTMENTS

### SENATE ACTION - MONDAY

The full Senate approved the following Governor's appointments:

- Timothy J. Penny-State College Board
- Arleen Nyclemoe-State Board for Community Colleges
- Kenneth Schoen-Commissioner of Department of Corrections
- Arthur C. Roemer-Commissioner of Revenue
- Lawrence McCabe-Commissioner of the Department of Aeronautics
- Frank D. Marzitelli-State Highways Commissioner

### SENATE ACTION - THURSDAY

The full Senate approved the appointments of John Boland as Chairman of the Metropolitan Council and E. Peter Gillete, Jr. as council member.

In other action, a bill requiring the licensing of physicians, surgeons and osteopaths licensed to practice in other states passed to the House. Also passed was a bill which authorizes the Board of Medical Examiners to require an examination in the basic sciences, and a bill which alters compensation of county officers throughout the state.

The Senate, after lengthy debate, approved both the permanent and joint rules.

The Senate will meet at 11:30, Monday, March 17.

## MODIFICATION OF SALES AND INCOME TAXES PROPOSED

The Taxes and Tax Laws Committee passed a bill Monday that will modify income tax laws on net incomes.

The committee also heard testimony from Revenue Commissioner Arthur Roemer on a bill pertaining to sales tax regulations. The bill will exempt all tips and gratuities from the sales tax, but not charges for services including in making objects. The bill also controls non-resident contractors to assure that they pay sales tax for materials they buy out of state for use in Minnesota.

## BOARDS, COMMISSIONS BILL PASSED

At meetings this week, the subcommittee on State Boards and Commissions considered and passed a bill which standardizes procedures, terms, per diems and other features for advisory committees at the state level. The bill will now be considered by the Governmental Operations Committee.

(MORE)



## TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE PASSES OUT BILLS

Transportation and General Legislation committee members approved bills Monday and Wednesday to exempt certain vehicles from license requirements and to provide special license plates for handicapped persons.

In other action, the committee approved a bill which allows local sheriffs and police chiefs to regulate the use of explosives and issue permits for use of explosives.

The committee also okayed a bill which sets the Memorial Day Holiday for May 31.

## LOCAL BILLS WIN COMMITTEE APPROVAL

Local Government committee members passed four bills out of committee at a meeting Tuesday.

The first allows for the St. Charles, Dover, Eyota Sanitary Sewer District to levy up to 8 mills for continued operation.

The committee also approved a bill that authorizes the city of Austin to establish and maintain a downtown mall.

A bill to restore state aid for 1974 to the town of Taylor passed committee. The town's county auditor inadvertently failed to file a report of the county proceedings as required.

In other business, the committee okayed amendments to a bill known as the Joint Powers Act by further defining the term "governmental unit" and deleting certain present requirements in the statute.

## OPPOSING TESTIMONY HEARD ON RETURNABLE CONTAINER LEGIS.

Some 27 opponents of legislation to outlaw nonreturnable containers testified before a packed hearing of the Environmental Protection subcommittee Thursday evening.

Among those testifying against the bills, Burton Genesis of the Pollution Control Agency told subcommittee members that they should deal with the "whole" issue of solid waste and not concern themselves with "issue-oriented" legislation which accounts for 3% of the total problem.

St. Paul Mayor Lawrence Cohen also testified against the bills stating that the current economic situation would not allow for people who lost their jobs to find new ones. He said the national government should deal with the problem.