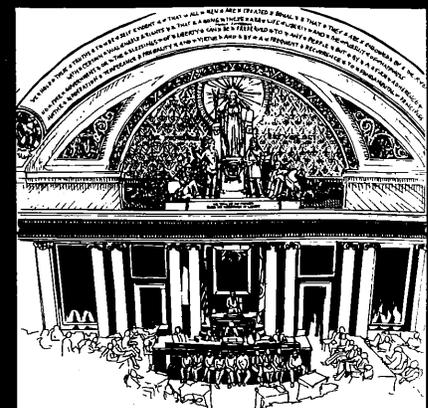
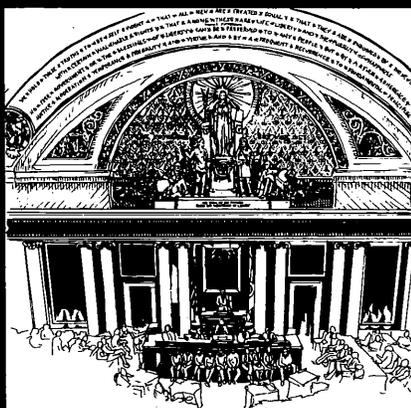
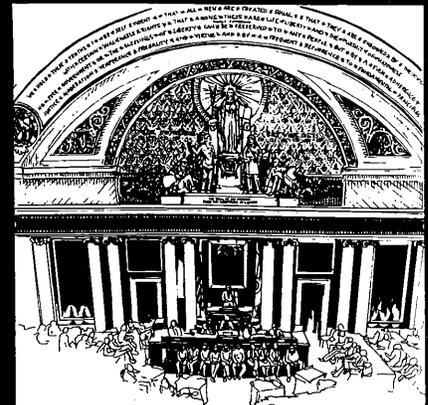
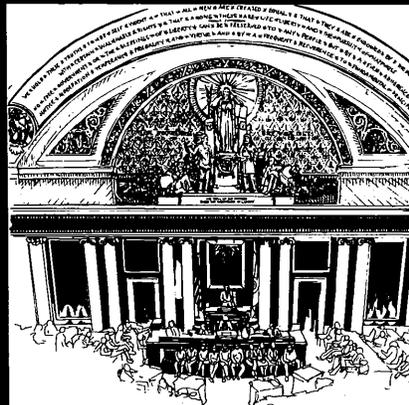
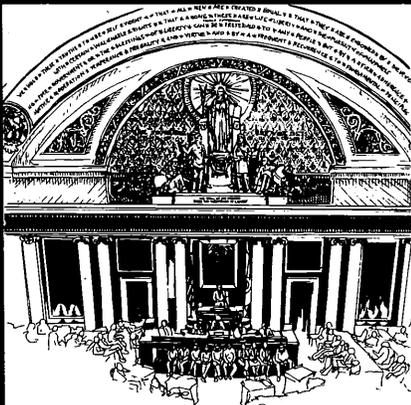
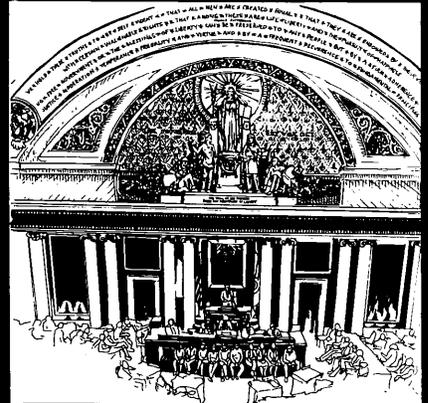
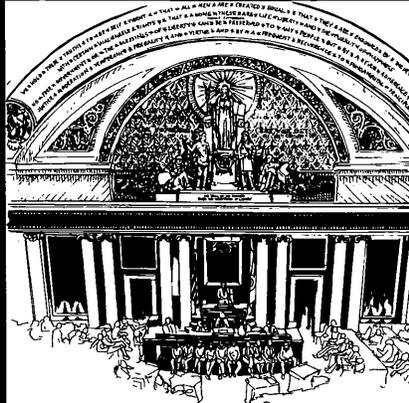
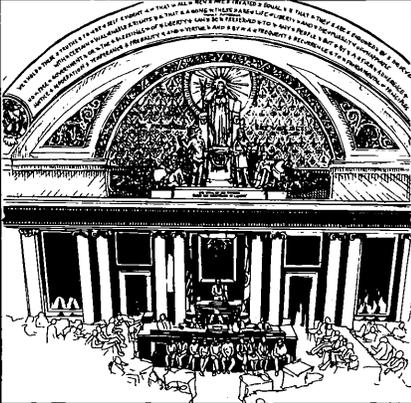




the Session monthly

February 1983



Minnesota House of Representatives



the Session monthly

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in committees ...



Agriculture

Family farm security

Weakening of the Family Farm Security Program might mean an end to the family farm for some young people who planned to use the program to buy farms from retiring parents. Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner Jim Nichols told the Agriculture Committee on Feb. 16 that getting money to keep the program at its current level is one of the Ag Department's major concerns.

The Family Farm Security Program puts a 90 percent guarantee on farm loans to qualified buyers and, in most cases, pays four percent of the interest payment on the outstanding balance interest borrowers eventually repay to the state.

Nichols said 370 Minnesota farmers are now in the program, but his department needs a \$1.2 million budget increase over last biennium to keep the Family Farm Security Program at the current level, which 80 to 85 new people a year.

The Governor's proposed budget gives the program a \$208,000 increase, which Nichols said could help only 12 to 15 new people a year.

Dairy farmer paychecks

On Feb. 9, Agriculture Committee members unanimously recommended passage of HF46 (Wenzel, DFL-Little Falls), a bill that asks Congress to repeal a federal law that deducts 50 cents per 100 pounds of milk from dairy farmer paychecks.

Author of the bill, Rep. Stephen Wenzel, said Minnesota dairy farmers stand to lose \$100 million per year if the federal government carries out the program, which authorizes a second 50 cent deduction beginning April 1, 1983.

Representatives of several Minnesota farm organizations told committee members the deduction plan will increase milk production rather than decrease it as the government intended. Dairy farmers will up production to cover lost income, they said.

The law was supposed to take effect in December 1982. However, some creameries haven't taken the 50 cents out of payment to farmers because a federal district judge in North Carolina issued a court injunction against the deductions in December.

Wenzel says HF46 will send the message to Congress that the plan won't work and "unfairly discriminates against dairy farmers."

UPDATE: The full House passed HF46 Feb. 17 and sent it to the Senate for consideration.



Appropriations

Jobs program

The governor's \$75 million jobs program isn't a cure-all, but it will attempt to help those most in need, according to Barbara Beerhalter, the Minnesota commissioner of Economic Security.

The commissioner appeared before the Appropriations Committee Feb. 17 to explain the jobs program, which is part of the governor's overall "New Initiatives Program" which he announced to the Legislature in his Feb. 15 budget message.

Along with some public job creation, the jobs program would encourage private businesses to hire people who have lost their general assistance benefits because of stricter eligibility standards. Under the plan, the state would pay the employer the amount of the welfare benefit. The employer would pick up the difference between the state's payment and the regular wage and would get some federal tax credits.

The "New Initiatives Program" includes, too, a \$30 million energy and resource development program to help schools and local governments make buildings more energy efficient and help low-income peo-

Session Monthly, an information service from the Minnesota House of Representatives, reports action on bills and brings you brief news stories from House committee meetings to give you a sense of what legislators are hearing as they gather facts, figures, and background information for upcoming decisions they'll have to make.

ople weatherize their homes. The program also offers encouragements to alternative energy industries, such as ethanol plants and other biomass fuel makers, to locate in Minnesota.

Other initiatives in the governor's budget include small business development, and computer literacy training in schools.

Health Department programs

Minnesota's new commissioner of health, Sister Mary Madonna Ashton, told the Appropriations Committee Feb. 7 that the state Health Department has three major concerns this coming biennium: maintaining the level of public health services the state now has; holding down medical costs; and protecting the public from the hazards of nuclear waste.

The Health Department will also work with the Governor's Health Committee on a general health campaign, Ashton said, to promote healthy lifestyles and discourage the use of potentially health-threatening substances, such as drugs, alcohol, and cigarettes.

Ashton asked lawmakers to study carefully the long-term effects of budget cuts on the state's public health before they make any decisions.

U of M faculty salaries

Low faculty salaries are driving good teachers out of academics and into the private sector, says Peter Magrath, University of Minnesota president. Magrath told the Appropriations Committee Feb. 2 that faculty salaries are a top priority item in the school's 1983-85 budget request. The University is requesting \$42.7 million for salary increases of 8 percent in 1983-84 and 9 percent in 1984-85.

Magrath said the University's faculty salaries haven't kept up with inflation in past years. In the 1970's the average spendable income of Minnesotans rose 8 percent, while the real income of University professors went down 20 percent. Magrath warned that the University will risk losing quality faculty if salaries continue to erode.

State university system budgets

Officials of the State University System made their 1984-85 budget request before the Appropriations Committee Feb. 1.

Jon Wefald, chancellor of the State University System, asked lawmakers to restore the \$8.7 million schools raised through tuition to lessen the impact of recent budget cuts, and \$5.2 million to fund a portion of an enrollment bulge. Wefald's request also included other increases in state funding over the current level.

Wefald said the Legislature must fully fund the seven state universities to preserve high quality education and the quality of life in the rural communities that benefits from the presence of a state university.

State universities provide a substantial amount of revenue to local businesses, jobs for local people, and cultural opportunities that would disappear if the university was not there, he said.

Education Division

Schools: declining enrollment

What will Minnesota's universities and state colleges do about declining enrollments in the next decade? The Education Division heard suggestions Feb. 15 from the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) and leaders of the state's four post-secondary systems.

HECB laid out several responses, including closing campuses and merging of post-secondary systems to increase efficiency. However, HECB made no specific recommendations to the Legislature.

Stan Kegler, vice-president of Institutional Relations for the University of Minnesota, said the governing boards of the state's four post-secondary systems should make the decisions about closing campuses or reorganizing systems, not the Legislature.

"I think on the basis of our record of 25 months, the Board of Regents has shown that it can make tough decisions, can close down programs, can reduce pro-

grams, can merge programs, and so on. They have not yet decided to close campuses or installations. That may come. We're ready to see some of the evidence on that," Kegler said.

More about enrollment

Minnesota's post-secondary schools face two serious prospects in coming years: a 20-25 percent enrollment decline by the mid-1990's and a lack of adequate state funding, says Hugh Madson, president of the Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB).

Madson spoke before the Education Division of the Appropriations Committee Feb. 10 and told lawmakers the state and its schools must start work now to create a comprehensive plan for future post-secondary education.

"We believe that the enrollment and fiscal problems are so severe that failure to address them in 1983 may weaken the entire system of post-secondary education and cause permanent damage," Madson said.

HECB recommends the state establish an equitable policy for setting tuition levels, a policy for funding the state's universities and colleges, and a policy for the organization and structure of post-secondary education.

Health, Welfare, Corrections Division

Women's prison

Legislators looked at plans for a new women's prison at Shakopee at a Feb. 28 meeting as the Health, Welfare, and Corrections Division worked on the state Department of Corrections budget.

The division's studying the governor's proposal to close the Shakopee prison and move inmates to Sauk Centre. Legislators have considered closing Shakopee for some time, because the prison's

State Departments Division

DNR fee increases

If the Legislature approves the governor's budget proposal for the Department of Natural Resources, state park entrance fees would go from 10 to 15 dollars, and various camping fees would go up a dollar.

The governor is recommending the increases to lessen the bite his proposed million dollar cut would take out of the parks budget, Don Davison, director of the Parks and Recreation Division of the DNR told legislators at a Feb. 23 meeting of the State Departments Division.

The park fees went up from 5 to 10 dollars only two years ago, and DNR officials fear that more increases may hurt the governor's tourism campaign, because Minnesota's fees will be higher than those in surrounding states.

Committee chairman Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) isn't eager to approve the five dollar across-the-board increase. She indicated the committee would try to work out an alternative plan that would stay within the governor's budget outline.

Women and equal pay

Women are underpaid in all job classes in the executive branch of state government, according to Commissioner of Economic Security, Nina Rothchild, who testified before the State Departments Division on Feb. 4.

In her testimony, Rothchild explained a law the 1982 Legislature passed which required the department to examine differences in pay between men and women who hold jobs of the same work value in state civil service and submit a list of compensation inequity cases. That list is ready and waiting for review, said Rothchild.

The Legislative Commission on Employee Relations will look at the list next, and decide whether to appropriate money for salary compensation. Rothchild said she hopes the commission will devote \$20 million, about 3 percent of the entire state payroll, to correct the inequities. Rothchild expects the salary compensation process to take place over a period of about four years.



Commerce

The towing bill

A bill that would require many towing companies and police impoundment lots to accept payment by check or credit card won approval from a Commerce subcommittee Feb. 24.

HF164 (Skoglund, DFL-Mpls) applies only to impounded vehicles, not situations where the consumer asks to have a car towed away, bill author Rep. Wes Skoglund said.

Under the bill, towers could refuse to accept checks and credit cards which they know or strongly suspect to be bad.

The lemon bill

The so-called "lemon bill" got approval from the Commerce and Economic Development Committee Feb. 22. Rep. Joe Begich (DFL-Eveleth) said his bill, HF26, will protect consumers who get stuck with defective vehicles.

The bill would require the manufacturers of new motor vehicles to repair those that don't meet warranty standards if the consumer reports the complaint within a specified time. If the manufacturer or dealer can't repair the defect after four or more attempts, the bill would require the manufacturer to replace the vehicle or refund its purchase price, less depreciation, to the consumer.

Tony Perpich, director of Consumer Services, told a Commerce subcommittee Feb. 8 that consumers currently have little recourse if they buy a defective car. The bill, he said, would encourage auto manufacturers to improve quality.

But opponents at the meeting said consumers already have recourse and that manufacturers would probably pass on increased costs of repairs and refunds to car buyers.

UPDATE: The full House gave HF26 preliminary approval Feb. 28.

overcrowded and too old for renovation. But on the 28th, Department of Corrections Commissioner Orville Pung showed lawmakers a plan for a new, modern, energy-efficient prison that would hold 108 inmates. The facility wouldn't be ready until March 1986.

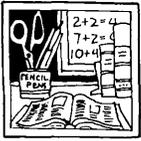
Drug abuse is expensive

The 300,000 to 350,000 Minnesotans who abuse chemicals cost the state of Minnesota about \$1.5 billion each year in lost production, health care, accidents, and crime, according to Charles Heinicke, director of the state's Chemical Dependency Program in the Department of Public Welfare.

Heinicke appeared before the Health, Welfare and Corrections Division Feb. 14 to give a status report on chemical dependency treatment in the state.

Heinicke said state hospitals handle most of the chemically dependent people on public assistance, because the state has cut back on payments to private programs for public patients. Many private residential treatment programs stopped accepting people on public assistance which puts increased pressures on state hospitals with long waiting lists, and may force some hospitals to determine length of a patient's stay by the patient load.

Many Minnesota schools teach about chemicals and their effects on health to discourage drug and alcohol abuse among young people, Heinicke said. And he told the lawmakers, prevention programs are "the real hope for substantially reducing the number of people with chemical abuse problems."



Education

Debate goes on

Debate over how public colleges and universities will adjust to fewer students and fewer dollars continues at the State Capitol as higher education in Minnesota reports to the Legislature.

The reports result from HF2, a bill that came out of a 1982 Special Session, calling for administrators of higher education to plan ahead for declining enrollment and bring their plans to the 1983 Legislature.

At a Feb. 23 Education Committee meeting, legislators questioned whether the higher education leaders had planned far enough into the future; and why they had left out discussion of campus closings, mergers, or reorganizations. And legislators suggested they look again at their plans for working with less money and fewer students in the next 10 to 15 years.

System representatives say they can't accurately plan further than four years ahead. And they didn't include specific proposals, such as campus closings, because they don't see that as necessary at this point. They said they've coped with budget cuts in the past by cutting or reducing programs, and they can continue to do that in an orderly way. State University Chancellor Jon Wefald said their projections don't indicate a severe drop in student numbers in the next few years.

HECB reports

The Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) also reported to legislators about options the systems have in the future. Their report included suggestions on reorganization of school systems and campus closings.

But, the vice-president of institutional affairs for the University of Minnesota, Stan Kegler, questions a portion of the Higher Education Coordinating Board's report, because, he says, rural residents would probably lose access to quality higher education under the Board's concept for closing public college campuses.

Kegler told the committee at a Feb. 28 meeting that the Board's formula for deciding which public colleges or universities might not be necessary as higher education faces dropping enrollments and less money, points largely to rural campuses.

He feels the formula is unfair because it looks only at numbers, not policy, or at the difficulty of providing quality education in a state where population spreads out over large rural areas.

Higher Education Board's Executive Director Clyde Ingle said the Legislature can adjust the formula to reflect policy concerns. He stressed that closing of campuses was just one of several options the Board offers for legislative consideration.

Math/science teacher shortage

Can public schools attract enough math and science teachers? The Education Committee is exploring answers to that and another question: Can we keep them up-to-date on the changing technologies in their fields?

At a Feb. 14th meeting, Department of Education staff members told the committee that the average age of people who teach math and science is going up and the number of graduating students qualified to teach those subjects is going down.

Most schools are able to provide math and science classes, but some school districts, especially smaller ones, can't afford advanced math teachers. Some schools now use instructors who aren't fully licensed math and science teachers.

The legislators expressed concern about attracting young people to teach math and science and keeping good teachers in schools when private industry pays so much more, and concern about the 1990's when enrollments will increase and more students will need advanced math to fit into the high-tech era that futurists predict.

Future schools: "must be different"

Schools of the future must be different from schools of today if education is to succeed, according to futurist Michael Annison. An-

nison, vice-president of a Colorado firm that maps future social and economic trends, testified before the Education Committee on Feb. 9.

Annison says we run schools today like production lines of the industrial era of the past. They run on the principles, cultures, and practices of the 1950's—discipline, rote, and rigid structure. They prepare students for a single job in a narrowly defined national economy of production and consumption of goods.

We are now in the information age, Annison said. Students must learn to use their minds, and schools must help them develop the skills to help them make changes: "We can no longer train students for jobs they'll hold for the rest of their lives. They'll have four or five different careers before they're through."

Annison says computer and foreign language skills and the knowledge of cultures of countries that participate in the global economy are essential.

The Legislature can set the mission and goals of education, but the changes themselves, where schools will adapt to meet future needs, will have to happen on the local level. Decentralized decision-making and individual responsibility for making things happen will be a mark of the future, said Annison.

Education Finance Division

School transportation

The Division began work on Feb. 28 on setting levels of aid to public schools for student transportation. The decisions they make will become Article II of HF92 (Nelson, K., DFL-Mpls), the omnibus education finance bill for the 1983 session.

would appoint from business, labor/agriculture, elementary and secondary schools, and post-secondary education to handle general public education concerns.

Another bill, HF108 (Nelson, DFL-Mpls.), would set up a commission to study plans for education's future in Minnesota. Commission members would come from the Senate, House, and governor appointees.

The third bill, HF291 (Olsen, IR-St. Louis Park), would establish a finance-only commission with specified duties.

The transportation aid article would change the formula the state uses for predicting transportation costs and provides for inflation adjustments. The proposed funding formulas would more accurately reflect a district's costs for non-regular transportation, such as handicapped student transportation, and excess transportation, such as transportation for students traveling a short but hazardous route to school.

HF92 would appropriate \$84,559,000 to transport Minnesota's school children in 1984.

New education commission

"I think a studied response to the quality of education in Minnesota and to the means of financing it would serve the interests of our state very well," said State Education Commissioner John Feda in response to proposed legislation that would create a new legislative commission on education planning, financing, or policy.

Speaking to the Education Finance Division Feb. 23, Feda supported three bills that would set up the new commission. The bills present different ideas for structure of the commission. They vary in spelling out function, size, duties, membership, commission staffing, funding needs, reporting dates, and whether the commission should be ongoing or terminate in two years.

HF162 (Nelson, DFL-Mpls) would require a mixed commission membership that the governor



Energy

Indian family housing

The Duluth Intertribal Board got \$195,000 from the state in 1978 to provide housing for Indian families who live in the city of Duluth. But to date, the board hasn't been able to provide a single family with housing, Board representative Michael Himango told the Energy Committee's Housing subcommittee at the Feb. 22 meeting.

People from Indian communities in St. Paul, Minneapolis, Duluth, and the Twin Cities suburban areas attended the meeting to tell about their successes and problems in housing urban Indians.

Regulations that require the programs to get matching dollars before making home loans are preventing the use of the housing money in Duluth, according to Himango. Difficulty in selling bonds in the market, and ineligibility for HUD programs were other problems that have made it difficult for the groups to meet their housing goals.

Indian groups in the city of St. Paul have had greater luck in providing housing, thanks to cooperation from the city and matching grants from the McKnight Foundation, says Leeann Tall Bear, of the St. Paul Intertribal Board. The board is helping six families get money, and counseling them on how to find, and care for their first home.

Utilities: Energy investment

The newly-formed Energy and Society subcommittee started hearings Feb. 22 on HF189 (Otis, DFL-Mpls), a bill that would require the state's regulated gas and electric companies to invest in energy conservation.

HF189 would require the Public Utilities Commission to ensure that all utility companies put at least one percent of their gross revenues into conservation investments each year. The bill would target 50 percent of the money to low-income and multi-family housing. Solar, wind, and biomass sources would be some of the investment options utilities would have under the bill.

Michael Murphy, acting commissioner of the Department of Energy, Planning and Development, said legislative mandates requiring conservation investments are "the public sector's way of giving utilities a nudge to move a little more quickly through the process of change into being that a more comprehensive provider of services, which some utilities have been reluctant to be in the recent past."

The subcommittee planned to hear opposition to the bill in March.

Energy: superinsulated homes

Minnesotans could reduce their heating bills by about 60-80% if they lived in superinsulated homes, according to a study by the Department of Energy, Planning and Development.

Jackie Lynn, of the department's energy division, told the Energy Committee Feb. 1 if homeowners spread out the additional insulation costs over the life of a home mortgage, their total monthly costs can be less with a superinsulated home than with traditional construction.

The cost savings come from more effectively sealing off the parts of a house where cold air seeps in and heat flows out, Lynn said.

The Minnesota Energy Division is building 20 superinsulated homes as part of a demonstration project they are sponsoring along with the Insulation Contractors Association Northwest.



Environment & Natural Resources

Superfund bill

On a vote 7 to 5, after hours of testimony, the House Environment subcommittee on Feb. 24, approved the hazardous waste "superfund" bill.

The bill, HF76 (Long, DFL-Mpls), attempts to get at Minnesota's hazardous waste problem by providing funds and methods to clean up waste problems and determine who's responsible for paying damages and clean-up costs.

It would establish a fund to pay for the clean up of hazardous waste and provide state money to match federal superfund dollars, authorize the Pollution Control Agency to clean up hazardous waste sites and litigate later, and establish strict liability on the part of those who release hazardous waste into the environment.

HF76 would impose, on anyone who releases hazardous waste, strict, joint and several liability for clean up, damages, economic loss, and personal injury. Liability would be retroactive, applying to damages from past actions.

Liability questions

Some people question what actions the liability would cover, and how far back liability would reach.

State Attorney General Hubert Humphrey III was on hand at a Feb. 17 meeting to support the bill and the liability provisions.

"Who are the parties who should or are best able to bear the liability?" he asked. "The taxpaying public? The individual or corporate entity who owns the polluting sites, or the person responsible for depositing the substances causing the harm?" According to Humphrey the depositing parties should account for their actions.

Retroactive liability unfair?

Though not opposed to a "superfund" for clean up expenses, attorney Becky Comstock, representing several businesses, says her firm has problems with the joint and several and retroactive liability provisions.

Comstock says the bill holds parties liable for excessive amounts of money and leaves one party to pay all costs if other contributing parties aren't found.

According to Comstock, retroactive liability is unfair to those who weren't aware of effects of waste material they disposed of in the past. Speaking on liability for personal injury, she said common law already provides a method for people to sue for personal injury. Also, she said costly liability suits that could happen under the superfund legislation would drive some Minnesota companies out of business.

Not all agree

Some individuals and organizations, such as the AFL-CIO, and environment groups however, don't feel that current law adequately protects the public, and the bill is necessary to do that.

In its approved form, after subcommittee hearings, Rep. Doug Carlson (IR-Sandstone) maintains the bill fails to take care of concerns of the private sector.

But House author, Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) says the bill's a true compromise that considers interests of industry, private citizens, and environmentalists.

The full Environment Committee will continue hearings on the bill. It would then go on to the Judiciary, Taxes, and Appropriations Committees.

Hazardous waste sites

What to do with hazardous waste is the question Minnesota's Waste Management Board has faced since the Board's creation under the 1980 Waste Management Act.

On Feb. 8, Board Chairman Bob Dunn spoke before the Environment Committee to tell of the board's progress to date in siting hazardous waste dumps, selection of waste processing sites, and development of a statewide hazardous waste management plan.

According to Dunn, the Board has four candidate sites for hazardous waste disposal under consideration, one each in Aitkin, Marshall, Scott, and Carver counties, and has selected eight of the required nine sites for hazardous waste processing.

Dunn says hazardous waste is a big problem in Minnesota, but we can better handle it when plans for reduction, abatement, processing, and recycling are in place. Dunn expects the board to release a first draft of the waste management plan this spring.

PCA: more to do with less

With federal efforts underway to shift more responsibility to the state level, Pollution Control Agency director Sandra Gardebring says she finds the PCA in the predicament of having more to do with fewer dollars. Gardebring spoke before to the Environment Committee on Feb. 1 to discuss functions and concerns of the PCA.

Operations of the PCA include setting standards for air, land, and water quality control, authorizing operating permits, monitoring, and enforcing compliance with standards, and providing assistance to local governments in areas of finance, technology and training.

More recently, said Gardebring, the PCA has also been involved in waste clean up.

Principal concerns for the PCA over the next years, according to Gardebring are: developing emission standards for sulfur dioxide pollutants which cause acid rain; compliance with clean water standards; regulation of hazardous waste; and where and how to dispose of solid waste.



General Legislation & Veterans Affairs

Gaming Division

Pari-mutuel bill

Early in February, the author of HF77 (the pari-mutuel bill), Rep. Richard Kostohryz (DFL-North St. Paul), outlined his proposal to the Gaming Division.

Since then, the Division has taken much testimony to get reactions to HF77 and recommendations for changes in the legislation so that it will, according to Kostohryz, "preserve the integrity of pari-mutuel, establish a good breeding, a new agri-business in Minnesota, and give Minnesota a new form of recreation."

The executive secretary of the Illinois Racing Commission, Dave E. Hooper, shared his experience in horse racing with legislators in an appearance before the Gaming Division on Feb. 23.

Hooper compared Illinois' racing laws to laws Minnesota legislators are proposing. He suggested Minnesota set aside profits for racetrack improvement and explained to legislators how they might determine racing dates.

Some of the problems Illinois has had in its racing experience are jurisdictional conflicts between law enforcement officials and the state's racing board and renovation of old facilities.

Horse safety

At the Feb. 23 meeting, Barbara Zell of the Minnesota Fund for Animals told lawmakers the pari-mutuel bill, HF77 (Kostohryz, DFL-North St. Paul) is inadequate for horse safety.

She suggested legislators put stricter medication laws into the bill to prohibit medication for 72 hours prior to a race, and the taking of blood samples from horses immediately before and after each race.

More opinions

People interested in horse racing and betting in Minnesota got a chance to give their opinions on the pari-mutuel bill to the Gaming Division Feb. 16.

John Farrell, Minnesota Racing Association director, said that investors won't get a good return under the bill's provisions, considering the state tax structure.

"From what I've looked at, and the financial people I've talked to, my view is that you will not have a first-class racing facility in the state of Minnesota because it will not be economically viable for investors to come forward, sign their names on the investment papers, and be able to pay the debt service," he said.

Farrell proposes delaying the state's tax take from betting for a few years until the sport is established and investors are realizing some return on their money.

Betting and crime

Pari-mutuel betting and crime go hand-in-hand, was the message law-enforcement officials brought to the Gaming Division of the General Legislation/Veterans Affairs Committee Feb. 9.

Peace officers want legislation on pari-mutuel betting to allow local police officers to perform their jobs routinely at the tracks. They want the law to change betting crimes from gross misdemeanor to felony status, and to allow money they seize from illegal gambling to go into local coffers to help offset the cost of policing track betting.

Ovide LaBerge, of the State Police Chiefs Association, said that pari-mutuel betting will mean the state has to put more money into law enforcement.

"We know there will be crime associated with pari-mutuel betting. It exists everywhere that pari-mutuel betting exists. Law-enforcement is the group of people who will have to concern themselves with those issues. We need the tools, and we need the sources and the funding to accomplish the task of fighting those kinds of crimes."

LaBerge asked that the betting bill spell out licensing requirements and racing terms so there are no loopholes to allow illegal or undesirable gambling or racing.



Financial Institutions & Insurance

Bad checks bill

In amended form, the "bad checks" bill, HF45 (Kelly, DFL-St. Paul), got the approval of the Financial Institutions/Insurance Committee on Feb. 16.

House sponsor of the bill, Rep. Randy Kelly, said it targets the chronic writers of bad checks, not the person who occasionally overdraws a checking account.

The bill would require people opening checking accounts to provide certain personal and financial information to banks and other "financial intermediaries", and would set down procedures to help people who accept bad checks recover their money in court.

To open checking accounts, applicants would have to show a driver's license or identification card. Should the bank find that an applicant hasn't had a checking account within the past year, or has had an account closed involuntarily within the last year, or a conviction for passing bad checks within the past two years, the bank would print on the checks the starting date of the new account.

HF45 toughens criminal penalties for passing bad checks and would call for a civil penalty that would require the check writer to pay the holder of the check double its amount, interest at 18 percent, attorney fees, and a \$15 service charge.

UPDATE: HF45 rereferred to Judiciary. Waiting for hearing in Criminal Justice Division.



Governmental Operations

Unemployment comp

Minnesota's unemployment trust fund is currently \$338 million in debt, and Commissioner of Economic Security Barbara Beerhalter said she expects that number to reach \$400 million by spring.

Beerhalter gave the Governmental Operations Committee an overview of Minnesota's unemployment compensation system on Feb. 1 and reported on the status of the fund that provides money for the compensation program.

According to Beerhalter, 1980 caught Minnesota at the start of another recession with only a small reserve in the trust fund; an increase in demand for unemployment benefits; and falling fund revenues to pay the benefits.

In 1983 we face problems of a \$400 million debt, ongoing costs of the program, and attempts to build a reserve in bad economic times, Beerhalter said.



Health & Welfare

Nursing home payment

The way the state pays nursing homes for care to people on medical assistance has to change, said Rep. John Clawson (DFL-Center City) at a meeting of the Health/Welfare Departmental Affairs subcommittee Feb. 24.

Clawson and Rep. Tony Onnen (IR-Cokato) have co-authored a bill, HF184, that would require new procedures for determining nursing home reimbursement rates.

According to Onnen, the bill would provide an incentive to nursing homes to operate efficiently and would eventually save the state money. Under the bill, the state would pay nursing homes on an indexed rate scale of projected average costs in homes that offer similar types of care.

Onnen also said other features of the bill would encourage nursing homes to rent facilities rather than use funds for investing in land, improvements, and major equipment, as present law allows.

Epilepsy

A bill calling for changes in the language in Minnesota law that refers to people who suffer from epilepsy got approval of a Health Care subcommittee Feb. 2.

The bill, HF150 (Reif, IR-White Bear Lake) would replace the word "epileptic" in Minnesota statutes with three words—"persons having epilepsy"—or similar terminology. According to Rep. Reif, chief author of the bill, the term "epileptic" is impersonal. It names a condition and should not label a person.

Reif, a practicing physician, said he is in favor of abolishing all discriminatory health references for people and will consider amending the bill to cover similar health related terms.

Too many physicians?

Are Minnesota's three medical schools producing too many doctors? Rep. Robert Reif (IR-White Bear Lake) is sponsor of a House Advisory that calls for a study of the question.

Neal Vanselow, vice-president for Health Services at the University of Minnesota, said at a Feb. 22 meeting of the Health Care Subcommittee that the university would have to consider the need for doctors in the United States before limiting enrollments.

Other considerations are the resources available for medical students, the applicant pool or number of people wanting to get into medical school, and the number of residency openings available to accommodate graduates, said Vanselow.

Medical assistance costs

Minnesota's Medical Assistance costs could top the one billion mark by 1985 unless the state begins some innovative new programs and policies, according to Charles Poe, assistant commissioner of the Bureau of Income Maintenance for the Minnesota Department of Public Welfare.

In an appearance before the Social Services subcommittee Feb. 15, Poe said 20 percent of the eligible population, the elderly, use 55 percent of the total welfare general assistance budget.

With health costs for this group rising at almost twice the rate of the Medical Assistance allocation budget, Poe proposes alternatives to present payment arrangements for health care.

"Many health care leaders in both the public and private sectors believe that the problem of cost in the health care area is the fee-for-service payment system. That system yields incentives for health care providers to provide more and more of the types of service that can be reimbursed by third-party payers. Worth testing is the idea that paying a fixed and periodic fee for a broad array of health care services will end, or, at least, at a minimum, moderate the constant upward cost spiral."

Poe suggests the state run two test programs in three Minnesota counties where health care costs would be pre-paid and more competitive.

Catastrophic illness bills

A bill that aims to help Minnesotans pay large health care bills due to catastrophic illness or accident got approval from the Health/Welfare Committee Feb. 24.

Rep. Jim Swanson (DFL-Richfield), chief author of HF100, said the plan is not a welfare program, but is needed to aid working people who would otherwise have to go on welfare, declare bankruptcy, or spend the rest of their lives paying health bills.

The program began in 1973 but fell victim to state budget cuts in 1981.

UPDATE: The committee rereferred HF100 to the Appropriations Committee.



1983 no. 8

Advance committee schedule & bill introductions

Minnesota House of Representatives

All rooms are located in the State Office Building unless otherwise indicated. This schedule is subject to change. For information call the House Hotline at 296-9283, or contact Terri Hudoba at 296-2146. All meetings are open to the public.

PLEASE NOTE TO ALL COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION CHAIRMEN: The deadline for all committee and commission meeting notices is **NOON ON THURSDAY OF EACH WEEK.** Please send notices in time for the Thursday publication deadline to House Information, Rm. 9, State Capitol.

Committee Schedule for the Week of March 7 - March 11, 1983

Monday, March 7

- 8:00 a.m. AGRICULTURE, TRANSPORTATION & SEMI-STATE DIVISION/**Appropriations, Rm. 22. Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis. Agenda: Budget hearing, Dept. of Commerce: John D. Chisholm, Commissioner, Banking; Reynaud L. Harp, Commissioner, Insurance; Mike Hatch, Commissioner, Securities.
- EDUCATION DIVISION/**Appropriations, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson. Agenda: State University budget hearings.
- HEALTH, WELFARE & CORRECTIONS DIVISION/**Appropriations, Rm. 51. Chr. Rep. Ann Wynia. Agenda: Interested groups regarding the Dept. of Corrections budget.
- STATE DEPARTMENTS DIVISION/**Appropriations, Rm. 14. Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn. Agenda: Budget presentation: Dept. of Employee Relations.
- EDUCATION, Rm. 81.** Chr. Rep. Bob McEachern. Agenda: Continuation of discussion on legislative auditor's report on AVTIs; summary of Governor's recommendations for post-secondary education, state Dept. of Education.
- 10:00 a.m. JUDICIARY, Rm. 81.** Chr. Rep. Bob Vanasek. Agenda: HF166 (Brinkman) Providing for the prosecution of certain offenses by county attorneys other than county attorneys from Hennepin and Ramsey counties. HF190 (Frerichs) Providing for the appointment of a court commissioner to solemnize marriages in Dodge and Olmsted counties. HF260 (Bennett) Relating to conciliation courts; eliminating certain obsolete provisions. HF89 (Greenfield) Increasing penalties for certain crimes when committed with intent to cause fear for personal safety because of race, color, religion, sex, affectional or sexual orientation, or national origin.

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BEVERAGE SUBCOMMITTEE/Regulated Industries, Rm. 83. Chr. Rep. Joel Jacobs. Agenda: HF138 (Begich) Requiring identification of kegs and purchasers thereof. HF167 (Valan) Authorizing the city of Dilworth to issue one on-sale license to an Eagles Club. HF451 (Krueger) Authorizing the city of Long Prairie to issue one on-sale license to a Moose Lodge.

SPECIAL PROJECTS SUBCOMMITTEE/Regulated Industries, Rm. 22. Chr. Rep. Rich O'Connor. Agenda: HF241 (Ogren) Providing for the regulation of certain cooperative electric associations.

12:00 noon EDUCATION FINANCE DIVISION/Education, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. Ken Nelson. Agenda: AVTI funding.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION DIVISION/Labor-Management Relations, Rm. 81. Chr. Rep. Wayne Simoneau. Agenda: Presentation by Steve Keefe, Commissioner of Labor and Industry.

HIGHWAY SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE/Transportation, Rm. 22. Chr. Rep. Carolyn Rodriguez. Agenda: HF90 (Skoglund) Penalties for violating child restraint law. HF344 (Gustafson) Test of alcohol knowledge.

2:00 p.m. The House will meet in Session.

After Session TELECOMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION SYSTEMS SUBCOMMITTEE/Appropriations, Rm. 95. Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn. Agenda: To be announced.

6:00 p.m. JOINT HOUSE-SENATE CLAIMS SUBCOMMITTEE/House Appropriations & Senate Finance, Rm. 22. Chrs. Rep. Henry Kalis & Sen. Greg Dahl. Agenda: HF173 (Berkelman)/SF372 (Dahl) Testimony on various claims.

Tuesday, March 8

- 8:00 a.m. AGRICULTURE, TRANSPORTATION, & SEMI-STATE DIVISION/**Appropriations, Rm. 22. Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis. Agenda: Budget hearing, Dept. of Transportation: Richard P. Braun, Commissioner, Robert J. McDonald, Deputy Commissioner.
- EDUCATION DIVISION/**Appropriations, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson. Agenda: State University budget hearings.
- HEALTH, WELFARE & CORRECTIONS DIVISION/**Appropriations, Rm. 51. Chr. Rep. Ann Wynia. Agenda: Health-Related Boards and the Dept. of Health.
- STATE DEPARTMENTS DIVISION/**Appropriations, Rm. 14. Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn. Agenda: Budget presentations: State Board of Investment; Zoological Gardens.
- JOBS CREATION & UNEMPLOYMENT ISSUES SUBCOMMITTEE/**Governmental Operations, Rm. 83. Chr. Rep. Karen Clark. Agenda: To be announced.
- PENSIONS & INVESTMENTS SUBCOMMITTEE/**Governmental Operations, Rm. 443. Chr. Rep. Wayne Simoneau. Agenda: To be announced.
- PERSONNEL & ADMINISTRATION SUBCOMMITTEE/**Governmental Operations, Rm. 95. Chr. Rep. John Clawson. Agenda: To be announced.
- 8:15 a.m. TAXES, Rm. 81.** Chr. Rep. John Tomlinson. Agenda: HF371 (Jensen) Gas tax bill.
- 10:00 a.m. CONSUMER AFFAIRS & TOURISM SUBCOMMITTEE/**Commerce & Economic Development, Rm. 81. Chr. Rep. Paul Ogren. Agenda: HF123 (Staten) Regulating debt and collection practices.
- ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES, Rm. 83.** Chr. Rep. Willard Munger. Agenda: HF76 (Long) "Superfund"/victims compensation. SF47/HF75 (Battaglia) Pheasant stamp.
- HEALTH & WELFARE, Rm. 57.** Chr. Rep. Jim Swanson. Agenda: HF107 (Wynia) Reporting abuse or neglect of children.

10:30 a.m. DEPARTMENTAL AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE/Health & Welfare, Rm. 51. Chr. Rep. Tom Berkelman. Agenda: HF184 (Clawson) Nursing home rental concept.

HEALTH CARE SUBCOMMITTEE/Health & Welfare, Rm. 95. Chr. Rep. Dick Welch. Agenda: HF335 (Swanson) Exempts certain health maintenance organizations from medical assistance four percent reduction.

SOCIAL SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE/Health & Welfare, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield. Agenda: HF496 (Greenfield) Fiscal sanctions. HF497 (Greenfield) Advance of county share of medical assistance and general assistance medical care payments to state.

12:00 noon ENERGY & SOCIETY SUBCOMMITTEE/Energy, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. Randy Staten. Agenda: HF189 (Otis) Relating to energy; requiring certain energy conservation investments by regulated utilities. HF258 (Greenfield) Relating to energy; providing tenant enforcement of certain conservation standards; proposing new codes. HF288 (Staten) Relating to energy; establishing residential rental property weatherization disclosure program.

LOCAL & URBAN AFFAIRS, Rm. 83. Chr. Rep. Glen Anderson. Agenda: HF413 (Forsythe) Relating to the city of Edina; allowing the city to make special assessments against certain benefited property. HF387 (Clawson) Relating to real property; providing for permissive replatting of certain land; granting powers to local government.

1:00 p.m. LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON PENSIONS & RETIREMENT, Rm. 120 Capitol. Chr. Sen. Collin Peterson. Agenda: Election of officers; questions concerning 1981 actuarial valuations. HF88 (Rodsoovich)/SF81 (Purfeerst) Repealing obsolete investment language. SF323 (C. C. Peterson) Date change for police and fire state aid reports. HF21 (O'Connor)/SF101 (Waldorf) St. Paul Police Relief; reinstatement of surviving spouse benefit. SF160 (C. C. Peterson) Simplification of volunteer firefighters law.

2:00 p.m. EXPORTS & MARKETING SUBCOMMITTEE/Agriculture, Rm. 22. Chr. Rep. Tom Shea. Agenda: HF424 (Shea) Grain buyers act.

ENERGY & ECONOMICS SUBCOMMITTEE/Energy, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. Todd Otis. Agenda: Discussion of natural gas pricing; testimony from suppliers. (Next week, testimony from consumers.

INSURANCE SUBCOMMITTEE/Financial Institutions & Insurance, Rm. 81. Chr. Rep. Tom Berkelman. Agenda: HF239 (Brinkman) Dram shop insurance; extending the date requiring insurance and requiring an assigned risk plan.

COMMERCIAL & PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE/Transportation, Rm. 95. Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim. Agenda: HF154 (Skoglund) Allowing certain revenue to be expended to improve minor airports.

3:00 p.m. TAXES, Rm. 83. Chr. Rep. John Tomlinson. Agenda: David Birch, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will speak on "What States Can Do To Promote Economic Development." (Joint meeting with the Economic Development Division/Senate Tax Committee.)

EDUCATION DIVISION/ Appropriations, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson. Agenda: Higher education faculty representatives response to budget recommendations.

HEALTH, WELFARE & CORRECTIONS DIVISION/ Appropriations, Rm. 51. Chr. Rep. Ann Wynia. Agenda: Dept. of Health hearing.

STATE DEPARTMENTS DIVISION/ Appropriations, Rm. 14. Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn. Agenda: Budget presentation: Governor's office; Lieutenant Governor's office; Capitol Area Architectural Planning Board.

EDUCATION, Rm. 81. Chr. Rep. Bob McEachern. Agenda: HF468 (B. Anderson) Authorizing the commissioner of Education to approve one additional application for the part-time teaching program. Legislative Commission to Review Administrative Rules; recommendation on the suspension of provisional licensing in special education. HF157 (L. Carlson) Early retirement incentive program; active military service to be counted toward number of years required for eligibility. HF367 (Gruenes) Detachment and annexation of land between the St. Cloud and Sartell school districts.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS, Rm. 83. Chr. Rep. Fred Norton. Agenda: HF488 (Knuth) Removing the expiration date of certain advisory committees and councils; repealing certain inactive advisory councils. HF274 (Eken) Providing for the majority leader of the senate rather than the president of the senate to serve as chairman of the Legislative Coordinating Commission.

10:00 a.m. AGRICULTURE, Rm. 83. Chr. Rep. Steve Wenzel. Agenda: HF156 (Fjoslien) Reducing the excise tax on agricultural alcohol gasoline. Presentation by Dr. Norman Brown on Agriculture Extension.

GENERAL LEGISLATION & VETERANS AFFAIRS, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. Dick Kostohryz. Agenda: HF77 (Kostohryz) Pari-mutuel bill.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION/Judiciary, Rm. 81. Chr. Rep. Janet Clark. Agenda: HF226 (Larsen) Civil actions; authorizing pledges and members of student organizations to maintain actions for self-damages. HF218 (Kelly) Crimes; expanding the rights of crime victims. HF93 (J. Clark) Crimes; providing for new crimes relating to abuse of children; establishing willful and unlawful restraint as a crime; establishing malicious punishment as a crime; establishing neglect as a crime; providing penalties. Judge Harold Kalina, Hennepin County District Court; sentencing guidelines.

JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION SUBCOMMITTEE/Judiciary, Rm. 14. Chr. Rep. Ben Gustafson. Agenda: HF104 (Staten) Providing for certain duties of clerks of court and deputy probate registrars except in Hennepin and Ramsey counties. HF406 (Norton) Relating to civil actions; allowing prevailing parties to recover disbursements for process served by private process servers.

LAW REFORM SUBCOMMITTEE/Judiciary, Rm. 22. Chr. Rep. Bob Ellingson. HF70 (Voss) Relating to financial institutions and trust companies; providing for a method of determining compensation for services as the personal representative of an estate. HF275 (Ogren) Relating to transportation; limiting liability for civil penalties of carriers or shippers of certain products. HF325 (Ellingson) Revising and clarifying certain provisions relating to the registration of real property. HF495 (Clawson) Regulating the collection, use, and disclosure of mental health agency data; amending the competency of witnesses statutes to provide an exemption for professional consultations.

Wednesday, March 9

8:00 a.m. AGRICULTURE, TRANSPORTATION & SEMI-STATE DIVISION/ Appropriations, Rm. 22. Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis. Agenda: Budget hearing, Dept. of Transportation; Richard P. Braun, Commissioner; Robert J. McDonald, Deputy Commissioner.

12:00 noon FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE, Rm. 81. Chr. Rep. Bernard Brinkman. Agenda: HF316 (Greenfield) Extending time period for group accident and health insurance for terminated employees. HF314 (Wynia) Various regulations of insurance agents.

TRANSPORTATION, Rm. 83. Chr. Rep. George Mann. Agenda: HF120 (Brinkman) Amateur radio plates for pickup trucks. HF90 (Skoglund) Penalties for violating child restraint law. HF341 (Berkelman) Handicapped parking provisions. HF418 (Solberg) Highway safety signs by service clubs.

2:00 p.m. The House will meet in Session.

After Session EDUCATION FINANCE DIVISION/Education, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. Ken Nelson. Agenda: Governor's cash flow recommendations; revenue equity.

4:00 p.m. RAMSEY COUNTY DELEGATION, Rm. 95. Chr. Rep. Dick Cohen. Agenda: To be announced.

Thursday, March 10

8:00 a.m. AGRICULTURE, TRANSPORTATION, & SEMI-STATE DIVISION/Appropriations, Rm. 22. Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis. Agenda: Budget hearing, Dept. of Transportation: Richard P. Bruan, Commissioner; Robert J. McDonald, Deputy Commissioner.

EDUCATION DIVISION/Appropriations, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson. Agenda: Community College budget hearings.

HEALTH, WELFARE & CORRECTIONS DIVISION/Appropriations, Rm. 51. Chr. Rep. Ann Wynia. Agenda: Dept. of Health hearing.

STATE DEPARTMENTS DIVISION/Appropriations, Rm. 14. Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn. Agenda: Budget presentation: Dept. of Revenue, Revenue Management; Income, Sales & Use Tax Management.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS, Rm. 83. Chr. Rep. Fred Norton. Agenda: To be announced.

8:15 a.m. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION/Taxes, Rm. 95. Chr. Rep. Randy Kelly. Agenda: To be announced.

TAX LAWS DIVISION/Taxes, Rm. 81. Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff. Agenda: Presentation of HF217 (Redalen) Modifying the definition of agricultural land. Presentation on rent capitalization: Dept. of Revenue and House Research.

10:00 a.m. COMMERCE & JOBS CREATION SUBCOMMITTEE/Commerce & Economic Development, Rm. 81. Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy. Agenda: HF455 (Sarna) Dept. of Commerce reorganization.

ENVIRONMENT SUBCOMMITTEE/Environment & Natural Resources, Rm. 83. Chr. Rep. Willard Munger. Agenda: HF524 (Kahn) Low-level radioactive waste compact.

GAME & FISH SUBCOMMITTEE/Environment & Natural Resources, Rm. 22. Chr. Rep. Dave Battaglia. Agenda: HF149 (Sviggum) Clarifying the hunting of certain animals with dogs.

HEALTH & WELFARE, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. Jim Swanson. Agenda: HF365 (K. Clark) Clarifying rights and responsibilities of patients and residents.

10:30 a.m. DEPARTMENTAL AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE/Health & Welfare, Rm. 51. Chr. Rep. Tom Berkelman. Agenda: HF438 (Elioff) State hospitals; trusts; beneficiaries.

HEALTH CARE SUBCOMMITTEE/Health & Welfare, Rm. 95. Chr. Rep. Dick Welch. Agenda: HF458 (Welch) Credentialing/human services occupations.

SOCIAL SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE/Health & Welfare, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. Greenfield. Agenda: HF405 (K. Clark) Semi-independent living services.

12:00 noon HOUSING SUBCOMMITTEE/Energy, Rm. 22. Chr. Rep. Kathy Vellenga. Agenda: HF441 (Vellenga) Housing Finance Agency legislation.

GENERAL LEGISLATION & VETERANS AFFAIRS, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. Dick Kostohryz. Agenda: To be announced.

GENERAL LABOR LEGISLATION SUBCOMMITTEE/Labor-Management Relations, Rm. 81. Chr. Rep. Frank Rodriguez. Agenda: HF124 (Elioff) Plant closure (continuation of testimony by opponents—30 minutes. Amendments may be offered.) HF459 (F. Rodriguez) Providing for Fair Labor Standards; defining "employee." HF460 (F. Rodriguez) Relating to labor; deleting an exclusion from protection for payment of wages.

LOCAL & URBAN AFFAIRS, Rm. 83. Chr. Rep. Glen Anderson. Agenda: To be announced.

2:00 p.m. AGRICULTURE, TRANSPORTATION, & SEMI-STATE DIVISION/Appropriations, Rm. 22. Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis. Agenda: Budget hearing, Dept. of Transportation: Richard P. Bruan, Commissioner; Robert J. McDonald, Deputy Commissioner.

3:00 p.m. TAXES, Rm. 83. Chr. Rep. John Tomlinson. Agenda: Governor's tax bill: Article VI, Tree Growth; Article VIII, Estate Tax; Feedlot Pollution Control Credit; Agricultural Electricity Credit.

4:00 p.m. STATE DEPARTMENTS DIVISION/Appropriations, Rm. 14. Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn. Agenda: Budget presentation: continuation of morning agenda.

Friday, March 11

8:00 a.m. EDUCATION DIVISION/Appropriations, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson. Agenda: Community College budget hearings.

STATE DEPARTMENTS DIVISION/Appropriations, Rm. 14. Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn. Agenda: Budget presentation: Dept. of Revenue, Property Special Tax Management; Assessor's Board.

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO REVIEW ADMINISTRATIVE RULES, Rm. 83. Chr. Rep. Tom Berkelman. Agenda: Tentative suspension of provisional teaching license rules; consideration of policy committee recommendations and LCRAR action. Staff report: revisions to Administrative Procedure Act rulemaking provisions.

9:00 a.m. STATE-LOCAL FISCAL AFFAIRS DIVISION/Local & Urban Affairs, Rm. 95. Chr. Rep. John Clawson. Agenda: Governor's recommendations to improve cash flow.

10:00 a.m. EDUCATION FINANCE DIVISION/Education, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. Ken Nelson. Agenda: Community Education; technical and miscellaneous amendments; Transportation Aid Article.

JUDICIARY, Rm. 83. Chr. Rep. Bob Vanasek. Agenda: HF76 (Long) "Superfund"/victims compensation.

12:00 noon LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS. Chr. Rep. Joe Begich. Agenda: Tour the Minntac Plant at Mountain Iron, MN. After the tour, a hearing will be held at the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Office, Eveleth, MN, on HF242 (K. Clark) "Right to Know" bill.

Beginning Saturday, March 5, the Legislative Reference Library, 111 State Capitol, will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Bill Introductions

Monday, Feb 28

HF461—Burger (IR)—Governmental Operations

State government; providing incentive bonuses for certain state employees; appropriating money.

HF462—Begich (DFL)—Local/Urban Affairs

St. Louis County; limiting compensation of elected county officers.

HF463—Pauly (IR)—Local/Urban Affairs

Municipal planning and zoning; authorizing the establishment of a joint planning board; requiring the filing of copies of certain documents; amending statutes.

HF464—Rodriguez, F. (DFL)—Governmental Operations

Retirement; calculation of annuities for the first ten years of service by members of the Minnesota state retirement system; amending statutes.

HF465—Rodriguez, F. (DFL)—Governmental Operations

Retirement; increasing employer and employee contributions to the Minnesota state retirement system; amending statutes.

HF466—Anderson, B. (DFL)—Transportation

Agriculture; redefining agricultural alcohol gasoline; providing a tax reduction for agricultural alcohol gasoline; providing an additional reduction for agricultural alcohol gasoline sold to local units of government; amending statutes; repealing statutes.

HF467—Sarna (DFL)—Governmental Operations

Retirement; adopting a rule of 85, altering the actuarial reduction for early retirement, and changing surviving spouse benefits for members of the Minnesota state retirement system; amending statutes.

HF468—Anderson, B. (DFL)—Education

Education; authorizing the commissioner to approve one additional application for the part-time teaching program for fiscal year 1982 under certain conditions.

HF469—Clawson (DFL)—Judiciary

Attorney general; providing that the attorney general may render bond counsel service to state agencies and political subdivisions upon request; appropriating money; proposing new law.

HF470—Clark, J. (DFL)—Labor-Management Relations

Labor; defining "employee" for purpose of the labor relations act to include certain handicapped persons; amending statutes.

HF471—Greenfield (DFL)—Judiciary

Public welfare; providing for the establishment of a state foster care advisory council and local review boards under the jurisdiction of juvenile judges; prescribing conditions of membership and duties of board members; requiring agency cooperation; providing for the adoption of supreme court rules; setting limitations; appropriating money; proposing new law.

HF472—Rodriguez, C. (DFL)—Education

Education; authorizing the state board for vocational education, the state board for community colleges, and the state university board to close institutions in their respective systems; amending statutes.

HF473—Schafer (IR)—Judiciary

Alcoholic beverages; increasing the age for licensing, sale, consumption, possession and furnishing; amending statutes.

HF474—Greenfield (DFL)—Governmental Operations

State government; prohibiting expenditures for certain civil defense purposes; prescribing the contents of certain civil defense plans; requiring the posting of certain notices; amending statutes; proposing new law.

HF475—Anderson, R. (IR)—Education

Education; authorizing instruction in techniques of cardiopulmonary resuscitation for secondary school pupils; appropriating money; proposing new law.

HF476—Shea (DFL)—Taxes

Taxation; income; disallowing the deduction for interest paid on loans secured by mortgages on property located in another state; amending statutes.

HF477—Schafer (IR)—Education

Education; authorizing a school district to place a teacher on unrequested leave of absence during the school year with a hearing and after 30 days written notice; amending statutes.

HF478—Tunheim (DFL)—Agriculture

Agriculture; appropriating money for the Minnesota barley improvement association; providing for repayment to the state.

HF479—Piepho (IR)—Governmental Operations

Retirement; adopting a rule of 90 for members of the Minnesota state retirement system; amending statutes.

HF480—Piepho (IR)—Governmental Operations

Retirement; adopting a rule of 90 for members of the teachers retirement association; amending statutes.

HF481—Ogren (DFL)—Agriculture

Agriculture; requiring the commissioner of agriculture to make certain rules relating to milk for manufacturing purposes; establishing a loan guarantee program; appropriating money; proposing new law.

HF482—Wynia (DFL)—Governmental Operations

Open meetings; requiring availability of certain materials; prescribing penalties; amending statutes.

HF483—Kalis (DFL)—Environment

Local government; permitting the open burning of leaves in cities and towns; amending statutes.

HF484—Scheid (DFL)—Health/Welfare

Public welfare; providing for medical assistance payment for nutritional supplements; requiring temporary rules for prospective hospital payment; amending statutes.

HF485—Blatz (IR)—Taxes

Taxation; income; providing a floating rate of interest on overpayments of income and withholding taxes; amending statutes.

HF486—Blatz (IR)—Local/Urban Affairs

Local government; providing authority for cities and counties to establish and maintain district heating systems; proposing new law.

HF487—Jensen (DFL)—Transportation

Transportation; apportioning five percent of the net highway user tax distribution fund; creating a town road account in the county state-aid highway fund; providing for the distribution of money in the town road account to towns for the construction, reconstruction, and maintenance of town roads; abolishing county and municipal turnback accounts; amending statutes; proposing new law; repealing statutes.

HF488—Knuth (DFL)—Governmental Operations

State government; removing the expiration date of certain advisory committees and councils, repealing certain inactive advisory councils, committees, and task forces; amending statutes.

HF489—Swanson (DFL)—Education

Education; transferring the powers necessary and incident to the management, jurisdiction, and control of the community colleges to the state university board; abolishing the state board for community colleges; providing for merger of the state university system and the state community college system; requiring the transfer of vocational programs in state universities and community colleges to area vocational-technical institutes; prohibiting area vocational-technical institutes from granting associate degrees unless the degree is awarded jointly with a collegiate institution; amending statutes; proposing new law; repealing statutes.

HF490—Grunes (IR)—Health/Welfare

Public welfare; setting standards for determining the county of financial responsibility for purposes of medical assistance, community social services, and supplemental aid; amending statutes.

HF491—Otis (DFL)—Governmental Operations

Administrative rulemaking; providing for consideration of and participation by small business; proposing new law.

HF492—Eken (DFL)—Transportation

Appropriations; appropriating funds for construction or installation of a certain culvert in High Island Subdivision, Clearwater County.

HF493—Sviggum (IR)—Governmental Operations

Unemployment compensation; benefit requalification after voluntary quit; amending statutes.

HF494—Kruger (DFL)—Education

Education; authorizing Independent School District No. 206, Alexandria, to construct an addition to its area vocational-technical institute subject to certain conditions.

HF495—Clawson (DFL)—Judiciary

Mental health; regulating the collection, use, and disclosure of mental health agency data; amending the competency of witnesses statutes to provide an exemption for professional consultations; amending statutes.

HF496—Greenfield (DFL)—Health/Welfare

Public welfare; establishing a formula for apportioning among counties the cost of federal fiscal sanctions resulting from quality control errors in the aid to families with dependent children, medical assistance, and food stamp programs; amending statutes.

HF497—Greenfield (DFL)—Health/Welfare

Public welfare; allowing the state to require an advance from the county agency for the county share of medical assistance and general assistance medical care; amending statutes.

HF498—Levi (IR)—Education

Education; clarifying transportation aid authorization for transportation to and from alternative educational programs actually attended within the district; amending statutes.

Thursday,

HF499—Quinn (DFL)—Regulated Industries

Public utilities; providing residential telephone subscribers protection from unwanted commercial solicitation from unwanted commercial solicitation; proposing new law.

HF500—Vanasek (DFL)—Environment/Natural Resources

Game and fish; affording protection to the coyote; authorizing a season thereon; amending statutes.

HF501—Nelson, K. (DFL)—Education

Education; specifying requirements for petitions to school boards; amending statutes.

HF502—Osthoff (DFL)—Local/Urban Affairs

Port authorities; providing for approval of port authority land sales; amending statutes.

HF503—Skoglund (DFL)—Taxes

Taxation; providing for the computation of renters' property tax refunds on the basis of actual property taxes; amending statutes.

HF504—Elioff (DFL)—Governmental Operations

Unemployment compensation; providing for benefit eligibility; abolishing the doctrine of constructive voluntary quits; amending statutes.

F505—Elioff (DFL)—Governmental Operations

Natural resources; extending the existence of the citizens' committee on Voyageurs National Park; authorizing the committee to accept gifts; amending statutes.

HF506—Elioff (DFL)—Health/Welfare

Public welfare; providing for reimbursement of chiropractic services for people receiving general assistance medical care; clarifying the meaning of medically certified for purposes of eligibility for general assistance; amending statutes.

HF507—Gruenes (IR)—Local/Urban Affairs

City of St. Cloud; Authorizing the creation of a downtown parking district; providing for its finances.

HF508—Welle (DFL)—Financial Institutions/Insurance

Insurance; homeowners'; requiring notices of cancellation to be written in easily readable and understandable language; amending statutes.

HF509—Welle (DFL)—Financial Institutions/Insurance

Insurance; group life; exempting these policies from certain filing requirements if certain specified conditions are met; amending statutes.

HF510—Minne (DFL)—Regulated Industries

Public utilities; limiting a gas utility's discretion to discontinue service to residential customers; proposing new law.

HF511—Graba (DFL)—Labor-Management Relations

Labor; creating an exemption to the minimum wage overtime provisions for silo builders; amending statutes.

HF512—Schoenfeld (DFL)—Agriculture

Agriculture; requiring pseudorabies testing; proposing new laws.

HF513—Minne (DFL)—General Legislation/Veterans Affairs

Elections; changing certain registration procedures; requiring availability of certain public facilities as polling places; changing requirements that voting machines remain locked after elections; amending statutes; repealing statutes.

HF514—Anderson, B. (DFL)—Governmental Operations

State government; requiring prime contractors who bid on public contracts to list their subcontractors; permitting the substitution of subcontractors under certain circumstances; requiring subcontractors to furnish bonds at the request of the contractor; providing penalties; proposing new law.

HF515—Sviggum (IR)—Governmental Operations

Retirement; guaranteeing public employees retirement benefits; proposing new law.

HF516—Welker (IR)—Local/Urban Affairs

City of Montevideo; Giving it certain powers of a statutory city.

HF517—Shea (DFL)—Agriculture

Agriculture; imposing certain requirements on milk houses for milk used for manufacturing; setting up an inspection program; requiring permits for certain dairy operations; amending statutes.

HF518—Vanasek (DFL)—General Legislation/Veterans Affairs

Elections; prohibiting campaign signs near polling places; imposing a penalty; amending statutes.

HF519—Clawson (DFL)—Health/Welfare

Public welfare; abolishing funding priorities for a certain grant program related to facilities for adult mentally ill persons; amending statutes.

HF520—Cohen (DFL)—Local/Urban Affairs

Port authorities; authorizing revenue bond financing of certain facilities; eliminating the interest rate limit on revenue bonds and authorizing private sale; clarifying contractual and operation authority; amending statutes.

HF521—Berkelman (DFL)—Financial Institutions/Insurance

Financial institutions; providing for the payment of hearing costs on contested applications; including credit union share insurance corporations and industrial loan and thrift guarantee issuers in the group of organizations permitted to receive examination reports; removing the requirement that a financial institution's board of directors hold qualifying shares; clarifying limitations on junior mortgage loans by banks; establishing application fees; removing a certain filing requirement; reducing the number of savings association incorporators; clarifying the notice requirements for savings associations conversions; clarifying the industrial loan and thrift company lending limit and increasing the capital to deposit limitation; providing first installment requirements for regulated lenders and motor vehicle sales finance companies; providing credit insurance disclosure requirements for regulated lenders; clarifying financial corporation organizational requirements; amending statutes.

HF522—Clawson (DFL)—Taxes

Criminal justice; imposing a tax on alcoholic beverages sold for resale by the drink; providing for the distribution of the proceeds to local units of government to meet the costs of enforcement of laws relating to driving offenses involving alcohol or drugs; providing penalties; appropriating money; proposing new law.

HF523—Jacobs (DFL)—Regulated Industries

Public utilities; defining scope of independent telephone companies accountable under chapter 237; amending statutes.

HF524—Kahn (DFL)—Environment/Natural Resources

Low-level radioactive waste; entering the Midwest Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact; assessing certain low-level radioactive waste generators; providing for enforcement of the compact; providing for civil and criminal penalties; creating an advisory committee; appropriating money; proposing new law.

HF525—Nelson, D. (DFL)—Appropriations

Education; establishing a position for industrial arts education in the department of education; appropriating money; proposing new law.

HF526—Munger (DFL)—Environment/Natural Resources

Environment; requiring notice of intent to develop uranium; creating an environmental analysis and report to the legislature; requiring adoption of a state policy; imposing a penalty; proposing new law.

HF527—Clawson (DFL)—Governmental Operations

Unemployment compensation; prescribing fees for filing contribution and reimbursement liens; amending statutes.

HF528—Neuenschwander (DFL)—Local/Urban Affairs

Local government; permitting the city of Big Falls and part of Koochiching County to join a hospital district.

HF529—Coleman (DFL)—Judiciary

Crimes; providing that acquittal or conviction of the crime of kidnapping does not bar conviction for any other crime committed during the time of the victim's confinement; amending statutes.

HF530—Coleman (DFL)—Judiciary

Crimes; providing that prosecution or acquittal of a crime in another jurisdiction is not a bar to prosecution in this state when the act or omission constitutes a crime in the other jurisdiction and this state; amending statutes.

HF531—Coleman (DFL)—Transportation

Motor vehicles; authorizing the issuance of personalized license plates for motorcycles; amending statutes.

HF532—Coleman (DFL)—Judiciary

Criminal justice; requiring peace officers to make arrests based on probable cause in cases of domestic assault; requiring peace officers to notify victims of domestic assault of the legal remedies available; amending statutes.

HF533—Vanasek (DFL)—Rules/Legislative Administration

State government; providing for legislative expenses; amending statutes; repealing statutes.

HF534—Clawson (DFL)—Judiciary

Court procedures; providing for surrogate parenthood agreements; proposing new law.

HF535—Shea (DFL)—Agriculture

Agriculture; appropriating money for the Minnesota Corn Growers Association; providing for repayment to the state.

HF536—Riveness (DFL)—Judiciary

Legal liability; prohibiting retaliation against an individual who complies with the child abuse reporting act; providing damages for retaliation; clarifying immunity provisions for good faith compliance with the child abuse reporting act; amending statutes.

HF537—Simoneau (DFL)—Labor-Management Relations

Education; providing for the inclusion of certain community college and state university faculty members in the definition of an employee under the public employment labor relations act; amending statutes.

HF538—McEachern (DFL)—Education

Education; providing that no member of the higher education coordinating board shall be an employee of or receiving compensation from a public or private post-secondary institution while serving on the board; amending statutes.

HF539—Berkelman (DFL)—Taxes

Taxation; providing for changes in the laws relating to delinquent real estate taxes, real estate tax judgment sales and redemptions and tax forfeited land sales; amending statutes.

HF540—Clark, J. (DFL)—Judiciary

Crimes; creating the crimes of unlawfully obtaining services from the metropolitan transit commission and unlawfully interfering with a transit operator while the operator is performing his or her duties; providing penalties; proposing new law.

HF541—Clark, J. (DFL)—Governmental Operations

Occupations and professions; authorizing the commissioner of public safety to provide administrative support services to the board of peace officer standards and training; amending statutes.

HF542—Ogren (DFL)—Taxes

State government; requiring the preparation of a tax expenditure budget; appropriating money; proposing new law.

HF543—Rodriguez, F. (DFL)—Judiciary

Data privacy; restricting dissemination of certain licensing information to private individuals; amending statutes.

HF544—Brandl (DFL)—Judiciary

Health; providing for retention and destruction of certain medical records; amending statutes.

HF545—Tomlinson (DFL)—Taxes

Taxation; extending the duration of the income tax surcharge; extending six percent sales tax rate to sales of motor vehicles and making the six percent rate permanent; extending the sales tax to over-the-counter sales of periodicals; delaying the date that the motor vehicle excise tax receipts are credited to certain funds; providing that Minnesota itemized deductions are the same as federal itemized deductions with certain modifications; eliminating the income tax credits for certain taxes paid; providing income tax credits for certain small business investments; changing rates, computation, and certain maximum credits for certain agricultural, recreational, and homestead property; eliminating certain property tax credits; changing the property tax refund provisions; applying the property tax tree growth provisions to all counties; changing certain special levies; changing the application of certain levy limits and local government aids and providing that the estate tax shall be equal to or a proportion of the maximum federal estate tax credit for state taxes; amending statutes.

HF546—Sviggum (IR)—Governmental Operations

Retirement; permitting the purchase of certain prior service credit for periods of active military service.

HF547—Vanasek (DFL)—Judiciary

Taxation; imposing or altering certain income tax, withholding tax, sales, and excise tax penalties; extending the time limitations within which certain indictments may be filed; amending statutes.

HF548—Vanasek (DFL)—Judiciary

Data privacy; allowing the disclosure of information from tax records for criminal cases after a court order; proposing new law.

HF549—Otis (DFL)—Energy

Education; establishing a lending program to fund school energy conservation investments; authorizing the issuance of state bonds pursuant to article XI of the Minnesota Constitution; appropriating money; amending statutes; proposing new law.

HF550—McEachern (DFL)—Judiciary

Education and public data on individuals; requiring the disclosure of names, addresses, telephone numbers, and dates of birth of students in secondary schools to recruiting officers for any branch of the United States armed forces unless the parents request in writing that the information not be released; requiring certain procedures to be followed prior to release; restricting the dissemination of disclosed information; amending statutes.

HF551—Gustafson (DFL)—Judiciary

Anatomical gifts; permitting certain children over 16 to make anatomical gifts; amending statutes.

HF552—Minne (DFL)—General Legislation/Veterans Affairs

Elections; recodifying the municipal elections law; amending statutes; proposing new law.

HF553—Osthoff (DFL)—General Legislation/Veterans Affairs

Elections; changing certain election procedures, requirements, and time limits; amending statutes; repealing statutes.

HF554—Larsen (DFL)—Agriculture

Agriculture; requiring the commissioner of agriculture to make certain rules relating to milk for manufacturing purposes; proposing new law.

HF555—Schoenfeld (DFL)—Agriculture

Agriculture; providing for the promotion of Minnesota agricultural products; appropriating money; amending statutes.

HF556—Osthoff (DFL)—Financial Institutions/Insurance

Motor vehicles; maintaining the maximum interest rate on certain loans under the Motor Vehicle Retail Installment Sales Act at the current rate; amending statutes.

HF557—Fjoslien (IR)—Financial Institutions/Insurance

Commerce; interest rates; limiting the maximum interest rate on open-end credit sales; amending statutes.

HF558—Berkelman (DFL)—Financial Institutions/Insurance

Commerce; altering certain interest rate provision on modifications or renegotiations of cooperative apartment loans and contracts for deed; amending statutes.

HF559—Schoenfeld (DFL)—Judiciary

Courts; providing for interest rates on judgments; amending statutes.

HF560—Bataglia (DFL)—Governmental Operations

Cook County; permitting the sale of certain land.

HF561—Ellingson (DFL)—Local/Urban Affairs

Metropolitan government; providing for the metropolitan transit commission property tax; amending statutes.

HF562—Welle (DFL)—Taxes

Insurance; providing for quarterly premium tax payments from certain insurers; prescribing penalties for failure to meet return deadlines or failure to pay the remaining tax due; amending statutes.

House Advisories

Thursday, Mar 3

HA3—Clark, K. (DFL)—Judiciary

A proposal for the House Committee on Judiciary to study peace officers' powers and duties.

To get a felony conviction under current law, the prosecuting attorney has to prove gross negligence or recklessness on the part of the drunk driver who kills someone.

Also, under present law, the drunk driver who causes an injury could get a misdemeanor charge and a lesser penalty, which, according to Nelson, is a "serious oversight."

The second bill, SF61 (Brandl, DFL-Mpls), attempts to get at the hit-run driver who causes bodily harm or death and would make leaving the scene of an accident a felony offense.

Hit and run is currently a misdemeanor, and people in favor of the bill say the lesser charge encourages drivers under the influence of alcohol or drugs to leave an accident, at least long enough to sober up and avoid a criminal negligence charge. SF61 also requires the driver to provide insurance information to the police officer at the scene or investigating the accident.

Under the bill, failure to stop in case of death would result in a prison sentence of up to five years and/or a \$5000 fine. In case of bodily injury, failure to stop would result in up to three years and/or \$3000. And, failure to stop after striking an occupied vehicle would mean up to one year and/or \$1000. Both bills now go to the full House for preliminary and final approval.

Juveniles and the courts

Once the court has certified a juvenile to stand trial as an adult for a felony, referral to adult court should be automatic for any other felony charges after that, says Rep. Janet Clark (DFL-Mpls).

Clark told the Judiciary Committee Feb. 21 that the court system presently requires recertification of juveniles with each felony offense. This is a time-consuming process, which can be expensive, says Clark.

"Once a determination is made that a juvenile is not amenable to treatment in the juvenile system or is dangerous, it's highly unlikely that that juvenile's behavior would be any more amenable to treatment in the juvenile system a year or two or three years later."

According to Clark, some juveniles have gone through the certification process four times.

Clark has a bill, HF79, which would require courts to automatically refer juveniles to adult court for felony offenses after the first certification. The committee recommended passage of Clark's bill. UPDATE: On Feb. 28, HF79 got final approval in the House.

Equal Rights Amendment

The question, "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to provide men and women with equality of rights under the law?" got one step closer to Minnesota voters Feb. 7 when the Judiciary Committee approved HF1 (Kahn, DFL-Mpls), by a vote of 15 to 2.

The bill would ask voters if they want to add an equal rights amendment to the Minnesota Constitution at the 1984 general election.

If voters say "yes" to the amendment, the new section in the state Constitution would read: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be abridged or denied by the State of Minnesota or any of its political subdivisions on account of sex. The Legislature may enforce the provisions of this section by appropriate legislation."

Several committee members at the Feb. 7 meeting tried to make changes in the ERA proposal to address the issues of abortion funding, homosexuality and single-sex marriages, and personal privacy. The full committee voted down those amendments.

"ERA is a fairly simple issue, and is separate from the issue of abortion and the others," said Kahn, as she gave her reasons against putting restrictions on the bill.

"First, constitutional language should always be simple, it should avoid details. Second, HF1 should be just as similar as possible to the nine other states which now have language in their equal rights amendments. And third, legislative intent can be established by debate, it does not need to be drafted into the constitution itself," Kahn said.

UPDATE: HF1 awaits action in the House Rules Committee.

Charities and social needs

Private charities are increasing their services to the homeless and hungry, but they're not a social-service safety net, warned David Schultz at a Feb. 8 meeting of the Social Services subcommittee of the Health/Welfare Committee.

The subcommittee heard testimony from state and local welfare officials, and private aid providers, on the plight of the unemployed and people who have lost welfare benefits. Schultz manages three branches of Catholic Charities in the Twin Cities.

The majority of the needy people on the streets are natives of Minnesota and they say jobs are the solution to the dilemma they find themselves in, according to Schultz.



Judiciary

Drunk driving crackdown

The Judiciary Committee approved two bills on Feb. 28 that lawmakers hope will continue the crackdown on drunk drivers.

The first bill, SF121 (Nelson, K., DFL-Mpls), would make it easier to prosecute a person who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs and kills another person, and would increase the penalties for causing injuries while under the influence, to up to three years in prison and/or a \$3000 fine.

Criminal Justice Division

Product tampering

A bill to prohibit product tampering got the approval of the Criminal Justice Division Feb. 16. According to House author, Rep. Randy Staten (DFL-Mpls), the bill is in response to incidents of Tylenol poisoning, Visine tampering, and poisoned Halloween candy.

Staten said current law doesn't spell out punishment for people who tamper with products and cause harm or death to others.

"It may be a difficult to prosecute under existing statutes," said Staten, "because the law requires an intended victim. In adulteration cases, there is no particular intended victim."

Under SF25, penalties for product tampering would be up to 40 years in prison if death results to the victim and up to five years in prison if illness, pain or bodily harm result.

UPDATE: When the full Judiciary Committee took up SF25 on Feb. 21, they added an amendment that would make it a crime for a person to knowingly distribute the adulterated product. The full House passed the amended bill on Feb. 28.

Tougher burglary penalties

The state attorney general and the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission want tougher penalties for burglary crimes, but Stephen Rathke of the guidelines commission told the Criminal Justice Division Feb. 9 that he's not optimistic about the effect stiffer penalties might have.

"We do have a burglary problem in this state, and that burglary problem will never be solved by sentencing," said Rathke. "We're not going to control burglary, we probably are not even going to deter burglary by sentencing."

Rathke said few burglars worry about getting caught, and for that matter seldom are. But, he said that's not to say that the Legislature shouldn't stiffen the laws.

Rathke said the commission supports legislation to increase the penalty for burglary of a permanent dwelling. Current law treats home burglary the same as burglary of a fishing house, garage, or gas station, he said.



Labor-Management Relations

Plant closing notice

Lack of adequate notice to workers when the business they work for is going to close, relocate, or layoff a good share of its workers causes many problems for employees, according to Bernie Brommer, vice president of Minnesota AFL-CIO.

Brommer testified before the General Labor Legislation subcommittee Feb. 17 in support of HF124 (Elioff, DFL-Virginia), a bill which would require most employers to tell their employees of plans to close down, relocate or make a substantial number of layoffs 270 days before such action.

Lack of information and notice is the workers' main problem, Brommer told the committee. The bill would also create a state board to help communities and employees handle problems that relate to plant closings, and to find ways to help businesses stay open.

Opponents of the legislation warn that the legislation would keep businesses out of Minnesota and force some already here to stay open when it's not economically viable.

Successor clauses

Successor clauses in collective bargaining agreements were on the agenda for the General Labor Legislation subcommittee Feb. 10. Rep. Jim Rice (DFL-Mpls) presented a bill, HF111, that would hold new owners of a business to the labor contract in existence at the time of purchase if it contains a successor clause.

Successor clauses require that current employee contracts continue to exist when a business changes hands. Under Rice's proposal, contracts would be enforceable up to three years. After three years, the new owners could renegotiate with employees. The bill would not include new owners who don't continue the business, bankrupt businesses, or non-profit corporations.

People who testified for the bill told legislators it would discourage businesses from changing owners in an attempt to get out of union contracts and hire new employees at lower wages.

Opponents of the bill challenge its constitutionality because federal laws could preempt state action as they often do in labor relations matters.

Workers' Compensation Division

Workers' comp pool insurance

The city of Duluth wants to share lower worker compensation costs and better service with private business in a public-private self-insurance pool, says John Fedo, mayor of Duluth.

Fedo told legislators at a Feb. 24 meeting of the Workers' Compensation Division that Duluth has spent about one-fourth of what a private workers' compensation insurance program would cost by putting the money into a self-insurance fund.

He says he'd like to give businesses in the city a chance to switch from private insurers to their self-insurance pool, taking advantage of Duluth's know-how with that system.

According to city risk manager, Bob Healy, Duluth has saved 75 percent in workers' comp costs because their self-insurance system includes faster attention to injuries, better communication with employees, on-the-job safety programs and programs to help as many workers as possible return to work.

Duluth would like the Legislature to okay a pooling of public and private resources to form a larger self-insurance pool. Although legislators discussed the idea, they took no action on a bill, HF245 (Gustafson, DFL-Duluth) that would permit the the public-private insurance venture to begin.

tion number, and the name of the buyer. That would help law-enforcement officers trace buyers who sell to minors, and people who illegally sell beer at parties.

Educators in favor of the bill say keg registration will discourage teen-age keg parties and hold the law-breakers responsible for problems that result.

Superintendent Ralph Norland from Montevideo, where a trial keg-registration policy is in effect, said, "Not all members of the Board of Education are interested in having more state laws passed, and I guess I'm not either, but if we can stop one senseless killing of some youth in rural Minnesota or the metropolitan area, then I think the efforts spent here this morning are more than worthwhile."

Co-op member rights

A bill spelling out the rights of electric cooperative members got approval from the Regulated Industries Committee Feb. 23. Rep. Lona Minne (DFL-Hibbing), chief author of HF91, said the co-op structure has changed and membership grown so much in recent years that members need new laws to protect their rights.

"This bill isn't intended to be a criticism of the management," Minne told the committee. "It's an attempt to address the tremendous changes that have occurred in the co-operative system.

"This bill clearly defines the rights and responsibilities of both, and I emphasize both—the directors and the shareholders—so that in the future other co-operatives will not experience the bad feeling in communications breakdowns that have already occurred."

Under the bill the committee approved, directors of co-operatives would have to make their records and meetings more accessible to shareholders, and would get a time limit for acting on petitions from members.

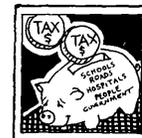
Committee members added sections to the bill that would give all co-op members access to the state Department of Consumer Services, require co-op boards of directors to notify members of upcoming meetings, and give co-ops the option of repealing legislation through a reverse referendum vote.

Liquor sale regulation

State lawmakers may rewrite old laws and introduce new laws this legislative session governing the sale of liquor across the state.

According to a House research analyst, John Williams, the Regulated Industries Committee may be looking at legislation on drinking on election days, liquor sale hours, allowing wine sales in grocery stores, and removing the distinction between 3.2 beer and strong beer.

Williams said current liquor law language is outdated and cumbersome because most of it has been in the statutes since before, or immediately after, Prohibition.



Taxes

Tax relief

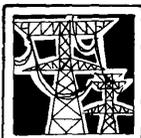
The governor's property tax relief proposal will mean higher property tax bills for some people but more state help with tax bills for others, according to Revenue Department Assistant Commissioner Dennis Erno.

Erno told the House Taxes Committee that people who have relatively low property taxes will pay more. But for people with high property taxes and relatively low income, the governor's proposed changes may mean more property tax relief.

Under the proposal, the first \$100 dollars of a property tax bill will not be eligible for the 50 percent state payment, which, under current law, is 58 percent of the remaining tax bill, up to \$650.

These adjustments would make larger amounts of unpaid tax eligible for the circuit breaker refund where people with lower income get a bigger tax break.

The property tax changes may not save much money, said Erno. They may even cost more. But they will be giving relief to people who need it most, he said—those with high taxes and low income.



Regulated Industries

Teen-age drinking

A bill to curb teen-age drinking and profits from illegal beer sales at parties was on the agenda for the House Beverage subcommittee of the Regulated Industries Committee Feb. 28.

The bill, HF138 (Begich, DFL—Eveleth) would require all beer kegs to have identification numbers. When off-sale dealers sell a keg they would record the registra-

Simpler tax forms

The House Taxes Committee is working on a bill that many people agree goes a long way toward simplifying the way we figure our state income taxes.

Tax Committee chairman Rep. John Tomlinson (DFL-St. Paul) is author of HF23, which would cut the number of calculations we'd have to make to find out how much we owe or how much we have coming back.

The bill calls for adopting most of federal rules for itemized deductions, so that state taxpayers would have to figure deductions only once to file state and federal tax forms. And the form where people make up to 50 adjustments to federal income to determine state income would be about half as long.

Minnesotans would lose deductions for gas taxes, certain medical expenses, political contributions, certain casualty losses and others. But many taxpayers would pay less.

The purpose of the bill is tax simplification, Tomlinson said. Some sections of it will cost the state money, others will bring in additional money. The overall result is a gain of about \$22 million for the state.

Tax Laws Division

Background on budget crises

Minnesota was headed for a budget crisis even before the economic recession hit, legislative auditor Gerald Christenson told the Tax Laws Division Feb. 10.

Christenson said the Legislature set the stage for a crisis in 1979, when it increased property tax relief programs and cut the income tax that paid for the program at the same time.

"That income tax was the engine driving the property tax relief programs. And, in effect, we cut that off," Christenson told members.

"At the same time, in 1979, when the decision was made to cut income taxes and index income taxes, the decision was also made to vastly increase property tax relief and to continue the basic spending. Now you just can't do that. It can't be done. We would have had a problem in this state even without an economic recession."

Christenson warned that the state will continue to have problems unless the Legislature makes some changes in the property tax relief system that eats up almost 18 percent of the state budget.

Property tax relief programs include the homestead credit that goes directly to local governments, and the circuit breaker that gives property tax relief to homeowners and renters, based on their income.

Economic Development Division/Taxes

Encouragement to businesses

The Economic Development Division of the House Taxes Committee heard two proposals on Feb. 17 that their authors hope will benefit Minnesota businesses and attract new businesses to the state.

Rep. Willis Eken (DFL-Twin Valley) presented HF191, a bill that would give tax breaks to businesses and residents in Minnesota's border communities.

Lower state taxes and lower workers compensation and unemployment compensation taxes in adjoining states have tempted businesses to move out of Minnesota. HF191 would reduce that temptation by giving border businesses tax credits to bring their tax bills more in line with those in adjacent states.

Retail stores would get a sales tax break so that they can compete with stores across the border where sales taxes are lower. And individual taxpayers would get a greater income tax credit.

The second proposal on the Division agenda, HF134 (Otis, DFL-Mpls), would give a five-year property tax break to businesses that move into Minnesota and to Minnesota businesses that expand.

Representative Todd Otis, author of the bill, said those businesses could qualify for the tax break only if they hired at least 10 employees, or put on the payroll five unemployed people whose unemployment benefits had run out.

The Division took no action on the proposals.



Transportation

Taxes; bonds; construction

Additional gas tax, trunk highway bonds, and highway and bridge construction were on the Feb. 28 agenda for the Transportation Committee.

Members heard HF371 (Jensen, DFL-Farmington), an amended bill that combines HF60 (Jensen) with some of the governor's recommendations, ideas from the Department of Transportation, and from legislators.

HF371 would add five cents to the 13-cent-per-gallon fuel tax (exempting diesel and gasohol fuels). The state would add three cents immediately and two cents on Jan. 1, 1984.

The bill would delay, until 1986, the transfer of money from motor vehicle excise fee collections out of the general fund into the trunk highway fund.

Under the proposal, the state would issue \$125 million in trunk highway bonds immediately. Sixty-seven statewide trunk highway and bridge replacement projects would get top priority, with the department beginning work on July 1, 1984 and continuing through 1992.

The committee heard and approved HF388 (Jensen) and sent it to the Appropriations Committee. The bill would accomplish a change that voters approved in last November's general election, by removing from statutes the five percent interest limit on Minnesota trunk highway bonds.

Bill Status Report as of February 28, 1983

Explanation of bill status report

The Bill Status Report (see graph on opposite page) will list every bill that gets a hearing in a House committee or subcommittee or that gets action on the House floor. Once a bill appears on the graph, it will remain there each month, with a report of all legislative action on that bill, until the bill gets the governor's signature or veto. Check the list of bills the governor signed/vetoed for the governor's action on the bill.

The process of how a bill becomes a law is complicated. A graph can't tell you everything you want to know, but we hope it will help you understand the process, and inform you of bills that may become law during this legislative session.

The status graph includes action on the bill up to the last day of the month. For more information, call House Information at (612) 296-2146.

How to read the bill status entries

Each entry contains the House File (HF) number, the committee that considers the bill (see key for committee abbreviations), and a brief title.

When a committee hears a bill and decides to rerefer it (send it to another committee), the graph will list the original committee, action codes for that committee, and a note to see the next entry. The entry below the original bill will tell what happens to the bill in the second committee, and after it leaves that committee.

If the entry lists both a House File (HF) and a Senate File (SF), and the SF has an

asterisk after it, that means the Senate has passed the bill, and the House has decided to work on the Senate's version of the bill, and has set aside the House File.

If the House File has an asterisk after it, that means the House has approved the bill and the Senate has voted to work on the House version of the bill and has set aside the Senate File.

Reading across the columns, you can see committee and floor action for each bill. The codes in the columns, along with the code key, explain the action.

KEY

Committee Names

AG Agriculture
AP Appropriations
CO Commerce/Economic Development
ED Education
EN Energy
EV Environment/Natural Resources
FI Financial Institutions/Insurance
GL General Legislation/
 Veterans Affairs

GO Governmental Operations
HW Health/Welfare
JU Judiciary
LM Labor-Management Relations
LU Local/Urban Affairs
RI Regulated Industries
RU Rules/Legislative Administration
TX Taxes
TR Transportation

Column codes

AC: both House and Senate accepted version of bill
CC: Conference Committee approved
CR: concurrence and repassage: House or Senate voted to repass the bill with the other body's amendment
Hd: heard, tabled, laid over
In: House voted to send bill to conference committee
NP: not passed

NR: not recommended to pass
PA: passed as amended
PC: committee placed bill on consent calendar
Ps: passed
RA: recommended to pass as amended
RP: recommended to pass
WA: waiting floor action on General Orders

	HOUSE					SENATE					ACTION AFTER 1ST PASSAGE	
	SUBCOMMITTEE/DIVISION	COMMITTEE	GENERAL ORDERS	CALENDAR	CONSENT CALENDAR	OTHER FLOOR ACTION	COMMITTEE	GENERAL ORDERS	CALENDAR	CONSENT CALENDAR		OTHER FLOOR ACTION
HF1—JU (see next entry) Equal rights amendment		RP										
HF1—RU (referred from RU)												
HF22/SF15*—GL Metro district changes		RA	RA	PA								In
HF25—LU Lake Park: bond authorization		RP	RP	Ps								
HF26—CO "Lemon" car bill		RA	RA	RP								
HF45—FI(see next entry) Bad checks bill		RA										
HF45—JU (referred from FI)												
HF46—AG Milk producer deductions		RP	RP	RP	Ps							
HF48/SF25*—JU Product tampering—penalties		RA	RP	Ps								
HF55—LU Townships—audit report posting		RP			Ps	RA			Ps			CR
HF57*—LU Bond requirements—towns		RA	RP	Ps					Ps			
HF64/SF61*—JU Hit and run penalties		RA	RA									
HF67/SF65*—LU Improvement requests approval		RA	RA	Ps								
HF68—LU Bid requirements—local government		RA	RP	Ps								
HF73—AG Apiary law			Hd									
HF76—EV "Superfund" bill		RA										
HF79—JU Juvenile referral to adult court		RA	RP	Ps								
HF85/SF26*—JU Motor vehicles—uninsured		RA	RP	Ps								
HF91—RI Co-op bill of rights		RA										
HF94/SF71*—JU Obsolete references—children		RP			Ps							
HF96/SF195*—JU Witness fees—increases		RA	RA									
HF100—HW (see next entry) Catastrophic health plan		RA	RP									
HF100—AP (referred from HW)												
HF103/SF118*—GO Iron Range retraining program		RA	RP	Ps								
HF108—ED Legislative commission on education		Hd										
HF110—GO Historic site—Longfellow House		Hd										
HF111—LM Collective bargaining agreements		Hd										
HF113/SF121*—LU Criminal operation of a vehicle		RP										
HF121—GO State historic sites		RA			Ps							
HF124—LM Plant closure		Hd										
HF134—TX Compliance law changes		Hd										
HF138—RI Beer keg registration		Hd										

	HOUSE					SENATE					ACTION AFTER 1ST PASSAGE	
	SUBCOMMITTEE/DIVISION	COMMITTEE	GENERAL ORDERS	CALENDAR	CONSENT CALENDAR	OTHER FLOOR ACTION	COMMITTEE	GENERAL ORDERS	CALENDAR	CONSENT CALENDAR		OTHER FLOOR ACTION
HF150/SF24*—HW "Epileptic" removed from statute		RP										
HF162—ED Public education commission		Hd										
HF164—CO Towing company payment		RP										
HF166—JU County attorneys' jurisdiction		RA										
HF171—LU Cemetery plots—reinvestment			RA	RP	Ps							
HF176—FI Public deposits collateral		RA	RA	RP								
HF177—HW Catastrophic health plan		Hd										
HF184—HW Nursing home rate changes		Hd										
HF189—EN Energy conservation investment		Hd										
HF191—TX Border city tax breaks		Hd										
HF201*—TX Technical changes—tax law			RA	RP	Ps			RA	WA			
HF211—TX Property taxes: department bill		Hd										
HF215—LU Rochester: flood control projects			RP	RP	Ps							
HF223—TX Compliance law changes			RA									
HF236—HW Physician education regulation		RA										
HF245—LM Duluth workers' comp pool		Hd										
HF252—HW Dentistry regulation		RA										
HF291—ED School finance commission		Hd										
HF330—JU Court of appeals procedures		RA										
HF339/SF113*—TX Estimated tax penalties prohibited			RP									
HF371—TR Highway bonds and projects; gas tax			Hd									
HF388—TR (see next entry) Highway bond interest repeal			RP									
HF388—AP (referred from TR)												

Bills the governor signed

Chapter 2

Bond registration date

HF66/SF41* (Kelly)—changes the effective date of the state requirement for registration of municipal bonds from Jan. 1, 1983 to July 1, 1983 to conform with the change in the effective date of the federal registration requirement.

How to get information

Chief Clerk's Office
Rm 211, State Capitol
(612) 296-2314

House Index Department
Rm 211, State Capitol
(612) 296-6646

House Information Office
Rm 9, State Capitol
St Paul, MN 55155
(612) 296-2146

Legislators

Who represents you at the State Capitol?

The House Information Office can tell you. Call 296-2146.

Legislators' districts, addresses, phone numbers, biographical information, and photos.

The House and Senate publish the Official Directory of the Minnesota Legislature and the Members' Directory. You can get copies of these in the House Information Office. Information Office publications are also available in the Chief Clerk's office.

What legislation did your representative introduce?

The House Index Department has a CRT (Cathode Ray Tube) which shows information on a television-like screen. The CRT lists each member and the bills he/she sponsored in the current session. Index staff will help you use the CRT.

To contact your legislators, address him/her as follows:

The Honorable (name)
Minnesota
House of Representatives
(or Minnesota Senate)
State Capitol
St Paul, MN 55155

Bills

Need a copy of a bill?

The Chief Clerk's Office can give you copies of bills and resolutions.

Need to know the status, authors, or committee assignments of bills?

Call the House Index Department. The information is on computer, and includes Journal page numbers of action on bills. The House Index has lists of bills in each committee and on specific topics, e.g., environment, taxes, education, etc. on the CRT.

Which bills became law?

This is on the CRT in House Index. Each month, the Session Monthly gives the bills the governor signed. The Session Summary at the end of session summarizes all bills the Legislature passed during the session.

Committees

To check on committee meeting schedules.

Call (612) 296-9283, a 24-hour hotline recording of daily House meeting schedules (time, place, agenda). Senate hotline: (612) 296-8088. The Information Office and the Chief Clerk's Office have copies of daily schedules, Today, available in the Capitol.

Standing committees and committee assignments.

These are in the Members Directory and the Official Directory.

Committee action during the interim.

The House Information Office summarizes what happened in committees during the interim in the Interim magazine.

General Information

Proceedings in the House.

The Chief Clerk's Office can answer your questions. The office publishes the Journal of the House, the official daily record of legislative action.

The Legislature—how it works.

The House Information Office and the Chief Clerk's Office can give you general information. The Information Office has brochures

on Minnesota and its government, including: How a Bill Becomes a Law; Citizen Participation Course, test-yourself quiz on the Legislature; and the Government is for Everyone information packet, with single sheets on how to contact your legislator, where to get information, Minnesota facts, and how legislators make voting decisions.

Especially for younger people, the Information Office provides The Road to Minnesota Laws, a cartoon version of how a bill becomes a law; and Joey's Visit, a coloring book for the very young.

Agendas of House Action

The Chief Clerk's Office has copies of Calendar, General Orders, etc, schedules of House floor action for your use when you come to the Capitol.

Where members sit in the House chamber.

The Information Office publishes a Seating Arrangement of the Minnesota Legislature.

House employees

You'll find this in the Official Directory available in the Information Office.

Other areas of state government.

The House Information Office can direct you to the appropriate place.

Would you like a tour of the Capitol?

The Office of Educational Services, Rm 124-D, State Capitol, (612) 296-8081, will arrange visits which highlight the work of the Legislature and its members for school groups, citizens' groups, and out-of-state visitors.

The Minnesota Historical Society provides tours. Groups of 10 or more should schedule tours (612) 296-2881.

In the Senate

The Secretary of the Senate's Office (612) 296-2343 and Senate Index (612) 296-2887, Rm 231, State Capitol, provide services similar to the Chief Clerk's Office and the House Index.

The Senate Information Office, Rm B-29, State Capitol, (612) 296-0504 provides services similar to those the House Information Office offers.

How a bill becomes a law

Minnesota has a bicameral Legislature, or two groups of elected citizens—senators in the Senate—representatives in the House of Representatives—who study, discuss, and vote on bills, acting for the people of Minnesota.

Bills begin their legislative journey in either the House or Senate, or both. To become a law, all bills must pass both the House and Senate and go to the governor for his approval and signature.

The Idea

Anyone can propose an idea for a bill—an individual, a consumer group, corporation, professional association, a governmental unit, the governor. Most ideas come from members of the Legislature. The revisor of statutes puts the ideas into proper legal form as a bill for introduction. Only legislators can introduce bills into the process.

Chief Author

The legislator who sponsors and introduces the bill in the Legislature is the chief author. The chief author's name appears on the bill with the bill's file number to identify it as it moves through the legislative process. The chief author may select other authors, whose names also appear on the bill—no more than five authors on a bill.

Introduction in the legislature

When the author introduces a bill in the House, it gets a House File (HF) number (HF264, for example), indicating the chronological order of the bill's introduction. In the Senate the bill gets a Senate File (SF) (SF224, for example). Each HF usually has a companion SF in the Senate. All revenue raising bills must begin in the House.

Committee consideration

At introduction, the bill has its first reading (the Minnesota Constitution requires three readings for all bills—on three separate days). The presiding officer of the House or Senate refers it to an appropriate standing committee for committee action. All committee meetings are open to the public.

A committee may: recommend passage of a bill in its original form; recommend passage after amendment by the committee; or make no recommendation, in which case a bill may die when the session ends. After acting on a bill, the committee sends a report to the House or Senate, stating its actions and recommendations.

General orders

After adoption of the committee report in the House and Senate, the bill has its second reading and goes onto General Orders of the Day. In the Committee of the Whole, legislators discuss bills on General Orders. They may debate the issues, adopt amendments, and present arguments. They may vote to recommend that a bill "do pass," recommend postponement, or recommend further committee action.

Calendar

The calendar is a list of bills the Committee of the Whole recommends to pass. At this point a bill has its third reading. Amendments to the bill must have the unanimous consent of the entire body. Legislators vote on it for the final time.

By committee recommendation, non-controversial bills can bypass General Orders and go directly onto a Consent Calendar, usually passing without debate. Every bill requires a majority vote of the full membership of the House and Senate to pass.

Conference committee

If the House and Senate do not agree on a bill, a conference committee of three to five senators, and an equal number of representatives, meets to reach an agreement. If both bodies then pass the bill in compromise form, it goes to the governor.

Governor

When a bill arrives at the governor's office, he may: sign it, and the bill becomes law; veto it (return it, with a "veto message," stating his objections); pocket veto the bill (after final adjournment of the Legislature); exercise his right to line veto portions of appropriations bills.

If he does not sign or veto a bill within three days after receiving it, while the Legislature is in session, the bill becomes law.

House of Representatives Public Information Office
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(612) 296-2146

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Sarah Gardner
Production & design: Marcia Balcken

Please note:
Advance weekly committee schedule &
bill introductions are enclosed



the
Session
monthly

February 1983

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(612) 296-2146

Speaker of the House: Harry Sieben, Jr.
Majority Leader: Willis Eken
Minority Leader: David Jennings



Minnesota House of Representatives