



# the Session monthly

January 1983

Forty-two new representatives and 91 returning representatives took the oath of office on January 4, 1983, the first day of the 73rd session of the Minnesota Legislature.

The next day, Governor Rudy Perpich urged legislators to help get the Minnesota economy back on its feet. "The state of our state is not good. We have a lot to do. I need your help. Now let's get going."

Committee meetings got going soon after. There, veteran and rookie legislators heard about the problems they'll face and the ideas Minnesotans can offer to solve those problems.

## in committees ...



### Agriculture

"Despite overflowing grain bins, we imported 50 million gallons Brazilian ethanol, made from corn. It's ludicrous to do that," state Agriculture Commissioner Jim Nichols told the Agriculture Committee Jan. 19.

We've got to get into the business of processing our crops into more valuable products, such as ethanol, if we want to revive the Minnesota farm economy, Nichols said.

"There's tremendous potential there for ethanol sales," said Nichols. Most major oil companies use a 90-10 gasoline-ethanol mixture to increase the octane rating of their super unleaded gasoline.

Minnesota farmers would have a market for surplus grain, and the unemployed would have jobs, if Minnesota builds plants to make ethanol from corn, according to Nichols.

He will meet with Governor Perpich soon to discuss ethanol processing plants and other ideas he has for improving exports and processing of farm products.



### Appropriations

State financial forecasts will be more accurate if improvements to forecasting procedures work the way the State Finance Department hopes they will.

Appearing before the House Appropriations Committee January 31, Gordon Donhowe, state finance commissioner, said the department is revising the way it predicts sales and income tax revenues, not necessarily to come up with conservative forecasts, but with realistic ones.

As part of those procedures the department is using a business advisory group to get information on business activity and probable unemployment figures for a variety of industries, because those factors affect the corporate and personal income tax and sales tax collections.

The Department will use that local information, along with figures it gets from a national forecasting firm, Data Resources, Inc (DRI) to come up with a truer picture of the Minnesota economy. ►

Please note that, in an effort to save mailing expense, we've also included the weekly schedule/bill introductions in the middle section of the Monthly.

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.

Final tax figures for the 82-83 biennium were 23 percent lower than the Finance Department's January 1981 forecast indicated. A worse-than-expected national economy and a Minnesota economy in worse condition than the national economy contributed to that mis-calculation, according to Finance Department officials.

**The DNR's been doing more with less** for the past several years, officials from the Department of Natural Resources told the House Appropriations Committee Jan. 27.

Steve Thorn, DNR deputy commissioner, said the department is supposed to be intensifying work on several projects, including land reclamation and forest management, but budget cuts of almost \$17 million have slowed them down.

Thorn warned more cuts could mean closing some state parks. The DNR's already delayed park maintenance projects, reduced staff, and shortened park hours, he said. Entry permit fees for the state parks are up to \$10 and the state's added a non-resident fee. Thorn said any more increases would badly affect tourism.

DNR will soon finalize its '83-'85 budget request. Thorn said fish and game licenses, park entry fees and other recreational permits covered a large share of the department's 1981-82 budget of \$160 million.

**What's happening with to the Court of Appeals** Minnesotans voted for last fall? According to Sue Dosal, court administrator, the court must get rules on appellate procedure from an advisory committee, and is looking to the Legislature for start-up costs for the court.

Dosal presented a proposed operating budget of \$1,773,827 for fiscal year 1984 and \$2,036,864 for 1985.

Court administration is requesting six new clerks, several new attorneys and a secretary. The Supreme Court will share some

personnel and some will transfer from other offices, said Dosal. The intermediate court is looking for chambers in St. Paul, and the state has put in a bid on commercial space near the Capitol Building for temporary quarters.

**There's plenty of room for improvement** in the Minnesota Department of Revenue, legislative auditors told the Appropriations Committee Jan. 25. The department's 12-year-old computer system is outdated and needs improvement to guarantee fair and efficient income and corporate tax processing.

Jim Nobles, deputy auditor for program evaluation, told legislators the Revenue Department suffered from a lack of long range planning and coordination in developing computer systems to efficiently process tax returns. Nobles recommends that before the committee approves any money for a new system, they make sure the department corrects performance and management problems that have led to inefficiencies.

Commissioner of Revenue Arthur Roemer told the committee that the department is attempting to improve operations and is already addressing many of the problems the audit cited.

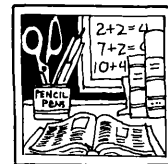
**The Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB)** called for major changes in the state's financial aid system Jan. 24. Clyde Ingle, executive director, presented a proposal to the Appropriations Committee that would require students to contribute 50 percent of their college costs before parents or government pay a share.

HECB'S "Design for Shared Responsibility" plan would send more of the state's grant money to low-income students and less to middle and upper-income students. Under the present Scholarship and Grant program, all students pay

\$700, wherever they go to school. Parents pay a share, according to income. Limited federal and state grant money follows. If those combined funds don't cover costs, students make up the balance on their own.

Left-over cost is often larger for low-income students, because their parents pay little or nothing. HECB proposes students pay 50 percent, regardless of what school they attend; parents pay according to income; state and federal money pick up the rest.

Ingle told the committee that the number of Minnesota students applying for financial aid has increased considerably in the past few years due to rising college costs.



## Education

**It costs the state more to educate Minnesota students at home** in publicly supported colleges than to underwrite their costs at public schools in other states through the tuition reciprocity program, said Clyde Ingle, executive director of the Minnesota Higher Education Board, at a Jan. 31 meeting of the Minnesota House of Representatives Education Committee.

Ingle said, if the 13,000 students who go to school outside the state attended Minnesota's publicly supported colleges, the state would have to provide those colleges with more money. And, more students would ask for state grants, which they can't do when they get the reciprocity tuition break.

Reciprocity agreements allow Minnesota students to go to school in Wisconsin and the Dakotas for whatever those states charge their resident students. Students from Wis-

consin and the Dakotas get the same break in Minnesota.

The Higher Education Board recommends that Minnesota continue the agreements at a cost of about \$14.2 million for 1983 through 1985.

**The Citizens' League is recommending a voucher system for low-income families to send children to any private or public school in Minnesota.**

But House Education Committee members on Jan. 26 questioned whether the League's proposal would be constitutional because it gives state money to only low-income families.

The Citizens' League, a Twin Cities citizens' group that studies public policy, says it suggests vouchers for low-income people because they have the most limited choices for educating their children.

The League has no formal proposal for the voucher system ready for the Legislature, but they say they're working on it.

**We do a good job of educating our children in Minnesota, but there's still room for improvement, according to Bill McMillan, director of the state Department of Education's Assessment Program.**

McMillan told the Education Committee on Jan. 24 that the assessment program periodically tests students on reading, writing, math, and social studies. The Education Department and many local school districts use the program's results to identify strengths and weaknesses in teaching programs, said McMillan.

The program found that Minnesota school children do better than the nationwide average on most basic skills. But the tests results show a decline in math computation skills, and a small percentage of students who need help with the basic skills.

**Representatives of Minnesota education groups came to the Capitol January 17 to tell the**

House Education Committee that teachers and administrators in Minnesota's public schools look to the Legislature for help this year in "clarifying their mission and reevaluating a funding structure that may not be providing adequate education for Minnesota's school children."

Money is the major concern. Gene Mammenga, Minnesota Education Association pledged his organization's help in convincing Minnesota taxpayers of the importance of putting money into education.

"There's a dilemma out there. The Minnesota Poll said people want no more cuts in elementary and secondary education, and I believe they're very sincere about that. But their sincerity sometimes ends in the Tax Committee when they may not be prepared to support a revenue structure that would provide money to meet the needs of students throughout the state of Minnesota. We pledge to work with you to make people understand the need for a revenue structure that would support a comprehensive public education system."

In addition to their money needs, education groups say they're concerned about class size, teacher licensing, layoff and dismissal practices, discipline, differences in teacher salaries and benefits around the state, and the loss of support personnel in the schools.

## **Education Finance Division**

**Parents, counselors, students, and college representatives at January hearings on the wants and needs of Minnesota's school children told the Education Finance Division what they believe should be in the future for Minnesota's public education system.**

Parent representatives from White Bear Lake, Rochester, St. Cloud, Woodbury, and Howard Lake/Waverly school districts spoke about the need to preserve and increase high-tech courses such as computer training. They said most parents believe science and math courses should be required high-school curriculum to prepare children for today's job market.

Combining and sharing programs may help school districts afford high-tech curriculum. But parent representatives said such sharing should occur only at the secondary level.

"I think the junior and senior high students can act and work very nicely within that kind of a system," said Nancy Deiter of the Howard Lake/Waverly school district, "but not for the little kids. They need to be close to Mom or Dad."

Parent representatives also said parents are willing to support changes in the state's education system due to budget cuts as long as they (the parents) are involved in those decisions affecting their children.

**High school counselors from two metro-area schools testified on what students in Minnesota deserve from public education on Jan. 17.**

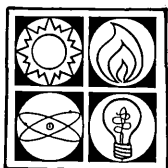
According to Carol Pomeroy from Edison Senior High in Minneapolis, students want people to care about them and help them make sound decisions about themselves and their futures.

Jerry Thompson, from St. Louis Park, said his students want up-to-date information about the employment picture and tough courses that prepare them for life after graduation—in colleges, vo-tech schools, and the job market.

Jim Preus, assistant to vice president for student affairs at the University of Minnesota,

and James Mootz, admissions director at Winona State University, presented higher education's perspective on how well schools are preparing students for college.

According to Preus and Mootz, admission scores, that their universities base on standardized tests and high-school performance, are just as high as student scores 10 years ago and admission requirements are just as rigorous for high-school seniors today as they were for their brothers and sisters then.



## Energy

A well-developed fuel alcohol industry could give us a sense of national security, stop the flow of dollars going overseas for foreign oil, and put the Minnesota economy back on its feet, according to Al Mavis, Illinois' former commissioner of agriculture.

Mavis urged the Energy Committee to encourage development of the fuel alcohol industry in Minnesota at a Jan. 25 meeting. Other supporters told the committee that Minnesota has great potential for creating fuel out of corn, and state government can help create a market for ethanol by giving tax exemptions to users and investment tax credits and loan guarantees to industry.

Ray Anderson, president of the Minnesota Fuel Alcohol Commission, and a Detroit Lakes farmer, told legislators that the state economy won't recover until the agriculture industry turns around and fuel alcohol could help do that.

**Sixty-five thousand homes in Minnesota will be more energy**

**efficient next year** thanks to a joint state-federal weatherization program for low-income households.

Alan Chapman, weatherization program supervisor for the Department of Economic Security, told the House Energy Committee, Jan. 18 that 100,000 homeowners and renters qualified for the program. The department has finished weatherizing 65,000 of those homes, and hopes to complete the other 35,000 in the next two years.

The average cost to weatherize a household is \$1300 and Chapman says he will ask the Legislature for \$10.5 million for the next biennium to complete the program.



## General Legislation & Veterans Affairs

Metropolitan Council districts don't reflect the population growth and shifts that have occurred in the past 10 years, according to Representative Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul). On Jan. 26, the House General Legislation and Veterans Affairs Committee approved Osthoff's bill, HF22, which would make redrawn Metropolitan Council and commission districts effective Feb. 15, 1983.

The current districts, according to Osthoff, give inner-city areas too much representation, and smaller, third-ring suburbs get too little say in the Metropolitan Council decisions because they have less representation. The bill would require redistricting every 10 years after federal census information is available.

Because of redistricting, the bill would also bring all 16 Council members, who the governor appoints, and all 24 Metropolitan Transit, Waste Control, and Parks and Open Space commissioners, who the Council appoints, up for reappointment by February 15 for their next terms.

The bill also allows for changes in pairing of certain Metropolitan Council districts into commission districts. The change would pair inner-city council districts with neighboring suburban districts rather than with another inner-city district as they are now.

## Gaming Division

A bill to bring Minnesota one step closer to horse racing will get a hearing in February in the Gaming Division of the General Legislation and Veterans Affairs Committee. HF77 (Kostohryz, DFL-St. Paul) would create a commission to regulate horse racing in the state.

Last fall, Minnesota voters took the first step toward making horse racing a possibility by approving a constitutional amendment which changed Minnesota's anti-gambling laws to allow pari-mutuel betting on horse racing. Pari-mutuel means "betting among ourselves" and the winning tickets share the total amount bet.

Under Kostohryz's bill, the governor, with the approval of the Senate, would appoint a nine-member commission to regulate horse racing, issue licenses, and enforce racing laws.

The commission would collect and distribute the taxes racing involves, and determine the number of racing dates for each track. Nothing in the legislation, however, provides for state involvement in owning and operating tracks.



## Governmental Operations

"The Minnesota Department of Employee Relations has two main functions," said Commissioner Nina Rothchild in an appearance before the Governmental Operations Committee, Jan. 25. "One is to maintain the state's personnel management system, the other to collectively bargain with state employees, and administer those contracts." The department also administers the state's affirmative action program, according to Rothchild.

Department priorities for the upcoming session, she said, include negotiating collective bargaining agreements for the 1983-84 biennium and establishing more equal pay rates among state employees. And the department will also try to come up with a more cost-effective employee benefits program, which in past years has become very expensive.



## Health & Welfare

Large hospitals and mental institutions produce more abuse and neglect, and cost taxpayers more than smaller, locally run care facilities, according to Michigan State Representative David Hollister.

At a joint meeting of the Health/Welfare Committee and the Health, Welfare, and Corrections Division of the Appropriations Committee on

Jan. 27, Hollister encouraged legislators to close down large state institutions for the developmentally disabled in favor of community or foster care programs and facilities as Michigan has done.

According to Hollister, "Even with the best intentioned people, the larger the institutions, the more likely there is to be abuse and neglect."

Hollister also said that in large institutions, residents lose their individuality, the care becomes only custodial, and drugs become the major form of treatment.



## Judiciary

A proposed equal rights amendment to Minnesota's Constitution, according to its chief author, Representative Phyllis Kahn, "would put into practice the ideal that our state and country was founded on. That all men, and, now, that means all women, too, are created equal."

Putting the words into the Constitution would guarantee equal rights and prevent the loss of rights women have already won better than statutory protections, because the Constitution is much more difficult to change.

"A constitutional amendment will clearly state the general principle that discrimination on the basis of sex is illegal," Kahn said.

Opponents say they support equal rights, opportunities, and pay, but they say that the wording of the amendment misguides voters as to what it will actually do, and that changing current laws to refer to both men and women would cost the state a lot of money. Some people said they oppose this

particular legislation, because they feel it will take away hard-fought women's rights and privileges already on the books.

They expressed concern over the bill's possible impact on marriage, abortion, homosexuality, and the military.

Testimony on House File 1 continues Feb. 7.

The Legislature defines crimes, and sets the punishment for those crimes, said legislative analyst Donna Falk, when she provided background information to the Judiciary Committee on Jan. 24.

However, she said, the Legislature must work within the limits of the state and U.S. Constitutions. The Legislature cannot criminalize conduct which the state and U.S. Constitutions grant to the public, such as freedom of speech, and freedom of religion, and cannot infringe upon anyone's liberty without due process of law.

Other constitutional rights and legislative restrictions that apply to criminal law, Falk pointed out, are found in the Bill of Rights, which prohibits unreasonable arrests, seizures, and searches, forbids self-incrimination, provides for a speedy and public trial, and prohibits cruel and unusual punishment.

## Criminal Justice Division

Tougher sentencing of burglars would be the first of a series of ideas Attorney General Hubert Humphrey said he'll propose to get tough on home burglars. People should not have to make their homes into fortresses, or live in constant fear of burglary, Humphrey told the Criminal Justice Division at a Jan. 26 meeting.

Humphrey says he'll call for legislation to put mandatory prison terms on repeat offenders, and mandatory jail sentences for some first-time offenders.

But tougher sentencing isn't the only answer, Humphrey says.

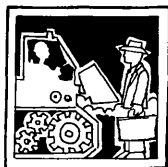
"The rights of victims must receive further consideration. In addition to incarceration, restitution to victims must be an emphasis of any sentencing proposal. In addition, treatment of juveniles involved in burglaries must also be reconsidered. Statistics show that a high percentage of burglaries are committed by juveniles. Juvenile burglars must not be allowed to escape from punishment because they are under 18 years of age," Humphrey said.

**More serious offenders and fewer property offenders are in prison today than were there before the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines helped judges decide punishment for crimes, according to Kay Knapp, from the Guidelines Commission.**

Since enactment of the guidelines, sentences are more uniform for people who commit the same kinds of offenses, but minority offenders still tend to receive more severe sanctions than white offenders, Knapp said at the Criminal Justice Division's meeting Jan. 17.

Knapp reported too, that the commission is turning its focus away from developing and implementing the guidelines toward monitoring, evaluating, and modifying the guidelines when that's necessary to meet the goals of the program.

And, she said the commission is studying the possibility of setting guidelines for juveniles, investigating sentencing differences between races and sexes, and recommending changes in burglary laws, and legislation to clarify sentencing law for the sale of drugs.



## Labor-Management Relations

**A newly-formed division of the Labor-Management Committee will address Minnesota's workers' compensation system, an issue that business and legislators have targeted as one of the most important of the 1983 legislative session.**

Division chairman Representative Wayne Simoneau brought workers, employers, and health providers before the Division in three January meetings to give members a feel for several sides of the workers' comp issue before they start looking at bills to change the system.

**Medical providers and rehabilitation counselors who testified before the Division Jan. 31, agreed that there is a need to improve understanding of the workers' comp law and to improve communication between doctors and employers.**

Dr. John Dowdle, Minnesota Medical Association, recommended that the Department of Labor set up a panel to review current disability ratings to ensure that the workers' comp law gives equal treatment to workers with similar injuries.

Others suggested the state set up a panel of doctors that would review excessive medical bills to injured workers.

Kevin Karr, Minnesota Association of Rehabilitation Providers, suggested the state make it mandatory for employers to refer their injured workers to a rehabilitation counselor after 90 days off the job, because a recent study of the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry showed that the longer

injured workers wait to get on rehabilitation counseling, the less chance they have of going back to work.

**A benefit system that relates to wages lost because of an injury; a movement away from large awards; and a private insurance system, not a state compensation fund are part of the compensation package request John Lennes, Minnesota Association of Commerce and Industry, made to the Division Jan. 24.**

Bob Johnson, Minnesota Insurance Federation said the biggest problems insurers face in pricing workers' compensation insurance is their uncertainty in predicting what cases will cost. Constant law changes and the ensuing court battles over interpretation make it very difficult for insurers to know what liability employers will face, he said.

Among the suggestions from Self-Insurers Association representative, Larry Koll, was the recommendation for establishment of an objective system for physicians to determine when a person gets permanent partial disability benefits.

**Minnesota's compensation laws for treatment of injured workers are good. It's the use of them that's poor, says Dan Gustafson of the AFL-CIO.**

Speaking to the first meeting of the newly formed Workers' Compensation Division on Jan. 17, Gustafson said Minnesota's system for treating and paying injured workers is slow, hard to understand, and not well-enforced.

Workers, employers and even lawyers who try the cases of injured workers don't completely understand the laws, according to Gustafson. Also, insurance companies put off paying injured workers as long as they can. Even when it's clear that the law requires payment by a certain date, there's no one to enforce the time limit, said Gustafson.





1983 no. 4

# 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 February 7 - 11, 1983

### Monday, Feb 7

- 8:00 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS**, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. Jim Rice. Agenda: Presentation: Dept. of Public Welfare and Health Dept.
- 8:30 a.m. EDUCATION**, Rm. 81. Chr. Rep. Bob McEachern. Agenda: Overview of the State Board of teaching; supply and demand for teachers of math and science.
- 9:45 a.m. REGULATED INDUSTRIES**, Midland Hills Country Club. Chr. Rep. Joel Jacobs. Agenda: Presentation: United Telephone Co. of Minnesota.
- 10:00 a.m. JUDICIARY**, Rm. 81. Chr. Rep. Bob Vanasek. Agenda: HF1 (Kahn) Proposing an amendment to the MN Constitution providing for equality of rights under the law for men and women.
- 12:00 noon EDUCATION FINANCE DIVISION**/Education, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. Ken Nelson. Agenda: Assessment of needs and wants of MN K - 12 students from a teacher perspective.
- WORKERS' COMPENSATION DIVISION**/Labor-Management Relations, Rm. 81. Chr. Rep. Wayne Simoneau. Agenda: Review and discussion of studies on workers' compensation with Steve Keefe, Commissioner, Labor and Industry. Presentations from Professor Kenneth Kirwin, William Mitchell College of Law; and Brad Richards, citizens League.
- 2:00 p.m.** The House will meet in Session.
- 3:30 p.m. HENNEPIN COUNTY DELEGATION**, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. Dee Long. Agenda: Bills relating to the city of Minneapolis only.
- 4:00 p.m. HENNEPIN COUNTY DELEGATION**, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. Dee Long. Agenda: Hennepin County Delegation bills: 1) Jail bonding. 2) Parking ramps. 3) Distribution of fine revenues. 4) Communications. 5) Purchasing preference.

Minnesota House of Representatives Information Office  
Rm 9, State Capitol, St. Paul, MN 55155 (612) 296-2146  
Jean Steiner, Information Officer.

### Tuesday, Feb 8

#### 8:00 a.m.

**APPROPRIATIONS**, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. Jim Rice. Agenda: Presentation: Dept. Labor & Industry; Arts Council; Historical Society.

**JOBS CREATION & UNEMPLOYMENT ISSUES SUBCOMMITTEE**/Governmental Operations, Rm. 83. Chr. Rep. Karen Clark. Agenda: Overview and testimony on structural unemployment and long-term chronically unemployed.

**PERSONNEL & ADMINISTRATION SUBCOMMITTEE**/Governmental Operations, Rm. 95. Chr. Rep. John Clawson. Agenda: Discussion of trends in public employment.

**8:15 a.m. TAXES**, Rm. 81. Chr. Rep. John Tomlinson. Agenda: HF23 (Tomlinson) Income tax simplification.

**10:00 a.m. CONSUMER AFFAIRS & TOURISM SUBCOMMITTEE**/Commerce & Economic Development, Rm. 81. Chr. Rep. Paul Ogren. Agenda: HF26 (Begich) Requiring the repair, refund or replacement of new motor vehicles under certain circumstances.

**ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES**, Rm. 83. Chr. Rep. Willard Munger. Agenda: Slide show on Hazardous Waste Clean-up, Waste Management Board and Legislative Commission on Waste Management.

**DEPARTMENTAL AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE**/Health & Welfare, Rm. 51. Chr. Rep. Tom Berkelman. Agenda: Presentation: Charles Heinicke, Chemical Dependency Division, Dept. Public Welfare.

**SOCIAL SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE**/Health & Welfare, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield. Agenda: Hearings on sunseting of General Assistance and General assistance Medical Care.

**LOCAL & URBAN AFFAIRS**. Chr. Rep. Glen Anderson. Agenda: Tour of Metropolitan Airport.

**12:00 noon ENERGY**, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. Gordon Voss. Agenda: Peat Management Program, Dennis Asmussen, Mineral Division, Dept. of Natural Resources; Plant Biomass Energy Research, Dr. Douglas C. Pratt, Botany Dept., U of MN; Wood Management Program, John Krantz, Forest Products Utilization & Marketing Unit, Dept. of Natural Resources.

**2:00 p.m. HEALTH, WELFARE & CORRECTIONS DIVISION**/Appropriations. Chr. Rep. Ann Wynia. Agenda: Hearing and tour at Anoka State Hospital.

**REGULATED INDUSTRIES**, Rm. 81. Chr. Rep. Joel Jacobs. Agenda: HF91 (Minne) Providing for rights of stockholders and directors of cooperative electric associations. **TESTIMONY BY PROPONENTS ONLY.**

**3:00 p.m. RAMSEY COUNTY DELEGATION**, Rm. 22. Chr. Rep. Dick Cohen. Agenda: To be announced.

### Wednesday, Feb 9

**8:00 a.m. EDUCATION DIVISION**/Appropriations, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson. Agenda: 1982 Third Special Session HF2—Reports on declining enrollment: U of MN, State Universities, Community Colleges, AVTIs.

**HEALTH, WELFARE & CORRECTIONS DIVISION**/Appropriations, Rm. 51. Chr. Rep. Ann Wynia. Agenda: Impact of federal changes on human services. Dept. of Public Welfare; Health; Community Corrections update.

**AGRICULTURE, TRANSPORTATION, & SEMI-STATES DIVISION**/Appropriations, Rm. 22. Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis. Agenda: Overview Dept. of Agriculture.

**STATE DEPARTMENTS DIVISION**/Appropriations, Rm. 14. Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn. Agenda: Budget presentation: District and County Courts; Supreme Court and Intermediate Court of Appeals.

**JOINT HOUSE-SENATE EDUCATION**, Rm. 83. Chrs. Rep. Bob McEachern & Sen. Jim Pehler. Agenda: Michael Annison, Vice President, Naisbitt Group, publishers of TREND REPORT, "Future Trends in Education."

**GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**, Rm. 81. Chr. Rep. Fred Norton. Agenda: Karen Dudley, Executive Secretary, Legislative Commission on Pensions & Retirement.

**10:00 a.m. AGRICULTURE**, Rm. 83. Chr. Rep. Steve Wenzel. Agenda: HF46 (Wenzel) A resolution to repeal the Secretary of Agriculture's authority to deduct \$.50 per cwt. from milk producer payments. Continuation of presentations by organizations representing farmers and agri-business.

**GAMING DIVISION**/General Legislation & Veterans Affairs, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. Jim Metzen. Agenda: HF77 (Kostohryz) Pari-mutuel betting. Speakers from law enforcement agencies: Ramsey County Sheriff; MN State Sheriff's Assoc.; Bureau of Criminal Apprehension; State Chief's Assoc.; Police & Peace Officers Assoc.

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION**/Judiciary, Rm. 81. Chr. Rep. Janet Clark. Agenda: Sentencing guidelines modifications: Stephen Rathke, Sentencing Guidelines Commission; William Kennedy, Chief Public Defender, Hennepin County; Dick Ericson, MN Citizens Council on Crime & Justice; Judge Allen Oleisky, MN District Court, 4 Judicial District.

**11:45 a.m. TRANSPORTATION**. Chr. Rep. George Mann. Agenda: Tour Burlington Northern's North Town Classification Yard in Minneapolis.

**12:00 noon BANKING SUBCOMMITTEE**/Financial Institutions & Insurance, Rm. 81. Chr. Rep. Jim Metzen. Agenda: HF45 (Kelly) Various banking and civil procedures addressing issuing of worthless checks.

**4:00 p.m. JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON METROPOLITAN GOVERNANCE**, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. John Brandl. Agenda: The committee will discuss a draft of its final report. Additional testimony will be taken.

**6:00 p.m. LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON MN RESOURCES**, Fort Snelling Visitors Center, Fort Snelling. 20 year symposium of Commission activities featuring a major review of the work the Commission supported since 1963 in its efforts devoted to improved understanding and proper development of the natural resources of the State.

**7:00 p.m. EDUCATION FINANCE DIVISION**/Education. Chr. Rep. Ken Nelson. Agenda: Hearing at Southwest Senior High School, 3414 W 47th Street, Minneapolis.

#### Thursday, Feb 10

**8:00 a.m. EDUCATION DIVISION**/Appropriations, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson. Agenda: Higher Education Coordinating Board report on 1982 Third Special Session HF2 system reports.

**HEALTH, WELFARE & CORRECTIONS DIVISION**/Appropriations, Rm. 51. Chr. Rep. Ann Wynia. Agenda: Dept. of Corrections: Oak Park Heights/Wisconsin agreement; projections of prison populations; prison industries.

**AGRICULTURE, TRANSPORTATION & SEMI-STATES DIVISION**/Appropriations, Rm. 22. Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis. Agenda: Overview Dept. of Public Service and Public Service Commission.

**GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**, Rm. 83. Chr. Rep. Fred Norton. Agenda: Howard Bicker, Executive Director, State Board of Investment.

**8:15 a.m.**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**/Taxes, Rm. 95. Chr. Rep. Randy Kelly. Agenda: Speakers: Herbert C. Johnson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Electro General Corp., officer and Director, MN High Technology Council; Charles M. Denny, Jr., President, Magnetic Controls Co., officer and Director, MN High Technology Council; Roger W. Staehle, Dean, Institute of Technology, U of MN; Edward Foster, Associate Dean, School of Management, U of MN.

**TAX LAWS DIVISION**/Taxes, Rm. 81. Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff. Agenda: Gerald Christenson, Legislative Auditor, "Evaluation of Direct Property Tax Relief Programs."

**10:00 a.m.**

**STATE DEPARTMENTS DIVISION**/Appropriations, Rm. 14. Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn. Agenda: Budget presentation: State Law Library; Public Defenders Office; Board of Public Defense.

**COMMERCE & JOB CREATION SUBCOMMITTEE**/Commerce & Economic Development, Rm. 81. Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy. Agenda: Committee discussion.

**ENVIRONMENT SUBCOMMITTEE**/Environment & Natural Resources, Rm. 83. Chr. Rep. Wilard Munger. Agenda: HF76 (Long) Establishing an environmental response, compensation and compliance fund to pay for removal and remedial action associated with certain hazardous substances released into the environment and for other purposes.

**GAME & FISH SUBCOMMITTEE**/Environment & Natural Resources, Rm. 22. Chr. Rep. Dave Battaglia. Agenda: Progress report on Lake Minnetonka public access acquisition. Discussion of Dept. of Natural Resources Metro Regional Office closing.

**DEPARTMENTAL AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE**/Health & Welfare, Rm. 51. Chr. Rep. Tom Berkelman. Agenda: HF100 (Swanson) Catastrophic health expense protection.

**HEALTH CARE SUBCOMMITTEE**/Health & Welfare, Rm. 22. Chr. Rep. Dick Welch. Agenda: Innovations in health care delivery.

**SOCIAL SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE**/Health & Welfare, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield. Agenda: Hearing on sunseting of General Assistance and General Assistance Medical Care.

**12:00 noon**

**GENERAL LABOR LEGISLATION SUBCOMMITTEE**/Labor-Management Relations, Rm. 81. Chr. Rep. Frank Rodriguez. Agenda: HF111 (Rice) Relating to labor; making collective bargaining agreements binding and enforceable when ownership is transferred or sold; requiring disclosures of collective bargaining agreements. Proponents and opponents—one hour each.

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

**2:00 p.m.**

The House will meet in Session.

**3:00 p.m.**

**TAXES**, Rm. 83. Chr. Rep. John Tomlinson. Agenda: Dept. of Revenue bills.

#### Friday, Feb 11

**8:30 a.m.**

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION**/Judiciary. Chr. Rep. Janet Clark. Agenda: Tour Stillwater and Oak Park Heights correctional facilities.

**10:00 a.m.**

**PERMANENT SCHOOL FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE**, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. Bob McEachern. Agenda: PSF Land Management Report required by 1982 laws; proposals from State Investment Board regarding investment of PSF revenue; discussion of future of PSF Advisory Committee.



# Bill Introductions

**Monday, Jan 31**

**HF136—Sarna (DFL)—Regulated Industries**

Alcoholic beverages; authorizing the sale of intoxicating liquor and nonintoxicating malt liquor on election days; amending statutes.

**HF137—McEachern (DFL)—Regulated Industries**

Local government; permitting towns to issue off-sale liquor licenses; amending statutes.

**HF138—Begich (DFL)—Regulated Industries**

Malt liquors; requiring identification of kegs and purchasers thereof; proposing new law.

**HF139—Price (DFL)—Education**

Education; providing for removing pupils from class; establishing powers and duties of school personnel relative to students; amending statutes; proposing new law.

**HF140—Skoglund (DFL)—Regulated Industries**

Public utilities; requiring utilities to consider customer schedule needs when reading nonaccessible meters; proposing new law.

**HF141—Skoglund (DFL)—Regulated Industries**

Consumer protection; prohibiting public utilities termination of service in certain cases; proposing new law.

**HF142—Otis (DFL)—Regulated Industries**

Public utilities; specifying the treatment of certain expenses; amending statutes.

**HF143—Vanasek (DFL)—Transportation**

Drivers licenses; requiring licenses of a distinguishing color for persons under 19 years of age; amending statutes.

**HF144—Schafer (IR)—Environment/Natural Resources**

Environment; directing the waste management board to report to the legislature concerning possibilities for out-of-state contracts for hazardous waste management; amending statutes.

**HF145—Schafer (IR)—Education**

Education; authorizing certain school districts to levy a special levy for school maintenance purposes.

**HF146—Kvam (IR)—Taxes**

Taxation; real property; extending the homestead credit to certain noncontiguous property; amending statutes.

**HF147—Murphy (DFL)—Governmental Operations**

State building code; establishing new requirements for the use of glazed safety glass in hazardous locations; amending statutes.

**HF148—Greenfield (DFL)—Health/Welfare**

Public welfare; establishing and empowering a board for the blind; transferring certain powers and duties of the commissioner of public welfare to the board; appropriating money; proposing new law; repealing statutes.

**HF149—Sviggum (IR)—Environment/Natural Resources**

Natural resources; clarifying the hunting of certain animals with dogs; amending statutes.

**HF150—Reif (IR)—Health/Welfare**

Health; removing the term epileptic from the statutes.

**HF151—Clark, J. (DFL)—Local/Urban Affairs**

Local government; providing for the budget date for the city of Minneapolis and Hennepin county municipal building commission; amending laws.

**HF152—Zaffke (IR)—Taxes**

Taxation; aggregate removal tax; making the tax optional for each county; amending statutes.

**HF153—Staten (DFL)—Governmental Operations**

Economic development; providing for job training and related services; appropriating money; proposing new law.

**HF154—Skoglund (DFL)—Transportation**

Metropolitan government; allowing certain revenue to be expended to improve minor airports; repealing statutes.

**HF155—Long (DFL)—Local/Urban Affairs**

Minneapolis; permitting the establishment of special service districts; providing taxing and other financial authority for Minneapolis.

**HF156—Fjoslien (IR)—Agriculture**

Taxation; reducing the excise tax on agricultural alcohol gasoline; amending statutes; repealing statutes.

**Thursday Feb 3**

**HF157—Carlson, L. (DFL)—Governmental Operations**

Education; providing for active military service to be counted toward the number of years required to be eligible for the teacher early retirement incentive program; extending the date of application to March 1, 1983, for certain individuals; requiring expeditious processing of certain applications in 1983; amending statutes.

**HF158—Osthoff (DFL)—General Legislation/Veterans Affairs**

Minnesota Constitution; proposing an amendment; repealing article XIII, section 5 which prohibits lotteries.

**HF159—Rodriguez, C. (DFL)—Education**

Education; providing for removing a pupil from class; establishing grounds for removal; establishing procedures for removal and return; amending statutes; proposing new law.

**HF160—Sarna (DFL)—Governmental Operations**

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

**HF161—Kelly (DFL)—Financial Institutions/Insurance**

Insurance premium finance companies; authorizing finance charge based on the federal discount rate; amending statutes.

**HF162—Nelson, K. (DFL)—Education**

Education; establishing a legislative commission on public education to study education finance, school district organization, technology, and employee wage disparities.

**HF163—McEachern (DFL)—Education**

Education; allowing school districts to use capital expenditure funds to purchase property insurance; amending statutes.

**HF164—Skoglund (DFL)—Commerce/Economic Development**

Commerce; requiring towing companies to accept payment by check or credit card in certain circumstances; proposing new law.

**HF165—Clawson (DFL)—Governmental Operations**

State government; requiring self-insurance of employee health benefits; amending statutes; proposing new law.

**HF166—Brinkman (DFL)—Judiciary**

County attorneys; providing for the prosecution of certain offenses by county attorneys other than county attorneys from Hennepin and Ramsey counties; amending statutes.

**HF167—Valan (IR)—Regulated Industries**

Liquor; authorizing the city of Dilworth to issue one on-sale license to an Eagles Club.

**HF168—Begich (DFL)—Taxes**

Taxes; providing for the rate and distribution of certain taxes on iron ore concentrate; amending statutes.

**HF169—Simoneau (DFL)—Labor-Management Relations**

Workers compensation; providing for continuation of group accident and health insurance eligibility for injured employees and dependents; amending statutes.

**HF170—Neuenschwander (DFL)—Environment/Natural Resources**

Natural resources; authorizing the commissioner of natural resources to extend timber permits; amending laws.

**HF171—Erickson (IR)—Local/Urban Affairs**

Public cemeteries; providing for simplified reinvestment in the cemetery association of certain unused cemetery land; amending statutes; proposing new law.

**HF172—Erickson (IR)—Environment/Natural Resources**

Soil and water conservation districts; authorizing annual audits by certified public accountants; amending statutes.

**HF173—Berkelman (DFL)—Appropriations**

Claims against the state; providing for payment of various claims; appropriating money.

**HF174—DenOuden (IR)—Environment/Natural Resources**

Agriculture; prohibiting waste disposal and processing sites on certain agricultural land; amending statutes; proposing new law.

**HF175—Peterson (DFL)—Taxes**

Soil conservation; providing a state paid property tax credit to agricultural property owners who carry out and maintain approved soil conservation practices under agreements with soil and water conservation districts; amending statutes; appropriating money; proposing new law.

**HF176—Skoglund (DFL)—Financial Institutions/Insurance**

Financial institutions; providing that Small Business Administration guaranteed loans are collateral for public deposits; amending statutes.

**HF177—Peterson (DFL)—Health/Welfare**

Health; changing eligibility requirements for catastrophic health expense protection; including insurance premiums; appropriating money; amending statutes; proposing new law.

**HF178—Kelly (DFL)—Governmental Operations**

Unemployment compensation; providing benefits to those losing jobs through no fault of their own; amending statutes.

**HF179—Beard (DFL)—Environmental/Natural Resources**

Environment; providing for the reclamation of peat bogs; amending statutes.

**HF180—Minne (DFL)—Regulated Industries**

Public utilities; providing for the regulation of certain cooperative electric associations; amending statutes.

**HF181—McDonald (IR)—Governmental Operations**

The environment; prohibiting the use of eminent domain proceeding for acquiring land and property rights for hazardous waste facility sites; amending statutes.

**HF182—Riveness (DFL)—Local/Urban Affairs**

The metropolitan transit commission; special fares for jobseekers; amending statutes.

**HF183—McDonald (IR)—Judiciary**

Minnesota Constitution; proposing an amendment to article I; providing for equality of rights under the law for men and women.

**HF184—Clawson (IR)—Health/Welfare**

Nursing homes; requiring new procedures for determining nursing home rates; appropriating money; amending statutes; proposing new law; repealing statutes.

**HF185—DenOuden (IR)—Environment/Natural Resources**

Environment; requiring legislative concurrence in any finding by the waste management board that certain hazardous waste management techniques are insufficient for the state; amending statutes.

**HF186—DenOuden (IR)—Judiciary**

The environment; requiring mandatory minimum jail sentences for persons convicted of violating laws or rules relating to hazardous waste disposal; providing that unlawful disposal of hazardous wastes is a felony; prescribing penalties; amending statutes.

**HF187—DenOuden (IR)—Governmental Operations**

The waste management board; removing the board's exemption from the Administrative Procedure Act for certain activities; suspending those activities of the board pending rule adoption; requiring the board to repeat the activities after rules are adopted; appropriating money; amending statutes.

**HF188—McDonald (IR)—Environment/Natural Resources**

The environment; suspending site selection procedures of the waste management board and the pollution control agency until the board adopts a hazardous waste management plan; proposing new law.



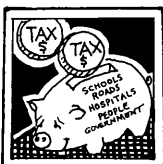
## Local & Urban Affairs

**"Minnesota's tax system is upside down,"** Rep. Gordon Voss (DFL-Blaine) told the Local and Urban Affairs Committee on Jan. 27th.

"We've got property taxes contributing a greater percentage for services of statewide significance, such as education, than for local services. And we have statewide sales and income taxes helping pay, through aids and credits, for local services like police and fire," said Voss.

A Task Force that met this summer has come up with a system to turn the tax system right-side up, according to Voss. Under the Task Force proposal, the state would take more responsibility for funding education and would reduce the property tax credits it gives out. Local governments could then use freed-up property taxing power to fund local services that the state helps pay for under the current system.

Voss said the task force still needs to put the finishing touches on its proposal, but he said they want to have a bill ready to go this legislative session calling for the proposed changes.



## Taxes

**Small business has created 80 percent of the new jobs in Minnesota in recent years but nationwide, 8 of 10 new busi-**

nesses fail within the first five years, according to the Minnesota Business Partnership, an organization of successful small business owners.

A spokesman for the Business Partnership told the Economic Development Division of the Taxes Committee on Jan. 27 that the Partnership helps new businesses survive by making sure they have the three ingredients for success: a plan that focuses on goals; enough financing; and a competent management team.

The Business Partnership is proposing that the Legislature enact tax breaks for businesses that share knowledge with new small businesses, and for people who invest in job-creating enterprises, to help in the development of small business in Minnesota.

**Minnesota farmers pay lower property taxes on their farmland** than farmers in Michigan and Wisconsin, reported Dennis Erno, Department of Revenue. Minnesota farmers pay 44 cents per \$100 of value, compared to \$1.62 per \$100 in Michigan and \$1.28 in Wisconsin, he said.

The Northern Plain states of North Dakota and Kansas and the Corn Belt states of Indiana and Iowa have rates similar to Minnesota's.

But Minnesota farmers also receive property tax credits the state bases on the value of their land. If the property value rises, the credit increases too; if the value goes down, so does the credit.

Erno said farm values are expected to decrease about five percent this year.

**Property tax bills have been increasing by more than 20 percent for many Minnesota homeowners, even though local spending hasn't gone up that much.**

Assistant Revenue Commissioner Dennis Erno explained to the Taxes Committee on Jan. 25th why that's happening.

Under Minnesota's homestead credit program, Erno said, the state pays 58 percent of the property owner's tax bill, to a maximum of \$650. About 80 percent of homes in the seven-county metro area have received the maximum \$650 payment, so from that point on those homeowners have been paying the additional taxes without any increase in credit from the state.

Taxes have also gone up for the other 20 percent of metro area homeowners still eligible for homestead credit, but the percentage of increase is less for them until they reach the \$650 limit in Minnesota law.

Most homes outside the metro area got less than maximum from the state last year, so their homestead credits will continue to increase, making their percentage of tax increases less than the majority of homeowners in the metro area, until they, too, get to the \$650 maximum.

# on the house floor ...

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A resolution requesting the governments of the United States and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to locate and return prisoners of war and those missing in action in Southeast Asia passed the full house Jan. 27.

The House approved a bill giving the governor until Feb. 15 to present his budget message to a joint session of the Minnesota House and Senate. The House passed HF14 (Eken,

DFL-Twin Valley) on Jan. 17. Earlier this month, Governor Perpich sent word to the Legislature that he needed more time to come up with a state budget.

According to Majority Leader Willis Eken, December's special session of the Legislature took up the time that the state departments and executive offices usually have to work on the budget.

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## ect ...

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Minnesota legislators took a three-day break from the normal routine to scan the challenges of the future and the strengths the state will need to meet those challenges.

The state Department of Energy, Planning, and Development and legislative leaders presented the Minnesota Horizons seminar at the St. Paul Technical-Vocational Institute Jan. 18 through 20.

Speakers in the program touched on subjects from the national debt, to Minnesota's school children, to the farms and forests of greater Minnesota.

There are challenges ahead: providing for an aging population; bolstering agriculture and mining industries that will continue to suffer as the national economy pulls itself out of a recession; setting priorities for distributing the ever-shrinking state dollars for human services and education; and creating new ways to make the dollars do more.

But Minnesota is a strong state, with a history of adaptation to the times, Historical Society Director Russell Fridley said. Eagleton Institute Director Alan Rosenthal closed the three-day program by telling legislators that Minnesota is a

state that's admired around the country. With proper planning, and programs like Horizons that look to the future, the state will be able to meet difficult times, Rosenthal said.

January 28 was Media Day on the Hill, a day for news people in tv, radio, and print to come to the Capitol and learn the ins and outs of the legislative process, and to find out what it's like to make decisions. Media people took part in a mock committee meeting and floor session, where they discussed a bill dealing with the pre-school health screening program. The House Information Office arranged the Media Day activities.

# Bill Status Report

as of January 31, 1983

The Bill Status Report will list every bill that gets a hearing in a House committee or subcommittee. Once a bill appears on the graph, it will remain there each month, along 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.

We hope this will help you understand how a

bill becomes a law, as well as keeping you informed on the bills that may become law during this legislative session.

The status listed here includes action on the bill up to the last day of the month. For more detail on the contents or recent action on the bills, call the House Information Office at (612) 296-2146. We can give you more information on the bill or refer you to someone at the Capitol who can.

## Explanation of bill list

Example:

### HF22/SF15:

House file number/Senate companion bill

(If the HF or SF has an asterisk following it, that means the House or the Senate has voted to work on that version of the bill, and set aside the other version.)

### RU:

Committee abbreviation (See code below)

Metro Council districts: Session Monthly bill title, lists bill topic

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

## Bills the governor signed

### Chapter 1-HF14

Budget message delay HF 14 (Eken) changes the date by which the governor must deliver the 1983 budget message to the Legislature from three weeks after session began, to Feb. 15.

## Bill committee bill title

	HOUSE					SENATE				
	SUBCOMMITTEE	COMMITTEE	GENERAL ORDERS	CALENDAR	CONSENT CALENDAR	OTHER FLOOR ACTION	COMMITTEE	GENERAL ORDERS	CALENDAR	OTHER FLOOR ACTION
HF22/SF15—GL Metro Council districts		RA								
HF25/SF43—LU Lake Park: bonds		RP								
HF55/SF63—LU Township audit reports		RP								
HF66/SF41—TX Bond registration date		RA		PC						

\*\*See bill the governor signed

## KEY

### Committee Names

AG Agriculture  
AP Appropriations  
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 report of Conference Committee

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

# Where 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

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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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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 by-pass 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## Minnesota House of Representatives

Public Information Office  
Room 9, State Capitol,  
St. Paul, MN 55155 (612) 296-2146

Information Officer: Jean Steiner  
Publications Coordinator:  
Deborah Friedman

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