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**THE
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MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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1984

MON

March 5

- Judiciary Committee members took unofficial action on a sentencing guidelines bill that would make the Sentencing Guidelines Commission more accountable to the Legislature. HF1382 (Bishop, IR-Rochester) would modify the sentencing guidelines law to require annual reports from the commission on proposed changes and make the Legislative Commission to Review Administrative Rules (LCRAR) the official guardian of sentencing guideline rulemaking. The committee also took unofficial action on two court of appeals bills and a bill allowing for claims against the state for prisoners hurt or killed while in a conditionally released status. Next week the committee will hear a bill it laid over on patients' rights and take up a bill on missing children.
- The landfill abatement bill should help landfill operators clean up their sites instead of taxing them for abatement plans, opponents to a landfill-fee proposal testified at an Environment and Natural Resources Committee hearing March 5.

"We need a no-fault remedial action fund for past sins," said James Morgan of Waste Management of Minnesota, Inc. In previous years, everyone believed landfills were the solution to trash disposal, he said. "Garbage was buried, and mother nature, like a septic tank, would clean it up."

The committee heard HF1361 (D. Nelson, DFL-Champlin), a bill that would levy a 90-cents-per-cubic-yard fee on trash going into landfills. Counties may charge an additional tax of up to 60 cents per cubic yard at the approval of the

Legislative Commission on Waste Management, cities or towns with landfills may impose an additional charge of up to one-third of the 90-cent fee on waste brought to their sites.

Two-thirds of the revenue would go toward landfill abatement plans, and one-third for cleanup where the operator is either unwilling or unable to pay for it.

The Pollution Control Agency and representatives from several government groups voiced their support at the hearing. Morgan, along with a trash hauler group and the Minnesota Association of Commerce and Industry, are opposing it.

Barbara Kelley, director of Minnesota Waste Association, said members would accept a lower fee to solve landfill problems, but the cost to set up recycling programs should come from the state general fund.

TUE

MARCH 6

- Debate over repeal of the 10 percent surtax opened the '84 legislative session in the House, March 6.

"Given the economic problems facing Minnesota, and given concerns we have in light of the recent 3M announcement, I believe this is an emergency," said Rep. Dave Jennings (IR-Truman) when he requested immediate consideration of HF1591 (Krueger, DFL-Staples). The bill repeals the surtax retroactively to Jan. 1, 1984.

Answering arguments that the legislation should go through the regular committee hearing process, Jennings said he wanted to take immediate action to prevent opponents from attaching other provi-

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- Weekly overview of House Committee and floor action
- Advance committee meeting schedule
- Bill introductions

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