HIGHLIGHTS

State Investment Board

The State Board of Investment (SBI) is responsible for investing $7.9 billion—of which $5.8 billion are public retirement assets, and $2.2 billion are state general revenue funds and trust funds.

That’s according to SBI Executive Director Howard Bicker, who testified at a Feb. 14 meeting of the Governmental Operations Committee. Bicker said state statutes govern SBI investments. And, those statutes include the “prudent person” rule and specific investments.

The two largest funds the board is responsible for are the $3.6 billion basic retirement fund for active working members, and the $2.2 billion post retirement fund for retirees.

The two funds have different sets of goals and objectives, said Bicker, the basic retirement fund is a long-term total rate of return fund that looks for market appreciation. He said the post retirement fund provides benefit increases to retirees and looks for shorter term yields.

Though Bicker said the total rate of return on last year’s (fiscal year ’85) basic retirement account was a negative five-percent, it was up seven-percent for calendar year ’84. Bicker said retirement-related assets and investments require a long-term perspective.

Bicker said the state is positioning its pension plan to be like a corporate plan, and has done a number of things over the years that are innovative in the public fund market, even though they’re not overly innovative when we compare them to corporate plans.

“We have a pension plan that’s now in the 21st century, one that not too many years ago was in the 19th century,” said Bicker.

Wine making and cheese

Two bills, HF34 and HF97, that would encourage wine making and allow the sale of cheese in Minnesota wineries moved out of the Commerce and Economic Development Committee Feb. 14 with recommendations to pass.

The bills would allow licensed wineries to sell cheese and cheese spreads without an additional license and give them an extra four years to use imported grapes when they make table or sparkling wines.

The state recently passed legislation that allows wine tasting in wineries, and Rep. Elton Redalen (IR-Fountain), author of the two proposals, said selling cheese goes along with the wine-tasting law.

State law requires farm wineries to use a majority of Minnesota-grown products in the wine-making process, but it also allows them to use imported grapes, under a one-year affidavit, if not enough home-grown grapes are available to meet state requirements.

Correction

In the article, “Rural banking problem,” on page 2 of last week’s Session Weekly, the first sentence of the second paragraph should read:

Kronjevich said 79 banks in the United States closed last year; a greater proportion of those were agricultural banks (banks with 20 percent of their loans in agricultural real estate or operating loans).
Charitable gambling

The state's new charitable gambling law should take effect March 1, but the Legislature may delay that until May 1 if HF400 (Fjoslien, IR-Brandon) becomes law. The General Legislation and Veterans Affairs Committee recommended the bill to pass as amended Feb. 14.

Under the new law, passed in 1984, the Charitable Gambling Board will regulate charitable gambling in Minnesota. "Gambling" includes bingo, raffles, tipboards, paddle wheels, and ticket jars. Presently, local governments regulate such gambling with no state control.

Several charitable organizations testified that they need more time to understand the new law and regulations as well as more time to get their state licenses.

HF400, in its original form, also would have exempted from state control any organization that conducted four or fewer lawful gambling occasions a year, but the committee removed that provision. Several members said that such a provision would have allowed wide open gambling.

AVTI programs

"We are entering a global economy with global competition," said Joseph Graba, director of the state's Vocational-Technical Education System, "and we must be prepared to compete."

The rapid growth of high technology may affect the United States as much, if not more, than the industrial revolution of the 1800s, said Graba.

Speaking to the Education Committee Feb. 13, he said, the student base is changing. Not only has there been "a dramatic increase in single-parent families, but by the 1990s, 75% of the people entering the work force will be women and minorities, Graba said.

AVTI programs must meet their needs and respond to demands of companies that hire graduates. Large companies, Graba said, often want Area Vocational Technical Institutes (AVTIs) to teach students the basics and leave the fine tuning to them.

On the other hand, he said, small companies need students who can walk in the door and do the job.

AVTIs are aiming to be current and responsive with an emphasis on the future and the development of a strong follow-up system.

"We want to know what's happening with all of our graduates," said Graba.

Interstate banking

Interstate banking is a reality in the United States today, says University of Minnesota Professor John Karaken. The former economic adviser to the president of Federal Reserve testified before the Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee Feb. 13.

Karaken said the only thing a bank can't do is go across a state line and buy another banking organization. And it's just a matter of time before banks will have that power, said the professor.

Several committee members said their concern is that interstate banking would cause money to flow out of already depressed rural communities and hurt them further. Karaken said interstate banking is really not a rural phenomenon, but primarily a metropolitan or urban area one.

"The banks that want to come into Minnesota are not licking their chops for Bemidji," he said. "They are licking their chops for the Twin Cities."

THE
SESSION
WEEKLY
MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Session Weekly is a publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 1985 Legislative Session, each issue reports daily House action from Thursday (2 p.m.) to Thursday (2 p.m.), lists bill introductions and advance committee schedules, and provides other information. The publication is free to interested constituents. Contact: Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office, Room 9, State Capitol, St. Paul, MN 55155, (612) 296-2146.

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State university request

State University Chancellor Jon Wefald presented a $383 million request to the Education Division of the Appropriations Committee Feb. 13.

Speaking for the seven-school State University System, Wefald said, "We are regional service institutions, not only intellectually, but also socially, culturally, and economically. Our institutions are vital to the regions they serve."

Tuition aid and faculty support are the most important concerns for state universities, said Wefald. But he also highlighted 10 programs he's asking the Legislature to support: full bulge funding; applied research; library supplement; technical initiative (Southwest State only); academic computing; international business; energy management institute (Moorhead only); day care services; repair and betterment initiative; and library automation (with community colleges).

The governor's recommendation is $40 million less than the State University System's request.

Farm assistance

Help may be on the way for farmers who can't keep up the payments on their Family Farm Security Program loans. If their circumstances are unique or temporary, they could qualify for aid under HF35 (Dimler, IR-Chanhassen), a proposal that the Agriculture Committee recommended to pass Feb. 13.

The bill would allow the agriculture commissioner to use special account funds for qualifying farmers if they can prove they can come up with future cash flow. Farmers would have eight years to pay this money back at an interest rate four percent below Federal Land Bank rates.

Abuse investigation

On Feb. 12, Attorney General Hubert H. Humphrey III announced his decision not to file criminal charges in the Scott County sex abuse case, ending his four-month investigation.

In a Feb. 13 meeting of the Crime and Family Law Committee, Humphrey said evidence didn't support filing new charges, although some defendants may be guilty.

He said, despite the bad publicity, Minnesota's child protection system works will. The investigation had to come to a close some time, Humphrey said. And, he said, he hopes now the healing process can begin.

The matter now lies with the Juvenile Court, said Humphrey, which will oversee family relationships of those involved in the case.

Since the program includes buyers that bought farms on contracts for deed, the proposal would allow lenders to cut payments 10 percent, and the state to give 100 percent back to the loans, instead of the present 90 percent.

The Family Farm Security Act dates back to 1976. Its purpose is to help farmers who can't get credit to buy farm real estate. The first of its kind in the nation, it guarantees up to 90 percent of a farmer's loan and defers interest payments for 10 years.

Tourism and roads

The Transportation Committee met with people from the state's Tourism Division and Transportation Department Feb. 13 to discuss tourist routes, the roads and highways people use when they visit Minnesota.

Most discussion centered around the condition of those routes, maintenance schedules for them, and information centers and rest areas on the routes.

Meetings with department representatives will continue. So far, the committee has heard from the Department of Transportation, the Citizens League, the Department of Natural Resources, and transportation interest groups.

Though the attorney general urged members and others to think of the case as over with, a number of legislators brought up concerns that the case has permanently affected innocent lives—and will continue to do so as long as it's likely that some were guilty of abuse.

IDB authority

Additional money for student loans and waste management projects may be available under a bill the Tax Committee recommended to pass Feb. 12. The bill would allow the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) and the Department of Energy and Economic Development (DEED) to issue 1984 industrial development bond (IDB's) authority for student loans and certain waste management projects.

Author Sidney Pauly (IR-Eden Prairie) says, without the bill, almost $107 million of 1984 bond authority will be lost. She said current law provides no carry-over authority for the issuance of the bonds.

Ed Meyer of DEED says the bill would impact waste management projects in Douglas, Ortonville, Pope, and Pennington counties. HECB has indicated they plan to issue $50 million in bond authority for student loans, says Meyer.

The bill now goes on the Consent Calendar to await action by the full House.

Auto factory audits

Auditors for car manufacturers won't have as much time to make factory audits if a bill that the Commerce and Economic Development Committee recommended to pass (Feb. 12) becomes law.

The bill, HF241 (Dempsey, IR-New Ulm), would change the time limit on audits car manufacturers make on dealer warranty claims from two years to one.
Louis Claeson from the Minnesota Auto Dealers Association (MADA), which gets audit complaint calls from dealers, said reducing the time period would cut down on manufacturers’ use of audits as harassment tools. Claeson said the dealers’ complaints to MADA run in peaks and valleys. They go up as buying incentive programs, such as offering consumers rebates or 8.8 percent financing, increase.

Right now, about 35 states have one-year audit periods on their books, including Michigan, the hub of the car manufacturing industry.

Unemployment comp

Minnesota’s unemployment compensation program is 50 years old this year and almost $235 million in debt.

In a Feb. 12 meeting of the Governmental Operations Committee, Eugene Sampson, assistant commissioner of the Department of Economic Security, talked about the status of the state's unemployment fund. He said one reason the fund is in the shape it's in, is because of back-to-back recessions in the late '70s and early '80s that caused increased demands on the fund. Sampson said it was during those times that the state started heavy borrowing from the federal government.

To repay the debt, state employers paid a 10 percent surtax in 1983 and 1984 to cover interest the federal government began charging in 1982. Employers also pay increases in federal taxes to repay loans, which go up yearly until the debt is settled. Currently, employers pay those taxes at a rate of .8 percent, on top of the standard .8 percent.

Sampson said the federal unemployment tax penalty will increase to 1.1 percent this year. That amounts to about $107 million in taxes payable in 1986.

In 1986, the tax will be 1.4 percent. In 1987, the state will have repaid its debt. Sampson predicts, however, because of an imbalance between benefits the state pays out and tax receipts coming in, Minnesota will have to start borrowing again in 1989 and making federal repayments in 1991.

Another change that will take place under current unemployment compensation provisions, said Sampson, is an increase in Minnesota's maximum weekly benefit amount from $198 to $234 on July 1, 1985.

People and workers’ comp

Citizen participation was the order of the day at a Feb. 12 meeting of the Unemployment Insurance and Workers’ Compensation Division of the Labor-Management Committee. Four people from the private sector gave their views on Minnesota’s unemployment insurance and compensation problems.

Elsa Carpenter told the committee about the proposals of the Minneapolis Employers Association; Matt Little, landscape company owner, presented an example of seasonal problems; Kit Hadley, attorney, explained her plan for more part-time access to benefits; and Don Herfort, golf course architect, detailed problems self-employed people face with unemployment insurance taxes.

Budget resolution

A budget resolution which cuts $333 million from the governor’s proposed programs got the approval of the Budget Committee on Feb. 12. The resolution restricts state spending to $10.562 million for the biennium with an additional $250 million for the reserve fund.

The resolution calls for 4 percent annual growth or 8.16 percent for the biennium while the governor recommends a 11.6 percent growth for the biennium. The governor recommends $500 million for the reserve fund.

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The resolution now goes to the floor of the House. If the House adopts the resolution, the Speaker will have the power to rule out of order any bill which raises taxes or appropriations above the limitation in the resolution.

Natural resources

The Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) does some of the behind-the-scenes work for the Minnesota Legislature in the area of natural resources.

At a Feb. 12 meeting of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, John Velin, LCMR administrative aide, explained the commission’s function as an advisory group for the Legislature. Velin said LCMR recommends funding for programs and studies, oversees and monitors the projects, and provides the House and Senate with information on their results.

In most cases, Velin said the LCMR funds those recommendations from money it generates through a share of the cigarette tax. Eleven percent of the tax on cigarettes goes into the LCMR account which will total about $20 million for the 1986-87 biennium.

With the help of other funding sources, the LCMR approved $22 million in program requests for the upcoming biennium to fund water, minerals, fish and wildlife, land, recreation, forestry, energy, and other programs.

Seven House members and seven senators serve on the commission.

Community colleges

The state community college system presented its $200 million funding request to the Education Division of the Appropriations Committee Feb. 11 and 12. Chancellor Gerald Christianson told committee members that the six-school system wants to play a bigger role in the development of Minnesota’s economy.
Christianson said the schools are ready to develop new programs to reach out and serve the unemployed and educationally disadvantaged worker; but they need state aid to promote these programs and boost enrollment. "If enrollment goes down, the remaining students will pay an even greater portion of that bill," said Christianson. Tuition, currently about $1200 a year, is the third highest in the nation.

Community colleges serve a different group of people from other higher institutions. Of the 40,000 students in the system, half are part-time and women make up nearly 60 percent of the entire student body.

Child sexual abuse

On Feb. 11, the Crime and Family Law Committee heard testimony from people who prosecute sexual abuse charges and who are involved in treatment.

Fern Sepler-King, sexual abuse treatment specialist from the Department of Human Services, said abusers are of two types: pedophiles, who are fixated sex offenders, violent and difficult to treat; and intrafamilial offenders who abuse only their own children, usually without violence.

Sepler-King says the intrafamilial offender is usually easier to treat, but there's no guarantee that abuse won't happen even after treatment.

"We're dealing with people who cannot communicate well," said Sepler-King, "who react possibly to outside stress such as unemployment and financial difficulties by turning to the child who cannot condemn them, but will fully accept them and allow their sexual advances without a fight."

Assistant Hennepin County Attorneys Bill Neiman and Janeen Rosas spoke of criminal and civil procedures in child abuse cases.

Neiman said criminal convictions are difficult to get and that prosecutors have to prove guilt "beyond a reasonable doubt."

Of Hennepin County's 82 convictions in 1982, Neiman said, 27 went to prison. He said sexual abuse is different from other crimes because public safety is not a primary factor. Also, the child victim has a stake in the future of the defendant, which the prosecutor has to take into account.

"Child abuse," said Neiman, "is the most terrible crime to accuse someone of, one of the most terrible crimes to commit, and is the most difficult case in which to know what's right."

Rule of 85

Karen Dudley of the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement, testified on the Rule of 85 and pre-1973 retiree issues before the Governmental Operations Committee Feb. 11.

Under the Rule of 85, passed in the 1984 Legislative session, if an employee's age and years of experience add up to at least 85, she or he can retire early without having to take a reduction in benefits. (Rule sunsets Dec. 31, 1986.)

To give members an idea of what the Rule of 85 has cost to date, Dudley said 167 people in the Minnesota State Retirement System (MSRS) retired under the new rule. The additional amount of reserves the pension fund had to transfer into the post-retirement investment account to pay for this came to over $3 million.

The Teachers' Retirement Association (TRA) incurred almost $16 million in expenses for the 425 people who retired under the Rule of 85. In the Public Employee Retirement Association (PERA), 285 people retired under the rule.

Dudley said the rule of 85 reduces the work force and saves on salaries because people retire early. However, Dudley said she's finding some can't afford to retire early, even under the new rule, unless they have another job lined up or someone else is paying for their health care.

Prior to 1973, Dudley said the state based pension benefits on the average salary the retiree made during all of his or her years in service. After 1973, the three major funds based benefits on the average of the retiree's five highest paying years.

Dudley said pre-1973 retirees get very low pension benefits for two reasons. First, benefits based on the career-average salary tend to be much lower than benefits based on the high five. And second, salaries for public employees who retired before the 1970s were very low.

In the past, Dudley, the Legislature has given lump-sum payments to pre-1973 retirees to address the problem. But she said she'd like to see lawmakers find a more permanent solution such as a method to recalculate benefits for pre-1973 retirees.

School funds

Should Minnesota's kindergarten-through-grade-12 schools merge general and capital expenditure funds? The answer is "no," according to the Advisory Council on Uniform Financial Accounting and Reporting Standards (UFARS).

In 1984, the Legislature authorized the Advisory Council to look at the possibility of permitting school districts to combine funds. On Feb. 11, Don Klassy, chair of UFARS, told the Education Finance Division that the Council does not favor the money merger.

Klassy said each fund, with exception of the general fund, has a specific purpose (i.e., instructional programs, building expansion, and upkeep). And, he said, UFARS supports present state law that requires the money to remain separate. The Council's recommendations include strengthening fund integrity, which, in the Council's opinion, would allow for more accountability to taxpayers.
Energy programs

You can learn ways to save energy and energy dollars if you take part in programs that the Department of Energy and Economic Development (DEED) offers.

The department’s energy division manages several loan and informational programs to show businesses, renters, schools, homeowners, cities, and communities how to conserve energy, reduce the use of conventional fuels, and/or develop energy resources.

Commissioner Mark Dayton and his staff told the Regulated Industries and Energy Committee Feb. 11 that these programs can help reduce the $7 billion dollars the state spends a year on energy needs.

The Energy Information Center’s number is (612) 296-5175 or toll-free 1-800-652-9747.

Sinclair Lewis

February 7 marked the 100th birthday anniversary of Minnesota’s native author Sinclair Lewis, and the House of Representatives took note in a resolution commemorating him.

Recanting Lewis’s works — Main Street, Babbitt, Arrowsmith, Elmer Gantry, and Dodsworth — Sylvester Uphus (IR) of Sauk Centre, the author’s home town, praised Lewis’s accomplishments. “He was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1930 ... the first American to be so honored. His works still have much to teach and always have the ability to entertain.”

Lewis upheld his Minnesota heritage by using the state as the setting for many of his novels, and choosing Sauk Centre as his final resting place, said Uphus.

The resolution calls upon all Minnesotans to renew their interest in Lewis’s work.

COMMITTEE ACTION

AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, Feb. 13
• Landowners selling to beginning farmers—tax breaks HF4 (Waltman, IR-Elgin)—heard.
• Family Farm Security Program—changes HF35 (Dimler, IR-Chanhassen)—recommended to pass as amended; rereferred to Taxes Committee. (See Highlight)
• U of M’s “Project Support” farm program—more funding HF373 (McDonald, IR-Watertown)—recommended to pass; rereferred to Appropriations Committee.

COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Tuesday, Feb. 12
• Motor vehicle sale/distrib. regulations—changes HF241 (Dempsey, IR-New Ulm)—recommended to pass. (See Highlight)
• Wineries—four years to use imported grapes HF34 (Redalen, IR-Fountain)—recommended to pass as amended. (See Highlight)
• Cheese sold in wineries HF97 (Redalen, IR-Fountain)—recommended to pass. (See Highlight)
• Corporate article changes—shareholders vote HF210 (Heap, IR-Plymouth)—recommended to pass.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

Thursday, Feb. 14
• Superfund changes HF268 (Sviggum, IR-Kenyon)—recommended to pass; rereferred to Judiciary.

GENERAL LEGISLATION

Thursday, Feb. 14
• Charitable gambling—deadline HF400 (Fjoslien, IR-Brandon)—recommended to pass as amended. (See Highlight)

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Thursday, Feb. 14
• Pension Commission—actuarial services funding HF98 (Knickerbocker, IR-Hopkins)—recommended to pass; placed on Consent Calendar.

TAXES

Tuesday, Feb. 12
• IDB authority—student loans/waste management HF336 (Pauly, IR-Eden Prairie)—recommended to pass as amended; placed on Consent Calendar. (See Highlight)
• Income tax cut—simplification HF166 (Tomlinson, DFL-St. Paul)—heard.

FLOOR ACTION

CALENDAR

Thursday, Feb. 7
• Juvenile judges—Hennepin, Ramsey counties HF83 (Forsythe, IR-Edina)—recommended to pass.
Bill
Introductions

Monday, February 11

HF360—Elioff (DFL)—Governmental Operations
Retirement; changing the method for computing benefits for members of the Buhi police relief association; amending laws.

HF361—Bennett (IR)—Commerce/Economic Development
Occupations and professions; requiring that plumbing inspectors hold licenses as master or journeyman plumbers; amending statutes.

HF362—Thorson (IR)—Governmental Operations
Beltrami county; providing for disposition of the proceeds from the sale or rental of tax-forfeited lands or from the sale of their products; increasing the amount that may be spent for promotion of tourist, agricultural, and industrial developments; amending statutes.

HF363—Zaffke (IR)—Local/Urban Affairs
Cities; providing for public notice and competitive bidding for real estate sales; proposing coding for new law.

HF364—Halberg (IR)—Financial Institutions/Insurance
Commerce; providing for deposits of public funds in thrift institutions; amending statutes.

HF365—Boerboom (IR)—Financial Institutions/Insurance
Taxation; providing an income tax deduction for interest income earned by state and national banks for certain agricultural loans; amending statutes; proposing coding for new law.

HF366—Hartinger (IR)—Environment/Natural Resources
Natural resources; increasing the penalty on owners and keepers of certain dogs; authorizing peace officers to take certain actions; prohibiting damages against peace officers who take those actions; amending statutes.

HF367—McPherson (IR)—Education
Education; defining substantial parental involvement in early childhood and family education programs; including expectant parents in the program; amending statutes.

HF368—DenOuden (IR)—Judiciary
Crimes; requiring notice of dishonor for issuing a worthless check to cite laws creating civil and criminal liability; amending statutes.

HF369—Wenzel (DFL)—Agriculture
Agriculture; deducting interest income from the gross income of state and national banks for certain loans to beginning farmers; providing income tax incentives to landowners who sell or lease agricultural land to eligible beginning farmers; amending statutes; proposing coding for new law.

HF370—Onnen (IR)—Health/Human Services
Health; requiring licensure of a home care agency; providing a home care bill of rights; providing a grievance procedure for a home care agency; amending statutes; proposing coding for new law.

HF371—McPherson (IR)—Labor-Management Relations
Labor; providing a credit for tipped employees with respect to minimum wages; amending statutes; repealing statutes.

HF372—Hartinger (IR)—Crime/Family Law
Crimes; prohibiting withholding rented prerecorded videotapes; prescribing penalties; amending statutes.

HF373—McDonald (IR)—Agriculture
Agriculture; appropriating money for the agricultural extension service of the University of Minnesota.

HF374—Seaberg (IR)—Crime/Family Law
Crimes; providing that persons guilty of failing to comply with fire security measures are guilty of obstructing legal process; redefining arson in the third degree and negligent fires; prescribing penalties; amending statutes; proposing coding for new law.

HF375—Elioff (DFL)—Health/Human Services
Human services; increasing the personal needs allowance for medical assistance recipients; amending statutes.

HF376—Knickerbocker (IR)—Governmental Operations
State departments and agencies; regulating initial fees and fee adjustments for agency services; amending statutes.

HF377—Heap (IR)—Health/Human Services
Health; exempting freestanding outpatient surgical centers from health care cost information requirements; amending statutes; repealing statutes.

HF378—Rest (DFL)—Education
Post-secondary education; allowing financial aid for four years, not just the first four years, of undergraduate education; amending statutes.

HF379—Fioslien (IR)—General Legislation/Veterans Affairs
Elections; qualifying certain persons to be election judges; amending statutes.

HF380—McKasy (IR)—Local/Urban Affairs
City of South St Paul; providing for the financing of certain public improvements.

HF381—Uphus (IR)—General Legislation/Veterans Affairs
Elections; delaying the applicability of certain handicapped accessibility provisions to towns; changing voting hours in towns; amending statutes.

HF382—Quinn (DFL)—Education
Post-secondary education; excluding the value of a family farm and its equipment from consideration for student financial assistance in certain cases; proposing coding for new law.

HF383—Skoglund (DFL)—Local/Urban Affairs
Metropolitan government; prohibiting certain persons from receiving remuneration from certain suppliers; amending statutes.

HF384—Otis (DFL)—Local/Urban Affairs
City of Minneapolis; permitting the establishment of special service districts in the city and providing taxing and other authority.

HF385—Himle (IR)—Commerce/Economic Development
Occupations and professions; providing advertising restrictions for plumbers; proposing coding for new law.

HF386—Quist (IR)—Taxes
Taxation; sales and use; eliminating accelerated payment of liability; amending statutes; repealing statutes.

HF387—Zaffke (IR)—Taxes
Taxation; sales; exempting retail sales of electricity from the sales tax; imposing an excise tax on sales and use of kilowatt hours of electricity; amending statutes; proposing coding for new law.

HF388—Burger (IR)—Governmental Operations
Taxation; establishing a legislative commission to study the distribution of property taxes on land values and improvement values; providing for a report by the department of revenue.
HF389—Burger (IR)—Governmental Operations
State government; providing incentive bonuses for certain state employees; appropriating money.

HF390—Thorson (IR)—Education
Education; allowing the department of education to provide certain information services and collect fees for the services; amending statutes.

HF391—Olsen, S (IR)—Judiciary
Marriage; adopting the uniform marital property act; providing conforming amendments to existing state law; amending statutes; proposing new law; repealing statues.

HF392—Munger (DFL)—Governmental Operations
Retirement; authorizing purchase of allowable service credit by certain members of the teachers retirement fund for prior service as nonpublic school teachers; proposing coding for new law.

HF393—Jaros (DFL)—Labor-Management Relations
Unemployment compensation; providing for the disqualification of benefits under certain circumstances; amending statutes.

HF394—Bishop (IR)—Judiciary
Statutes; providing that selected statutes shall be subject to judicial modification as is common law; proposing coding for new law.

HF395—Zaffke (IR)—Appropriations
Environment; authorizing studies to control unwanted vegetation on tree plantations; appropriating money.

HF396—Brown (DFL)—Agriculture
Agriculture; providing for the prevention of economic waste in the marketing of certain agricultural crops produced in Minnesota by establishing minimum prices; providing for supply management and orderly marketing; administration, and enforcement; imposing a penalty; proposing coding for new law.

HF397—Carlson, D (IR)—Judiciary
Minnesota Constitution; providing that the right to possess and use arms shall not be abridged.

HF398—McPherson (IR)—Taxes
Taxation; sales and use; exempting new farm machinery; amending statutes.

HF399—McEachern (DFL)—Education
Education; the permanent school fund; requiring exchange or compensation to the fund for land in state parks and waysides; requiring an inventory of other permanent school fund lands; specifying assets; amending statutes.

HF400—Fjoslien (IR)—Legislation/Veterans Affairs
Charitable gambling; changing the date for licensing by the charitable gambling control board; providing a certain exemption for organizations conducting raffles; amending statutes; amending law.

Thursday, February 14

HF401—Pauly (IR)—Environment/Natural Resources
Solid waste; repealing the exemption for certain solid waste disposal facilities from the certificate of need requirements; repealing laws.

HF402—Sparby (DFL)—Agriculture
Agriculture; making the commissioner of agriculture an elective office; amending statutes.

HF403—McKasy (IR)—Taxes
Taxation; reducing the estate tax to the amount of the federal credit for state death taxes; amending statutes; repealing statutes.

HF404—Wenzel (DFL)—General Legislation/Veterans Affairs
Charitable gambling; changing the effective date for licensing by the charitable gambling control board; eliminating dedication of tax revenue to the arts; amending laws; repealing statutes.

HF405—Backlund (IR)—Judiciary
Courts; providing for interest rates on arbitration awards; amending statutes.

HF406—Hartinger (IR)—Health/Human Services
Human services; changing limits on payments to dental vendors of services in the medical assistance and general assistance programs; amending statutes.

HF407—McDonald (IR)—Rules/Legislative Administration
A resolution memorializing Carthage and Rome to congratulate them on signing a peace treaty to end the Punic Wars.

HF408—Fjoslien (IR)—General Legislation/Veterans Affairs
Charitable gambling; exempting certain organizations that conduct bingo from licensing; amending statutes.

HF409—Peterson (DFL)—Transportation
Transportation; restricting mowing of highway ditches outside of cities; proposing coding for new law.

HF410—Eloff (DFL)—Health/Human Services
Human services; establishing an aid to families with dependent children grant diversion demonstration project; appropriating money; proposing coding for new law.
HF421—Brown (DFL)—Governmental Operations Retirement; Stevens county memorial hospital employees refunds or deferred annuitants.

HF422—McKasy (IR)—Local/Urban Affairs City of West St Paul; changing the municipal election day and extending the terms of certain elected officials.

HF423—Anderson, R (IR)—Commerce/Economic Development Economic development; setting an earlier opening date for the walleyed pike season in 1985 only.

HF424—Knickerbocker (IR)—Rules/Legislative Administration State government; proposing an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution eliminating the office of state treasurer; giving the treasurer's powers and duties to another officer provided by law.

HF425—Minne (DFL)—Environment/Natural Resources Natural resources; imposing a temporary freeze upon certain lease rates for state-owned campgrounds.

HF426—Vanasek (DFL)—Rules/Legislative Administration Minnesota Constitution; proposing an amendment providing for a senate of 36 members elected for staggered six-year terms and a house of representatives of 108 members elected for staggered four-year terms.

HF427—Redalen (IR)—Agriculture Agriculture; authorizing conservation reserve contracts covering marginal agricultural land; appropriating money; proposing coding for new law.

HF428—Pauly (IR)—Commerce/Economic Development City of Eden Prairie; authorizing one annual one-day liquor license.

HF429—Nelson, K (DFL)—Education Education; changing the basic maintenance mill rate to 20 mills; amending statutes.

HF430—Shaver (IR)—Labor-Management Relations Unemployment compensation; providing for nonreimbursement of benefits paid in certain instances; amending statutes.

HF431—Shaver (IR)— Appropriations Claims; providing reimbursement of certain unemployment benefits paid by the city of Wayzata.

HF432—Tompkins (IR)—Education Education; allowing the department of education to purchase printing services from school printing programs without inviting bids; amending statutes.

HF433—Stanius (IR)—Labor-Management Relations Unemployment insurance; increasing the time and earnings needed to qualify for benefits after disqualification for voluntary quit, misconduct, or failure to apply for or accept suitable work; amending statutes.

HF434—Gutknecht (IR)—Governmental Operations Retirement; making various changes regarding actuarial services in laws governing various public pension funds; amending statutes; proposing coding for new law.

HF435—Boerboom (IR)—Rules/Legislative Administration A resolution memorializing Congress to balance the federal budget.

HF436—Nelson, K (DFL)—Education Education; changing the instructional effectiveness plan and training to the educational effectiveness plan and training; providing for research and development; appropriating money; amending statutes.

HF437—Thiede (IR)—Rules/Legislative Administration A resolution memorializing Congress of ratification of a proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States to provide for a delay in an increase in compensation to members of Congress until an intervening election of representatives has occurred.

HF438—Seaberg (IR)—Commerce/Economic Development Housing; raising the limit on the total amount of Minnesota housing finance agency bonds and notes outstanding; amending statutes.

HF439—Nelson, D (DFL)—Taxes Taxation; providing for the computation of interest on tax overpayments; amending statutes; proposing coding for new law.

HF440—Knickerbocker (IR)—Governmental Operations Retirement; making various changes in laws governing public retirement funds; amending statutes.

HF441—Quist (IR)—Education Independent School District No. 508, St. Peter; authorizing a fund transfer.

HF442—Jennings, L (DFL)—Environment/Natural Resources Drainage; recodifying the drainage law with some modifications; appropriating money; imposing penalties; proposing coding for new law; repealing statutes.

HF443—Carlson, J (IR)—Health/Human Services Human services; eliminating employable persons from general assistance eligibility; amending statutes; repealing statutes.

HF444—Dempsey (IR)—Education Education; establishing a demonstration voucher program for pupils; appropriating money; proposing coding for new law.
Monday, February 18

8:00 a.m.

STATE DEPARTMENTS DIVISION/Appropriations, Rm. 300 S. Chr. Rep. Gaylin DenOuden. Agenda: Budget hearing for Governor’s Office.

EDUCATION, Rm. 500 S. Chr. Rep. Wendell Erickson. Agenda: HF60 (Moen) (Eachen); HF73 (Schafer); HF151 (Thiede); HF175 (Neuenschwander) Prohibiting school districts from beginning the school year before Labor Day.

8:30 a.m.

10:00 a.m.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY, Rm. 500 S. Chr. Rep. Elton Redalen. Agenda: Overview from the MN Cable Communications Board and MN Telecommunication Council HF185 (Redalen) Prescribing membership on the Public Utilities Commission.

10:30 a.m.

12:00 noon

CONVENTIONAL - LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON, St. Paul Hotel. Sponsored by the House Membership Resources Committee. Chr. Rep. Kathleen Blatz. Agenda: Registration, 11:45 a.m.; lunch, 12:00 noon. Congressman Tim Penny, Bruce Vento, Bill Frenzel and Arlan Stangeland will be in attendance.

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

6:00 p.m.

8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 19

8:00 a.m.


STATE DEPARTMENTS DIVISION/Appropriations, Rm. 300 S. Chr. Rep. Gaylin DenOuden. Agenda: Budget hearing for Dept. of Natural Resources.

HIGHER EDUCATION DIVISION/Education, Rm. 400 N. Chr. Rep. Mark Pipher. Agenda: Missions/Strategic Planning. Presentations by: Dr. Jon Welfeld, Chancellor, State University System; Dr. Gerald W. Christensen, Chancellor, Community Colleges.

TAXES, Rm. 5. Chr. Rep. Bill Schreiber. Agenda: Governor’s property tax proposal.

8:30 a.m.

10:00 a.m.
COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, Rm. 300 N. Chr. Rep. Paul Thiede. Agenda: HF231 (Boo) Relating to St. Louis county; authorizing a private sale of certain tax-forfeited land. HF281 (Uphus) Relating to game and fish; requiring the commissioner of natural resources to issue moose hunting licenses by lottery. HF300 (Thorson) Relating to natural resources; terms of payment in county timber sales.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, Rm. 500 N. Chr. Rep. Tony Olmoe. Agenda: Presentation and discussion on nursing home reimbursement with the Dept. of Human Services.

12:00 noon
JUDICIARY, Rm. 300 N. Chr. Rep. Charles Halberg. Agenda: HF140 (McCay) Providing for deposits by minors and deposits in multi-party accounts. HF68 (McCay) Relating to trusts; eliminating the requirement of qualifying trustees in certain cases. HF67 (Kelly); HF220 (Seaberg) Merit selection of judges.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE & WORKERS’ COMPENSATION DIVISION/Labor-Management Relations, Rm. 400 N. Chr. Rep. Steve Sviggum. Agenda: Presentations from: Brian Ettesvold, MN Service Station Association; Peg Mangel, MN Temporary Employers Association; Ralph Keyes, attorney; Gene Sampson Assistant Commissioner, Dept. of Economic Security.

2:00 p.m.

ST. PAUL HOUSE DELEGATION, Rm. 272. Agenda: Election of Chair and Vice Chair; consideration of bills.

3:30 p.m.

RAMSEY COUNTY HOUSE DELEGATION, Rm. 272. Agenda: Consideration of bills.

Wednesday, February 20

8:00 a.m.


STATE DEPARTMENTS DIVISION/Appropriations, Rm. 300 S. Chr. Rep. Gaylin Denudden. Agenda: Budget hearing for Dept. of Natural Resources (continued.)

EDUCATION, Rm. 500 S. Chr. Rep. Wendell Erickson. Agenda: HF225 (Erickson) Relating to the collection and dissemination of data; classifying names of finalists for position of president of the University of Minnesota as private data.

8:30 a.m.


10:00 a.m.

AGRICULTURE, Rm. 300 N. Chr. Rep. K. J. McDonald. Agenda: Presentation on agricultural related tax mechanisms, Karen Baker and Joel Michael, House Research. HF4 (Watman) Providing income tax incentives to landowners who sell or lease agricultural land to eligible beginning farmers. HF208 (Sviggum) Changing requirements for state livestock weighing services.


12:00 noon


TRANSPORTATION, Rm. 400 N. Chr. Rep. Douglas Carlson. Agenda: Highway Maintenance report presentation, Roger Brooks and Alan Baumgarten; Commissioner Richard Braun to finish Dept. of Transportation overview and discuss legislative auditor findings.

2:00 p.m.

EDUCATION FINANCE DIVISION/Finance, Rm. 500 N. Chr. Rep. Sally Olsen. Agenda: 1) Discussion with Dept. of Education of the following aids in Article 6: a) Capital expenditures, regular; b) capital expenditures, special; c) capital expenditures, hazardous; d) maximum effort loans. Speaker: Ron Laliberte. 2) Micro-computer based financial reporting report. 3) Discussion of the following aids in Article 3: a) Special education residential facilities, Jerry Kleve; b) hearing impaired adults, Jerry Kleve; c) Indian language and culture, David Bolioi; d) limited English proficiency, Jessie Montano.

Thursday, February 21

8:00 a.m.

AGRICULTURE, TRANSPORTATION & SEMI-STATES DIVISION/Appropriations, Rm. 400 S. Chr. Rep. Merlyn Valan. Agenda: Budget hearings for Dept. of Agriculture; Board of Animal Health; Humane Society; and Arts Board.


STATE DEPARTMENTS DIVISION/Appropriations, Rm. 300 S. Chr. Rep. Gaylin Denudden. Agenda: Budget hearing for Dept. of Natural Resources (continued.)

EDUCATION DIVISION/Supplementary provisions, Rm. 500 S. Chr. Rep. Tony Bennett. Agenda: HF351 (Uphus) Relating to elections; delaying the applicability of certain handicapped accessibility provisions to towns. Other bills dealing with elections law.


2:00 p.m.

The House of Representatives will meet in Session.

3:30 p.m.

COMMISSION ON THE ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN, Rm. 400 N. Agenda: 1) Election of Chair and Vice Chair; 2) discussion of legislative proposals; 3) future meetings and hearings; 4) adoption of budget; 5) other business.

6:30 p.m.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE & WORKERS’ COMPENSATION DIVISION/Labor-Management Relations, St. Louis County Boardroom, Duluth, MN. Chr. Rep. Steve Sviggum. Agenda: Testimony from individuals affected by the unemployment insurance program.

Friday, February 22

8:00 a.m.


STATE DEPARTMENTS DIVISION/Appropriations, Rm. 300 S. Chr. Rep. Gaylin Denudden. Agenda: Budget hearing for Dept. of Natural Resources (continued.)

10:00 a.m.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE & WORKERS’ COMPENSATION DIVISION/Labor-Management Relations, Council Chambers, City Hall, St. Cloud, MN. Chr. Rep. Steve Sviggum. Agenda: Testimony from individuals affected by the unemployment insurance program.
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