Medical malpractice insurance

A bill that aims at reducing insurance rates for the medical profession and making health care more available got a boost on Feb. 5 in the Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee. The committee gave its recommendation to pass to HF1764 and rereferred it to the Judiciary Committee.

According to Author Rep. Kathleen Blatz (IR-Bloomington), the bill would help reduce insurance rates by trying to lower the amounts of awards and frequency of litigation.

Mark Hallberg, a Minneapolis attorney who practices medical malpractice law, said the bill would make several drastic changes in the law. "I respectfully submit that the evidence is not here for a drastic change," he said. "But there is some evidence for minor changes that will tighten up our system of civil justice and hopefully weed out bad claims."

Legal assistance for farmers

Financially distressed farmers could get needed legal assistance under a bill waiting action in the Agriculture Committee.

HF1837 (McDonald, IR-Watertown), which the committee heard Feb. 5, would set up a legal assistance program for farmers that the Minnesota Supreme Court would administer. It calls for the Supreme Court to contract with legal assistance providers whose work could include: serving as legal backup to attorneys representing a farmer in a credit dispute or providing legal training and/or advice to farmers.

The program, which would cost the state about $850,000, has the endorsement of the Minnesota Bar Association. Farmers with a debt-to-asset ratio greater than 40 percent and who made less than $20,000 in the previous taxable year would be eligible for it.

The committee will meet next Wednesday to hear testimony on HF1837 and to tighten up some of the bill's language.

DNR budget cuts

The governor's recommended budget cuts for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) "hack away" at a "well-developed, well-planned, and well-maintained" state park system, DNR Deputy Commissioner Steve Thorne told the State Departments Division of the Appropriations Committee Feb. 5.

Over the next two years, the governor's plan cuts $17 million out of the department's $90 million annual budget. Affected areas include administration, forest management, fleet liability insurance, and field service programs, bringing the DNR's annual budget to .8 percent of the total state budget.

Reductions in water resource management would be $300,000 during FY'86 and FY'87. And in state park maintenance, reductions would be $470,000 for the same period, said Thorne.

"Water is a high priority for this state," he said. "I don't think we ought to be doing these things." The department will reduce its flood reduction and shoreline management programs, and eliminate several full- and part-time staff positions.
Also, budget cuts mean staff reductions for parks and recreation. Split Rock Lighthouse, in contrast to an earlier plan, will remain unstaffed; five small state parks will close for the rest of the biennium; and the state will reduce its marketing budget for the parks, which includes money for trail, hiking, and waterway maps.

House budget resolution

Reacting to a projected $734 million budget shortfall, the Budget Committee, on Feb. 4, adopted a budget resolution calling for $384 million in cuts or adjustments to the current budget.

The resolution, which agrees with the governor’s proposal to reduce the deficit, provides that $100 million stay in the reserve fund and sets state spending at $10.209 billion.

Rep. Gordon Voss (DFL-Blaine) said the resolution does not spell out where the cuts will be. “Let’s add some details so it means something,” said Voss. “I don’t understand why we are ratifying the governor’s budget.”

“The Budget Committee is determining what the maximum amount of spending should be and what the reserve fund should be,” said Chair David Jennings (IR-Truman). “It puts in place a clearly identified limit for everybody.” He said subsequent legislation will fill in the details.

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 or amendment that raises taxes or appropriations above the limitations in the resolution.

Income tax indexing

Taxpayers may get a break this year. On Feb. 4, the Taxes Committee approved HF1725, a bill that would repeal the law that automatically suspends income tax indexing in the event of a budget shortfall. Indexing adjusts income tax brackets, credits, and the standard deduction for inflation.

Repeal of the suspension of indexing would save Minnesota taxpayers between $75 and $76 million this year, according to Assistant Commissioner of Revenue John Haynes.

Chair William Schreiber (IR-Brooklyn Center), author of the bill, said all of the legislative leaders have agreed to the repeal, and “from a tax policy standpoint, we should pass this legislation early in the session.”

“The timing strikes me as abysmal,” said Rep. Paul Ogren (DFL-Aitkin). “We are facing a shortfall of $734 million. We are facing dramatic cuts in education. We are facing dramatic cuts in local government aids. Under these circumstances, it is highly inappropriate and scarcely prudent to pass a $75 million tax cut on top of the pressure the state is already bearing.”

The repeal measure now goes to the floor of the House.

Tax compliance

If Minnesota taxpayers would pay all of their past due tax bills, the state would be almost $200 million richer. And there may be another $300 million in unpaid taxes due the state from people who haven’t filed their returns or have under reported their income, said Commissioner of Revenue Tom Triplett at a Taxes Committee meeting on Feb. 4.

“There has been a dramatic increase in the state’s account receivables over the past eight years,” said Triplett. He said the state has seen a 400 percent increase in the amount of taxes owing “where we know who the taxpayer is and how much is owed.”

Triplett said the past due tax bills apply to both individuals and businesses with businesses owing $85.8 million and individuals owing $74.6 million. The commissioner said that Minnesota is not alone in experiencing non-compliance with its tax laws. He said the IRS and a majority of states have reported this phenomenon. Also, a recent national survey by the Roper polling organization found that one taxpayer in four admits to falsifying his/her tax return, Triplett said.

“We believe we do not have enough resources to deal with this problem,” said the commissioner. Some of his recommendations to the Legislature will include: hiring in-state collection agencies to pursue smaller delinquencies; permitting the filing of non-foreclosable liens on homesteads; extending the existing business clearance program past 1986 expiration; providing for the collection of alcohol sales taxes at wholesale rather than at the retail level; and expanding the department’s phone collection efforts.
Smokeless tobacco

Is smokeless tobacco (chewing tobacco and snuff) a cancer threat? Health experts and some people in the tobacco industry are at odds over the question. And it has caused a flood of state legislatures to consider ordering health warnings on such products.

On Feb. 4, the Commerce and Economic Development Committee moved in that direction when it recommended HF1773 (Seaberg, IR-Mendota Heights) to pass. The bill would prohibit the manufacture, sale, or promotion of unla­beled smokeless tobacco products in the state.

Estimates are that about 22 million people in the United States dip snuff or chew tobacco, and experts say the number's growing. Some users say they get a nicotine high from these packaged tobacco products. Others say they use them to relax.

But people, like Attorney General Hubert Humphrey, and several doctors who testified at the meet­ing, fear these users chew and dip tobacco without knowing it’s harmful.

"Many people are given the mis­taken impression that smokeless to­bacco is harmless. The tobacco in­dustry has a well-financed advertisement campaign to push smokeless tobacco and much of this campaign is oriented for the youthful user,” Humphrey told committee members.

Two doctors at the meeting said medical studies show that 10 to 25 percent of all high school students chew tobacco. And its use by young people is on the increase.

“We want to warn young people and their parents,” Humphrey says, “of the potential health risks associated with smokeless tobacco—cancer of the mouth, gum disease, tooth decay, high blood pressure, and heart disease.”

If HF1773 becomes law the smokeless tobacco warning label would read:

Warning: Use of this product is addicting and dangerous to your health. It may cause oral cancer or other diseases of the mouth.

Unemployment reform

Rep. Gil Gutknecht's (IR-Roch­ester) unemployment insurance reform plan, HF1847, got a recommendation to pass from the Labor­Management Relations Committee Feb. 4 by a 12-0 margin. The bill, said Gutknecht, “guarantees sol­vency” for a system that faces a possible $8 million deficit this year.

The reform plan would freeze the maximum weekly benefit at $208 on July 1, 1986, and at $216 on July 1, 1987. Minnesota’s maxi­mum weekly benefit now is $228, the third highest in the nation. It would also restrict benefits to sea­sonal workers, at a projected cost savings of $66 million over the next five years. All told, Gutknecht says his bill would cut $552 million in worker benefits during that five­year period and decrease employ­ers’ taxes by $190 million.

Francis Fitzgerald, director of la­bor and management at the Minne­sota Association of Commerce & Industry (MACI), testified that state benefit payments have ex­ceeded revenues in seven of the last 10 years. Since the fourth quarter of FY'83, he said, Minnesota has consistently exceeded the national average in the amount and dura­tion of unemployment benefits.

Dan Gustafson, president of the AFL-CIO, spoke in opposition to HF1847. He says it would eliminate 12,000 workers from eligibility.

DFL members of the committee said they had not had a chance to examine the bill and left the meet­ing without voting.

The bill now goes to the Govern­mental Operations Committee for further consideration.

Public Utilities Commission

Lack of rules, procedures, and ethical codes of conduct decrease the public’s confidence in the five­member Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) and interfere with the commission’s work, according to a Minnesota Depart­ment of Administration study pre­sented Feb. 3 to the Regulated Industries and Energy Committee.

“Most organizations are guilty of writing too many rules. This com­mission doesn’t write enough,” said Fred Grimm of the department’s Management Analysis Division.

“The result is that the commission has no consistency, no predictability.”

The investigation began last Oc­tober at the request of the 1985 Legislature. The report’s 19 recom­mandations include:

• develop pre- and in-service training programs and a manual of job duties for new commissioners;
• stop commissioners from working in Minnesota’s regulated industries for two years following their commission posts;
• replace commission chair selection-by-colleagues with gubernatorial appointment;
• reorganize the reporting structure of the 23-member MPUC staff and clearly specify their job duties;
• provide an interlinking, computerized data system that will allow staff and commissioners to review previous rate decisions;
• establish routine decision-making procedures for commissioners and staff; and
• rewrite Minnesota’s telephone law of 1915 (Chapter 237) to reflect current telecommunications issues and technological advances.

The commission is expected to respond to the study at the committee’s Feb. 7 meeting.

World Trade Center

Minnesota World Trade Center officials will reduce overseas travel, postpone a pre-opening event, and put off hiring a telecommunications consultant to cut $63,500 from their budget over the next two fiscal years. So said Acting Director John Kari before the State Departments Division of the Appropriations Committee Feb. 3.

The governor recommended the center cut $40,000 in FY ’86 and $23,500 in FY ’87. Those reductions will most directly affect face-to-face meetings with world trade center directors around the world, Kari said. Officials canceled a trip to centers in Seoul, Korea, and Tokyo, Japan, in favor of meeting those directors this spring at a previously arranged conference in New York.

Trade center officials expect to hire an executive director by late April or early May. That person’s responsibilities will include making the center’s services and businesses financially self-sufficient, said Kari. He predicts the center will be free of state subsidy by 1993.

Illegal drugs

Drug dealers would register with the state and would pay taxes on their illegal merchandise under terms of a bill the Crime and Family Law Committee discussed Feb. 3 and 5.

HF1767 would require people who sell marijuana or other controlled substances in Minnesota to buy a license or registration at $500 to sell marijuana and $1,000 to sell other illegal drugs. Dealers would also pay a $100 tax on each ounce of marijuana they sell and $5,000 an ounce for other controlled substances, such as cocaine or heroin.

The bill applies to dealers—those who possess more than an ounce of marijuana or half an ounce of other drugs—rather than occasional users. Judges could put dealers in jail for five years and force them to pay the tax and a fine of the same amount.

Author Rep. William Schreiber (IR-Brooklyn Park) said the bill would be a tool to help convict drug offenders. It may be easier to get a drug dealer under tax evasion laws than criminal laws, in the way that officials caught Chicago gangster Al Capone, he said. At least, officials can seize some of the dealers’ ill-gotten assets, which is difficult under current law, he said.

As originally written, the law required dealers to obtain licenses, but some members objected to that provision. Rep. Randy Kelly (DFL St. Paul) asked, “Aren’t we telling people that we’re condoning the use of marijuana?”

The bill was laid over until the next meeting, when members will consider an amendment that eliminates licenses but requires dealers to register with the state. Schreiber said the registration procedures should turn back a legal challenge by dealers who argue they would have paid the taxes but didn’t have a way to do it.

Farm resolution

Action on the first day of the 1986 legislative session focused on the farm crisis when the House passed HF1816 (Schoenfeld, DFL-Waseca) on a 115 to 15 vote.

The bill would memorialize the U.S. Congress to reopen the 1985 federal farm bill and amend it to provide adequate income opportunities for Minnesota farmers.

Several members rose to speak for HF1816. Others argued to refer it to the Agriculture Committee to work out the changes the committee would recommend in the federal bill. Among them was Rep. Allen Quist (IR-St. Peter), who said, “The bill should point out what in the farm bill needs changing.”

In other action, the House defeated a motion to spend the first three weeks of the session on issues related to the economic crisis in rural Minnesota.
AGRICULTURE
Tuesday, Feb. 4
• Farm and Small Business Relief Act
  HF1761 (Redalen, IR-Fountain)—referred to the full House with no committee recommendation.

Wednesday, Feb. 5
• Farmers—legal assistance
  HF1837/SF1672 (McDonald, IR-Watertown)—heard. (SF in Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee) (See Highlight)

COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Tuesday, Feb. 4
• Campground, mobile home park operators—food licenses
  HF1699/SF1562 (Zaffke, IR-Backus)—recommended to pass as amended. (SF on Senate floor)
• Tobacco, smokeless—warning labels
  HF1773/SF1705 (Seaberg, IR-Mendota Heights)—recommended to pass as amended. (SF in Senate Economic Development and Commerce Committee) (See Highlight)

CRIME & FAMILY LAW
Monday, Feb. 3
• Drug dealers—licensing/taxation
  HF1767 (Schreiber, IR-Brooklyn Park)—heard. (See Highlight)

Wednesday, Feb. 5
• Drug dealers—licensing/taxation
  HF1767 (Schreiber, IR-Brooklyn Park)—heard. (See Highlight)

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE
Wednesday, Feb. 5
• Medical malpractice—low changes
  HF1764/SF1670 (Blatz, IR-Bloomington)—recommended to pass as amended; rereferred to Judiciary Committee. (SF in Senate Economic Development and Commerce Committee) (See Highlight)

JUDICIARY
Tuesday, Feb. 4
• Uniform Fraudulent Transfer Act
  HF1035/SF373 (Dempsey, IR-New Ulm)—recommended to pass as amended. (SF in Senate Judiciary Committee)
• Tax court judges—attorney required
  HF1224 (Dempsey, IR-New Ulm)—recommended to pass.
• Revisor’s cleanup changes
  HF1841 (Bishop, IR-Rochester)—recommended to pass as amended.
• Revisor’s gender changes
  HF1824 (Bishop, IR-Rochester)—heard.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS
Tuesday, Feb. 4
• Unemployment insurance—reform plan
  HF1847 (Gutknecht, IR-Rochester)—recommended to pass; rereferred to Governmental Operations Committee. (See Highlight)

TAXES
Tuesday, Feb. 4
• Indexing—suspension repealed
  HF1725/SF1674 (Schreiber, IR-Brooklyn Park)—recommended to pass. (SF in Senate Taxes and Tax Laws Committee) (See Highlight)
• Local Government Finance Div./Taxes
  HF1707 (Waltman, IR-Elgin)—heard.
  HF1716/SF1647 (Olsen, IR-St. Louis Park)—heard. (SF in Senate Taxes and Tax Laws Committee)

FLOOR ACTION
SUSPENSION OF RULES
Monday, Feb. 3
• Federal farm bill 1985—reopen
  HF1816 (Schoenfeld, DFL-Waseca)—passed. (See Highlight)

Wednesday, Feb. 5
• Farm and Small Business Relief Act
  HF1761 (Redalen, IR-Fountain)—not passed.

Key
HF — House File
SF — Senate File
HF#/SF# — companion bills
*— version of the bill under consideration

Copies of bills and resolutions are available from the Chief Clerk’s Office
Room 211, State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155, (612) 296-2314.
Bill Introductions

Monday, Feb 3

HF1815—Dempsey (IR)—Taxes
Taxation; real property; prescribing requirements of the sales ratio study used by the state board of equalization; amending statutes.

HF1816—Schoenfeld (DFL)—Agriculture
A resolution memorializing Congress to amend the 1985 federal farm bill.

HF1817—Johnson (IR)—Environment/Natural Resources
Water; appropriating money to the commissioner of natural resources for dam reconstruction in Winona county.

HF1818—McEachern (DFL)—Education
Education; making modifications in the post-secondary enrollment options act; amending statutes.

HF1819—McPherson (IR)—Local/Urban Affairs
Counties; making optional a county building commission law; amending statutes.

HF1820—McPherson (IR)—Local/Urban Affairs
Local improvements; permitting counties to make certain improvements anywhere within their territory; amending statutes.

HF1821—McPherson (IR)—Judiciary
Real property; requiring condominium plats after July 31, 1986; requiring certification by a registered land surveyor only, that condominium plat accurately depicts certain required information; amending statutes.

HF1822—McKasy (IR)—Judiciary
Trusts; providing for the standard of care of trustees; authorizing certain investments of trust property; providing for powers of trustees; amending statutes.

HF1823—Uphus (IR)—Financial Institutions/Insurance
Agriculture; delaying deficiency judgments for two years on real and personal agricultural production property secured prior to January 1, 1986; prohibiting deficiency judgments against real and personal agricultural production property secured after January 1, 1986; amending statutes; proposing coding for new law.

HF1824—Bishop (IR)—Rules/Legislative Administration
Statutes; adopting a gender neutral revision of Minnesota Statutes; providing for no substantive change; granting certain editorial authority to the revisor of statutes; amending statutes.

HF1825—McEachern (DFL)—Transportation
Motor vehicles; providing for special license plates for emergency services volunteers; amending statutes.

HF1826—Fjoslien (IR)—General Legislation/Veterans Affairs
A resolution memorializing the government of the United States and the Social Republic of Vietnam to take all possible actions to determine the fate of persons missing in action in Southeast Asia; joining with the families of those who are missing in the hope that their long wait will soon be over.

HF1827—McKasy (IR)—Taxes
Taxation; updating income tax and property tax refund provisions to the Internal Revenue Code; making technical corrections and administrative changes to income tax and property tax refund laws; amending statutes; repealing statutes.

HF1828—Rest (DFL)—Financial Institutions/Insurance
Financial institutions; requiring notice of tax consequences of forgiving a mortgage loan; proposing coding for new law.

HF1829—Rest (DFL)—Financial Institutions/Insurance
Insurance; prohibiting employers from mandating employee choice of alternative plans of health coverage; prohibiting related employees of the same employer from being considered dependents of each other under each respective plan of health coverage; amending statutes.

HF1830—Riveness (DFL)—Taxes
Taxation; providing a state paid small business property tax credit; amending statutes; proposing coding for new law.

HF1831—Rest (DFL)—Taxes
Taxation; individual income; eliminating the age restrictions on the pension income exclusion; modifying the income offset; amending statutes.

HF1832—Carlson, D (IR)—Taxes
Taxation; extending the pension exclusion to recipients of federal law enforcement officers' pensions under age 65; amending statutes.

HF1833—Carlson, D (IR)—Education
Independent school district No. 97, Moose Lake; authorizing an excess capital outlay levy for two years.

HF1834—Segal (DFL)—Crime/Family Law
Animals; prohibiting theft of dogs or cats for research purposes; prescribing a penalty; proposing coding for new law.

HF1835—Bishop (IR)—Crime/Family Law
Crimes; prohibiting the solicitation of children to engage in sexual conduct; imposing a penalty; proposing coding for new law.

HF1836—Rest (DFL)—Taxes
Taxation; corporate income; providing quick refunds of overpayments of estimated tax; amending statutes; proposing coding for new law.

HF1837—McDonald (IR)—Agriculture
Agriculture; establishing a legal assistance program for family farmers; prescribing eligibility requirements for persons to receive legal assistance; providing for the legal assistance provider; requiring reports; appropriating money; proposing coding for new law.

HF1838—Richter (IR)—Agriculture
Agriculture; defining "milk," "skim milk," and "lowfat milk"; amending statutes.

HF1839—Johnson (IR)—Rules/Legislative Administration
Legislature; expanding when fiscal notes must be prepared on statutes, executive orders, or rules; requiring fiscal notes for new or increased fees; amending statutes.
HF1840—Bishop (IR)—Crime/Family Law
Crimes; making it a felony to assault or injure a pregnant woman; expanding the crime of criminal vehicular operation; imposing penalties; amending statutes; proposing coding for new law.

HF1841—Bishop (IR)—Judiciary
Minnesota statutes; correcting erroneous, ambiguous, omitted, and obsolete references and text; eliminating certain redundant, conflicting, and superseded provisions; providing instructions to the revisor; amending statutes; proposing coding for new law; repealing statutes.

HF1842—Dimler (IR)—Agriculture
Agriculture; removing the liability of persons who buy farm products; repealing the notification and registration system for security interests in farm products; amending statutes; repealing laws.

HF1843—Kostohryz (DFL)—General Legislation/Veterans Affairs
Lotteries; proposing an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution to repeal the prohibition against lotteries and the sale of lottery tickets; establishing a state lottery agency and a state lottery board; authorizing a state lottery and providing for its operation and administration; proposing penalties; appropriating money; amending statutes; proposing coding for new law.

HF1844—Dempsey (IR)—Crime/Family Law
Crimes; making it a felony to cause the death of or injure an unborn child; prescribing penalties; amending statutes; proposing coding for new law.

HF1845—Kostohryz (DFL)—General Legislation/Veterans Affairs
Charitable gambling; imposing restrictions on expenditure of profits; allowing licensed organizations to conduct gambling, including casino games, without a license under certain circumstances; providing for exemptions from criminals laws for gambling under the charitable gambling law; amending statutes.

HF1846—Redalen (IR)—Agriculture
Agriculture; establishing filing requirements, enforcement, and priority of veterinarian's lien; amending statutes.

HF1847—Gutknecht (IR)—Labor-Management Relations
Unemployment compensation; altering the public policy statement; changing the taxable wage base; defining credit weeks; providing for employer charging; increasing the eligibility requirement; eliminating certain tax rate limitations; changing the weekly benefit amount; setting the maximum weekly benefit; providing for the duration of benefits; increasing the duration of benefits for claimants in counties with high unemployment; providing for seasonal employees; making the waiting week nonreimbursable; amending the benefit offset for severance pay; increasing the period of time and earnings necessary for requalification; changing the definition of suitable work; transferring duties to the office of administrative hearings; amending statutes; proposing coding for new law; repealing statutes.

HF1848—Waltman (IR)—Financial Institutions/Insurance
Insurance; requiring a certain program of studies for applicants for resident insurance agent licenses; amending statutes.

HF1849—Bishop (IR)—Judiciary
Civil action; providing the manner of claiming punitive damages; proposing coding for new law.

HF1850—Bishop (IR)—Commerce/Economic Development
Intoxicating liquor; authorizing the city of Rochester to issue an on-sale license to a concessionaire at the Mayo civic auditorium.

HF1851—McKasy (IR)—Judiciary
Civil actions; providing a cause of action for sexual exploitation; proposing coding for new law.

HF1852—Bennett (IR)—Commerce/Economic Development
Commerce; regulating those who package soft drinks and other nonalcoholic beverages; increasing certain vending machine inspection fees; clarifying authority to inspect vending machines; clarifying rulemaking authority of commissioner of agriculture; amending statutes; repealing statutes.

HF1853—McPherson (IR)—Local/Urban Affairs
Public indebtedness; permitting home charter and statutory cities to incur debt for warning systems; amending statutes.

HF1854—Welle (DFL)—Taxes
Taxation; property; providing a state paid small business property tax credit; amending statutes; proposing coding for new law.

HF1855—Riveness (DFL)—Taxes
Taxation; income; individual income; permitting certain unmarried individuals to file joint returns; amending statutes.

HF1856—Stanius (IR)—Education
Children; requiring certain information at initial enrollment in a school; requiring periodic bulletins on missing children; amending statutes; proposing coding for new law.

HF1857—Richter (IR)—Education
Education; requiring the department of education to make certain recalculations involving independent school district No. 545, Henning.

HF1858—Carlson, D (IR)—Governmental Operations
Arts; changing the membership requirements for the board of the arts; changing the qualifications for certain grants; amending statutes.

Wednesday, Feb 5

HF1859—Clark (DFL)—Financial Institutions/Insurance
Insurance; accident and health; providing group coverage for ambulatory mental health services; amending statutes.

HF1860—Forsythe (IR)—Local/Urban Affairs
Metropolitan government; permitting the metropolitan mosquito control commission to issue certificates of indebtedness; amending statutes.

HF1861—Carlson, L (DFL)—Taxes
Taxation; delaying the effective date of the repeal of the residential energy credit; amending laws.

HF1862—Nelson, K (DFL)—Governmental Operations
Retirement; granting an annuity increase to a certain annuitant of the public employees retirement association.

HF1863—Seaberg (IR)—Crime/Family Law
Crimes; clarifying the crime of failing to file a tax return; creating a presumption that property acquired during the course of certain crimes are "proceeds" of the crime for purposes of forfeiture law; providing a court procedure to freeze bank funds of persons charged with certain crimes; amending statutes; proposing coding for new law.

HF1864—Dyke (DFL)—Agriculture
Agriculture; family farm security program; providing an interest subsidy payment for certain seller sponsored loans; amending statutes.

HF1865—Greenfield (DFL)—Crime/Family Law
Criminal procedure; providing for an in camera hearings on certain evidentiary issues in criminal sexual conduct cases; amending statutes.

HF1866—Rodosovich (DFL)—Taxes
Individual income taxation; providing a subtraction for interest on seller sponsored family farm security loans; amending statutes.
HF1867—Rodosovich (DFL)—Health/Human Services
Human services; allowing counties to adopt family day care and group family day care regulations; proposing coding for new law.

HF1868—Rodosovich (DFL)—Health/Human Services
Human services; exempting certain rural providers of day care from the human services department day care rules; amending statutes.

HF1869—Valento (IR)—Local/Urban Affairs
Local government units; authorizing the privatization of facilities for the treatment of wastewater and the furnishing of water; amending statutes; proposing coding for new law.

HF1870—Fjoslien (IR)—General Legislation/Veterans Affairs
Veterans; providing for free motor vehicle license plates for former prisoners of war; amending statutes.

HF1871—Fjoslien (IR)—General Legislation/Veterans Affairs
Veterans; clarifying certain terms; providing for payment of compensation to certain patients and residents of state institutions; amending statutes.

HF1872—Kiffmeyer (IR)—Financial Institutions/Insurance
Health; limiting recovery on medical malpractice claims; creating a patient's compensation fund; creating a residual malpractice insurance authority; establishing medical review panels; proposing coding for new law.

HF1873—Sviggum (IR)—Labor/Management Relations
Workers' compensation; regulating the obligations and administration of the special compensation fund; regulating the payment and right to benefits; compensation court of appeals; regulating attorneys' fees; providing for the administration of claims; providing penalties; amending statutes; proposing coding for new law; repealing statutes.

HF1874—Sviggum (IR)—Regulated Industries/Energy
Energy; providing renewable residential energy grants; appropriating money.

HF1875—Kelly (DFL)—Health/Human Services
Health; creating a public corporation to provide health care services and research; providing that subsidiaries governed St. Paul Ramsey Medical Center and a physicians and dentists association; proposing coding for new law; repealing statutes.

HF1876—Brandl (DFL)—Local/Urban Affairs
City of Minneapolis; permitting the city to establish a consolidated city personnel system.

HF1877—Tjornhom (IR)—Taxes
Taxation; authorizing the commissioner of revenue to make payments of police and fire aids directly to qualified recipients; clarifying the business license clearance requirements and removing the sunset; changing the dates for payments of property tax credits to the counties; clarifying the use of mortgage registration and deed tax receipts; clarifying the power of the counties to print deed tax stamps; and authorizing the commissioner of revenue to make payments of general local fuel tax compacts; amending statutes; repealing statutes.

HF1878—Norton (DFL)—Taxes
Taxation; individual income; eliminating the age restrictions on the pension income exclusion; modifying the income offset; amending statutes.

HF1879—Clausnitzer (IR)—Health/Human Services
Health; authorizing the commissioner of commerce to adopt rules related to financial affairs of health maintenance organizations; requiring certificates of authority to be issued by the commissioner of commerce; providing for supervision of health maintenance organizations; amending statutes; repealing statutes.

HF1880—Clausnitzer (IR)—Health/Human Services
Human services; providing for a change in medical assistance and general assistance medical care reimbursements for treatment of mental illness; providing for a utilization review system for impatient mental health care; amending statutes.

HF1881—Governmental Operations
State agricultural society; prohibiting certain contract provisions; amending statutes.

HF1882—Sviggum (IR)—Agriculture
Gasoline; changing the definition of agricultural alcohol gasoline; changing the identification marking on gasoline-alcohol blends; amending statutes.

HF1883—Upshus (IR)—Agriculture
Agriculture; clarifying the exceptions to prohibition against manufacture of food from adulterated milk or cream; amending statutes.

HF1884—Upshus (IR)—Taxes
Taxation; rescinding the repeal of the income tax exclusion for interest earned on certain family farm security loans; amending statutes.

HF1885—Neuenschwander (IR)—Governmental Operations
Retirement; employees of the Falls nursing home who are members of the public employees retirement association.

HF1886—Frederickson (IR)—Local/Urban Affairs
Local government; changing the notice requirements for proposed special assessments; amending statutes.

HF1887—Knuth (DFL)—Transportation
Drivers' licenses; providing for motorized bicycle instruction permits; setting a fee; amending statutes.

HF1888—Knuth (DFL)—Transportation
Traffic regulations; requiring damage vehicle release sticker on motor vehicle damaged in accident; amending statutes.

HF1889—Elioff (DFL)—Education
Education; requiring the state board for community colleges to develop upper division programs at the Arrowhead Community College.

HF1890—Elioff (DFL)—Governmental Operations
Retirement; Buhl police association; repealing its bylaws to provide for the payment of benefits to the survivors of deceased members.

HF1891—McCachern (DFL)—Transportation
Motor vehicles; providing for special license plates for Vietnam era veterans; amending statutes.

HF1892—Bennett (IR)—Commerce/Economic Development
Energy; changing the administration of the state energy code from the commissioner of energy and economic development to the commissioner of administration; amending certain provisions of the state energy code; amending statutes.

HF1893—Seaberg (IR)—Crime/Family Law
Juvenile court; revising and recodifying current laws governing the apprehension, detention, adjudication, and disposition of minors who commit unlawful acts or who are in need of protection or services; providing additional due process protections for minors and other parties who are subject to juvenile court jurisdiction; placing limitations on voluntary out-of-home placements of minors; providing for substitute case review; establishing a procedure for the review of residential admissions of minors to chemical dependency and mental illness treatment programs; requiring court review in certain cases; establishing criteria for the assessment and treatment of minors; requiring licensing of treatment programs; establishing minor patients' rights; creating a state office of youth advocate and county youth advocates; imposing penalties; amending statutes; proposing coding for new laws; repealing statutes.
Monday, February 10
8:00 a.m.


CRIME & FAMILY LAW, Rm. 500 S State Office Building, Chr. Rep. Kathleen Blatz. Agenda: HF1767 (Schreiber) Imposing a tax on marijuana and controlled substances. HF1730 (Blatz) Making corrections in criminal sexual conduct statutes. SF31 (Diessner)/HF456 (Blatz) Relating to motorboat safety; strengthening prohibitions and penalties regarding operation of motorboat while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY, Rm. 500 S State Office Building, Chr. Rep. Elton Redalen. Agenda: HF1664 (Redalen) Regulating contracts for the purchase of fuel by municipally owned power plants. HFxxx (Kostohryz) Tightens prohibition on off-tract pari-mutuel wagering. HF1185 (Jacobs) Authorizes municipalities to allow advertisements on outdoor telephone booths. Also further testimony relating to the Dept. of Administration Management Study of the Public Utilities Commission (PLC) from the Dept. of Public Service, Public Utilities Commission and others wishing to testify.


EDUCATION, Rm. 5 State Office Building, Chr. Rep. Wendell Erickson. Agenda: Reports on Teacher/Staff Development; "6-M:" HF1856 (Stanius) Missing Department.

8:30 a.m.


10:00 a.m.


2:00 p.m.

The House of Representatives will meet in Session.

Tuesday, February 11
8:00 a.m.


HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION/Appropriations, Rm. 300 S State Office Building, Chr. Rep. Gaylin DenOuden. Agenda: Continue testimony, if any, from state departments/offices which were scheduled but not heard from on Friday, Feb. 7; Judicial branch and Secretary of State's office comments on Governor's recommended budget reductions and departmental/offices recommendations—Speakers: Sue K. Dosal, State Court Administrator and Elaine Voss, Deputy Secretary of State; discussion on the farm production lien filing requirements in federal farm bill and the costs of implementing a centralized system.


8:15 a.m.


10:00 a.m.

COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, Rm. 300 N State Office Building, Chr. Rep. Tony Bennett. Agenda: HF1892 (Bennett) Relating to energy. HF1852 (Bennett) Regulating those who package soft drinks and other non-alcoholic beverages.
House
Advisories

Monday, Feb 3
HA64—Clark (DFL)—Labor-Management Relations
A proposal to study the impact on youth from federal and state reductions in funding for youth development programs.

HA65—Stanius (IR)—Education
A proposal for an interim study of special education.

HA66—Carlson, D (IR)—Transportation
A proposal to study methods of improving legislative oversight of highways and highway programs.

HA67—Clark (DFL)—Education
A proposal to study the issue of illiteracy in Minnesota.

HA68—Clark (DFL)—Education
A proposal to examine student loan repayment.

HA69—Governmental Operations
A proposal to investigate the issuance of severance payments by units of local government.

HA70—Wenzel (DFL)—Agriculture
A proposal to study the potential for state participation in school milk and lunch programs.

Wednesday, Feb 5
HA71—Ozment (IR)—Governmental Operations
A proposal to study the state building code in relation to state buildings and

HA72—Proctor (DFL)—Governmental Operations
A proposal to study the statewide clearinghouse for caregiver information; reconvening the task force on need for persons with brain impairment; amending statutes.

HA73—Larson (DFL)—Governmental Operations
A proposal to study methods of improving legislative oversight of highways and highway programs.

HA74—Chambers (DFL)—Governmental Operations
A proposal to study the issue of illiteracy in Minnesota.

HA75—Clark (DFL)—Education
A proposal to examine student loan repayment.

HA76—Carlson, D (IR)—Transportation
A proposal to study methods of improving legislative oversight of highways and highway programs.

HA77—Clark (DFL)—Education
A proposal to study the issue of illiteracy in Minnesota.

HA78—Clark (DFL)—Education
A proposal to examine student loan repayment.

HA79—Governmental Operations
A proposal to investigate the issuance of severance payments by units of local government.

HA80—Wenzel (DFL)—Agriculture
A proposal to study the potential for state participation in school milk and lunch programs.
Wednesday, February 12
8:00 a.m.

AGRICULTURE, TRANSPORTATION & SEMI-STATES DIVISION/Appropriations, Rm. 400 S State Office Building, Chr. Rep. Marilyn Valian. Agenda: Arts Board; Science museum; Academy of Science; Board of Animal Health; Horticultural Society.


12:00 noon


2:00 p.m.

EDUCATION FINANCE DIVISION/Education, Rm. 500 N State Office Building. Chr. Rep. Sally Olsen. Agenda: Continue discussion and actions on Governor's proposed budget reductions.


4:00 p.m.


8:15 a.m.

TAXES, Rm. 5 State Office Building. Chr. Rep. Bill Schreiber. Agenda: HF1759 (Dempsey) Extending the second installment payment date by 30 days in the case of certain agricultural property. HF1815 (Dempsey) Prescribing requirements of the sales ratio study used by the State Board of Equalization. HFxxx Agricultural tax bill.

10:00 a.m.

COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, Rm. 300 N State Office Building. Chr. Rep. Tony Bennett. Agenda: To be announced.


HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, Rm. 500 N State Office Building. Chr. Rep. Tony Onnen. Agenda: Continue agenda from Tuesday, Feb. 11 (if necessary). HF1584 (J. Carlson) Omnibus Health and Human Services policy bill (delete everything amendment). Other bills to be announced.

12:00 noon

GENERAL LEGISLATION & VETERANS AFFAIRS, Rm. 400 N State Office Building. Chr. Rep. Dave Fjoslien. Agenda: To be announced.


PROGRAM EVALUATION DIVISION/Legislative Audit Commission, Rm. 300 S State Office Building. Agenda: Program evaluation reports on: deinstitutionalization of the mentally ill; and deinstitutionalization of the mentally retarded.

2:00 p.m.

The House of Representatives will meet in Session.

7:00 p.m.

Friday, February 14
8:00 a.m.
AGRICULTURE, TRANSPORTATION & SEMI-STATES DIVISION/Appropriations, Rm. 400 S State Office Building. Chr. Rep. Merlyn Valan. Agenda: Racing Commission; Charitable Gambling; Dept. of Public Service; Municipal Board; Minnesota/Wisconsin Boundary Commission; Voyaguer's Park; Ethical Practices; Uniform Laws.


8:15 a.m.

10:00 a.m.
HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION/Appropriations, Basement Hearing Room, State Office Building. Chr. Rep. Bob Anderson. Agenda: Continue public testimony if necessary on Human Services budget. Please limit testimony to 5 minutes and one speaker per interest group.

EDUCATION FINANCE DIVISION/Education, Rm. 500 N State Office Building. Chr. Rep. Sally Olsen. Agenda: Continue discussion and actions on Governor's proposed budget recommendations.

JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE STATE OFFICE BUILDING RENOVATION/Appropriations & Governmental Operations, Rm. 200 State Office Building. Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment. Agenda: Continue discussion of the renovation problems, building code violations and cost overruns of the newly remodeled State Office Building.

10:30 a.m.

1:00 p.m.
TAX INCREMENT FINANCING & FISCAL DISPARITIES SUBCOMMITTEE/Taxes, Rm. 500 N State Office Building. Chr. Bill Schreiber. Agenda: Consider legislation for both issues.