

88, February 5



THE SESSION WEEKLY

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 1

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INSIDE:

Highlights

Committee and Floor Action
(Jan. 25 -Feb. 4)

Advance Committee Schedule
(Feb. 8-12)

24-HOUR INFORMATION:

To follow a bill from introduction, through committee and floor action, to the governor's signature, call:

House Bill Status Line
(612) 297-1264

For up-to-date committee meeting times and agendas, call:
House Calls (612) 296-9283

DURING OFFICE HOURS:

For general information, call:
House Information
(612) 296-2146

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TDD Line (612) 296-9896

**LEGISLATIVE SESSION
BEGINS
TUESDAY, FEB. 9**

Nothing herein is admissible as legal proof of legislative intent.

Preview issue

This week's *Session Weekly* previews what's ahead for the Minnesota House in 1988. Committee chairs told us what they expect will be the issues their committees will work on once the session starts and bills begin to move through the committee process. You'll find that information in "Issues for '88," page 4.

Speaker of the House Rep. Robert Vanasek (DFL-New Prague) and House Minority Leader Rep. William Schreiber (IR-Brooklyn Park) also responded to the question of what the '88 session holds for the Legislature at a Minnesota Press Club Newsmaker Luncheon in January.

The legislative leaders seemed to agree on the issues coming up. Both named taxes, the lottery, workers' compensation, and transportation funding as agenda items for '88. And when the work begins, *Session Weekly* will again follow bills from introduction to the governor's signature.

For those of you who are new

HIGHLIGHTS

readers, *Session Weekly* is part of the Minnesota House of Representatives public information service. Each week during the session, it includes: 1) highlights of House committee and floor action, 2) a list of committee and floor action on bills, 3) bill introductions, and 4) an advance committee schedule.

Highlights of committee and floor action give you a sampling of what happened from Thursday (2 p.m.) to Thursday (2 p.m.) each week.

As legislative activity increases, the listing of committee and floor action on bills will give concise information so that you can follow particular bills.

Committees can only recommend action on bills, so coverage of committee action will tell you if a committee recommended a bill to pass, to pass as amended, not pass, or rereferred it to another committee for further consideration.

Coverage of floor action will tell you what happens to a bill after it leaves a committee and appears on a calendar for action by the full House.

It's a fact!

A look back in time, a century or so, gives us a picture of the 25th session of the Minnesota House of Representatives, when 103 members gathered in St. Paul Jan. 4, 1887, to conduct the state's business.

They represented 80 counties, and 51 percent of the all-male group were farmers—about 38 percent of them foreign-born, coming mostly from Scandinavia or Germany.

Gov. A. R. McGill signed 175 bills into law that year. Those laws incorporated villages and towns; issued bonds to build and maintain public roads and bridges; funded public schools and sewer systems; set salaries for public officials; and elected Cushman K. Davis to the U.S. Congress as senator from Minnesota.

For a look at the present and how the picture has changed in 100 years, see "Do You Know?" (back page).

THEN

NOW

Bill introductions give you House File numbers, authors, committee assignments, and brief descriptions of bill contents.

The advance committee schedule gives you the information you need to attend committee meetings, all of which are open to the public.

For further help in following the Legislature, or for answers to general questions, please call the House Public Information Office, (612) 296-2146.

We've included in this issue a story about an annual pre-session event, the Youth in Government program, and a membership profile of the 1988 Minnesota House of Representatives.

Health and human services

Trying to keep ahead of a tight '88 session schedule, the Health and Human Services Committee, heard five hours of public testimony on Feb. 2. First on the agenda were ophthalmologists, optometrists, and opticians. Concerned about licensing, they gave the committee an overview of their professions to explain the differences in the scope of their practices, education, and training.

In the latter half of the meeting, families and care providers for mentally retarded adults spoke out about care for the mentally retarded. Their testimony was sometimes emotional as they told about long waiting lists and the number of providers closing their facilities because of rising costs.

"We are beginning to think about out-of-home living for Susanne. As we begin to look around, we find a shortage of space, large waiting lists, and a moratorium prohibiting the building or opening of new locations," said Richard Mussell, father of a 19-year-old retarded daughter.

He told the legislators, "It seems we, the parents, who have kept our children at home, seem to be forgotten. The priority for adult care seems to go to those coming out of state institutions."

Committee chair, Rep. Paul Anders Ogren (DFL-Aitkin), has appointed a task force to study the future of regional treatment centers.

Youth in government

With a pound of the gavel, an invocation, and swearing-in of members, it looked like business as usual on the House Floor as a student Speaker of the House opened the Youth in Government session at the State Capitol, Jan. 28.

During the four-day YMCA model government event, student legislators introduced legislation on teacher competency, hazardous wastes, drunken driving, minority rights, AIDS, handgun control, and motorcycle helmet requirements. They worked on their proposed laws as part of the 34th annual session of Youth in Government's model executive, judicial, and legislative program.

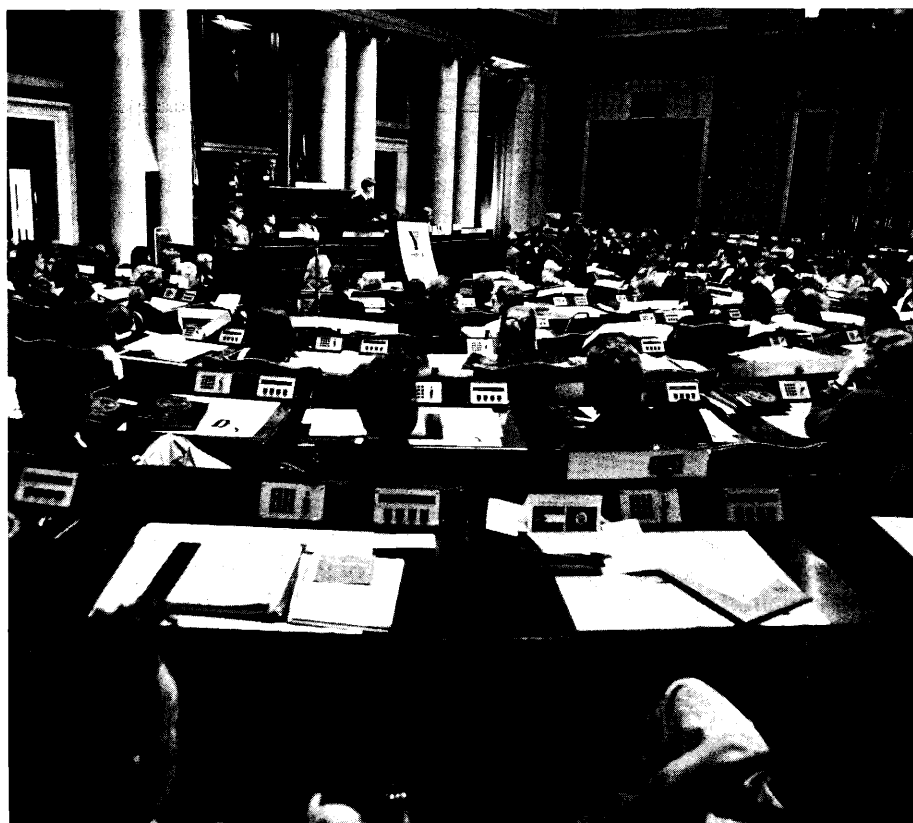
The legislators came from the Metro area and other state communities including: Albert Lea, Alexandria, Benson, Brainerd, Buffalo, Cloquet,

Duluth, Faribault, Garden City, Grand Rapids, Madelia, Lakeville, Mankato, Owatonna, Northfield, Red Wing, Rochester, St. Cloud, Virginia, and Winona.

But, of course, not all were legislators. They were judges, lobbyists, media reporters, elected officials, cabinet members, or pages. Each had a specific role, and their professional approach to their respective roles reflected the weeks they had spent in preparation.

And, if the model session is any indicator, the future looks bright for women in government. Of the 813 students who took part, 477 were female. Of those, 112 served as House members.

Encouragement for the program came in the way of financial aid from businesses, organizations, individuals, and about 50 real-life legislators.



High school students from around the state met at the Capitol in St. Paul for the YMCA's 34th annual Youth in Government program. Here, Youth Governor Sreenu Tadavarthy, a 17-year-old Eden Prairie high school senior, addresses a joint session of the House and Senate.

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PROFILE '88

Two newly elected members bring some changes to the 1988 Minnesota House of Representatives. The Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party remains in the majority with 82 members; Independent-Republicans number 52. The 1987 House split was 83-51.

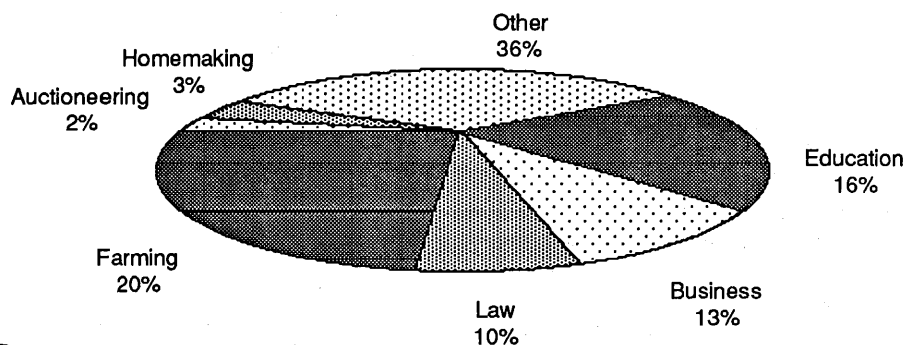
Farming continues to be most common of legislators' occupations with 27 members listing it as their primary occupation. Education, the next most frequently listed occupation, dropped from 23 to 22. Those who listed business increased from 17 to 18. Other occupations showing no changes include 13 members in law, 4 homemakers, 2 auctioneers and 1 log-home builder.

Of the 112 men and 22 women in the 1988 House, 56 hold college degrees, 31 hold graduate degrees, 17 have done graduate work, and 18 have done college/vo-tech work.

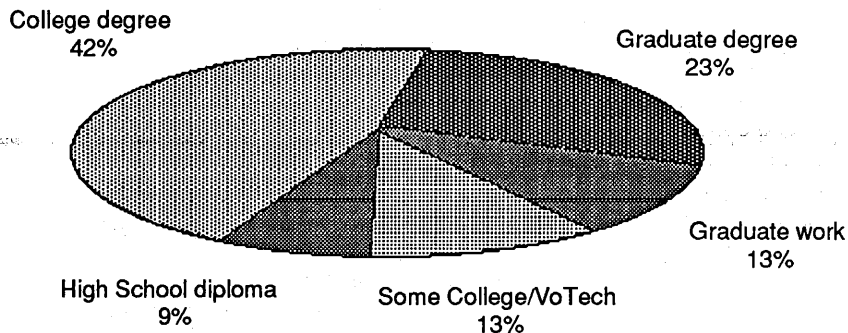
House members' average age is 45; the youngest is 23; the oldest 77.

The two new members increase the number of first-term representatives to 31. The House's senior member is serving his 16th term.

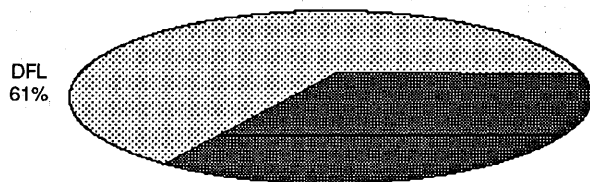
**MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PROFILE
Occupations**



**MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PROFILE
Education**

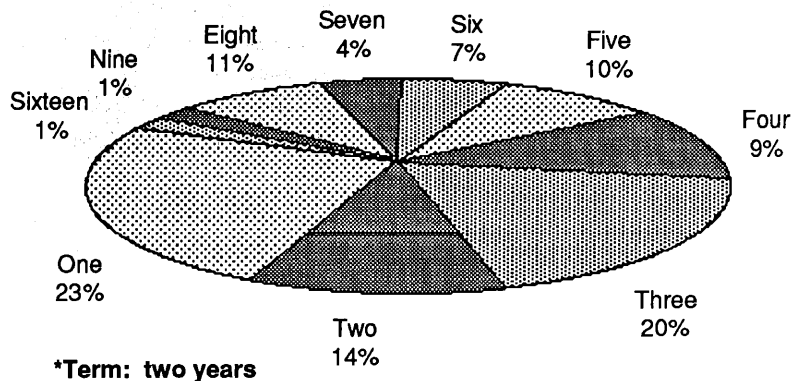


**MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PROFILE
Party Representation***



*DFL: Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party
IR: Independent-Republican Party

**MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PROFILE
Number of Terms Served***



*Term: two years

Issues for '88

Each member of the Minnesota House of Representatives serves on several of the twenty-one House committees and nine divisions.

The committee system, where the most detailed work of the Legislature takes place, is the heart of the legislative process. Each committee's job is to hold public hearings on bills, put bills into their best forms, and send to the full body with their recommendations those bills the committee feels merit further consideration.

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 stating its actions and recommendations to the House (or Senate).

In an effort to get an idea of what legislators will consider during the second year of the 75th Legislative Session, House Information staff writers asked House committee chairs and administrators about what's ahead. They inquired about issues that committees might take up, the reasons for consideration, and possible committee action. Some committees, at this point, have definite agendas; others are still open. The issues are not necessarily in the order of importance. With this in mind, here are the survey results.

AGRICULTURE

Chair: Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls)

Interest buy-downs on operating loans

Reasons for consideration

- continuing need for interest buy-downs

Possible committee action

- relax restrictions and extend for an additional year interest-buy-downs on farm operating expenses

Milk prices

Reasons for consideration

- current law allows the sale of milk at prices not commensurate with prices farmers receive

Possible committee action

- increase restrictions as applicable to the Unfair Dairy Practices Act

Foreign trade

Reasons for consideration

- the need for agricultural trade with Europe

Possible committee action

- establishment of a Minnesota Trade Office in Germany

APPROPRIATIONS

Chair: Glen Anderson (DFL-Bellingham)

Highway funding

Reasons for consideration

- proposals and needs for additional highway funding need examination

Possible committee action

- review proposals and recommendations
- send a bill to the floor for consideration if the the committee approves a highway funding bill

Capital bonding

Reasons for consideration

- allocate necessary funds for building needs across Minnesota

Possible committee action

- consider bonding requests and recommendations
- send a bill to the floor for consideration if the committee approves a capital bonding bill

Higher education catch-up funding

Reasons for consideration

- calculations of present reimbursements to state universities and community colleges are on 1986 enrollment figures;

current enrollments for state universities are approximately 5,077 above the 1986 figures; enrollments for community colleges are approximately 3,529 above the 1986 figures for 1988 funding, and 2,429 above the 1987 figures used to calculate the 1989 funding.

Possible committee action

- hear proposals from state universities and community colleges requesting additional funding due to unanticipated and dramatic enrollment increases

Agriculture, Transportation & Semi-State Division/ APPROPS

Chair: Jim Rice (DFL-Mpls)

Transportation funding

Reasons for consideration

- to fund for transportation services

Possible committee action

- review the Transportation Finance Study Commission's report and consider study recommendations
- develop and recommend a funding package for transportation

Metro mobility

Reasons for consideration

- the Regional Transit Board (RTB) short fall of \$7.2 million due to increased caseload

Possible committee action

- review RTB funding

Light rail transit

Reasons for consideration

- perceived need to improve state transportation system through use of light rail transit

Possible committee action

- select site or sites for light rail development

Education Division/ APPROPS

Chair: Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal)

Higher Education supplemental budget requests

Possible committee action

- review underfunded higher education programs
- allocate available monies to selected higher education programs

Bonding bill

Possible committee action

- authorize construction of various projects on campuses statewide, if there is a bonding bill

Health & Human Services Division/APPROPS

Chair: Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls)

Information unavailable at print deadline.

State Departments Division/ APPROP

Chair: Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls)

Budget

Reasons for consideration

- the 1987-1989 biennial budget proposals require review

Possible committee action

- review governor's capital and operational budget requests

1987 budget review

Reasons for consideration

- problems found during the 1987 budget review

Possible committee action

- study problems found during the 1987 budget review, including but not limited to the Minnesota Veterans Home, Information Policy Office, the Minnesota Zoo, and the cost effectiveness of state owned versus rented office facilities

Funding requests

Reasons for consideration

- the recognition of new legislative initiatives

Possible committee action

- consider funding sources for new legislative initiatives, such as the Environmental Trust Fund

COMMERCE

Chair: John Sarna (DFL-Mpls)

Board of Accountancy

Reasons for consideration

- strengthen requirements for taking the certified public accountant examination
- need to develop standard of care for the practice of accounting with regard to responsibility to clients

Possible committee action

- hold public hearing on HF1019 (Rest, DFL-New Hope) which would set forth experience and education requirements for certified public accountants, allow the Board of Accountancy to require licensees to undergo a quality review as a condition to license renewal, and eliminate cooperative auditing service licensing

Self-storage lien

Reasons for consideration

- increase in self storage facilities statewide
- need to clarify applicable law for owners and tenants

Possible committee action

- hold public hearing on HF181 (Ogren, DFL-Aitkin) which would allow owners of self storage facilities to put a lien on the personal property of a delinquent tenant

Department of Commerce Security bill

Possible committee action

- modify and clarify certain provisions of the securities, real estate, and unclaimed property statutes, which the Department of Commerce administers

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING

Chair: Todd Otis (DFL-Mpls)

Economic development

Reasons for consideration

- opportunities and assistance for new and expanding businesses
- local independence
- job opportunities and training, particularly in distressed urban and rural areas of the state
- adequate job training and retraining programs

Possible committee action

- promote economic development
- assist dislocated workers

Housing

Reasons for consideration

- recourse for buyers of defective housing
- protection of tenants' rights to adequate housing

Possible committee action

- require written disclosure of defects in residential housing prior to sale
- increase penalties for landlords renting condemned property

EDUCATION

Chair: Bob McEachern (DFL-Maple Lake)

Minnesota State High School League

Reasons for consideration

- operation and spending practices of the league

Possible committee action

- restructure the league
- change membership of the league's board of directors

Voluntary regional desegregation

Reasons for consideration

- state responsibility in desegregation

Possible committee action

- offer incentives to suburban school districts to encourage participation in urban school district desegregation

School facilities

Reasons for consideration

- safe learning environment for students
- Minnesota's aging and/or deteriorating school buildings

Possible committee action

- increase appropriation for school repair and improvement
- improve safety standards

Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

Chair: Ken Nelson (DFL-Mpls)

School district funding

Reasons for consideration

- districts need more money than currently allocated

Possible committee action

- raise foundation formula
- raise "hold-harmless" dollar amount

At-risk prevention program

Reasons for consideration

- early prevention of school failure

Possible committee action

- fund programs designed for four-year-olds who are screened as "at-risk" for school failure

Youth service

Reasons for consideration

- citizenship education through community service

Possible committee action

- develop a comprehensive bill-funding effort to increase community service opportunities for youth 19 years old or younger

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

Chair: Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth)

Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund

Reasons for consideration

- environmental and natural resources programs usually not funded properly
- preservation and conservation funding and programs are losing ground
- Minnesota's economy depends on natural resources

- the Legislature needs to provide for future natural resources needs

Possible committee action

- fund long-term environmental and natural resource programs
- protect environment for future generations
- provide needed research

Comprehensive recycling proposal

Reasons for consideration

- landfills filling up rapidly
- Minnesotans using too much new material, depleting resources

- proposal would create jobs in recycling, manufacturing industries

- plastics last forever in landfill, no decomposition occurs

Possible committee action

- increase public awareness of need for recycling
- reduce amount of waste going to landfills
- create markets for recyclable materials

Hazardous waste

Reasons for consideration

- federal law requires state plan for hazardous waste
- industry creates a growing amount of hazardous waste
- business needs an end to liability for waste after proper treatment
- state needs to help provide an opportunity for in-state treatment to discourage illegal dumping

Possible committee action

- increase environmental protection efforts
- increase public participation in treatment, storage, and cleanup
- force cleanup of contaminated sites

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

Chair: Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls)

Interstate banking

Reasons for consideration

- development of a strong regional banking system

Possible committee action

- expand reciprocal interstate banking region

Flood insurance

Reasons for consideration

- 1987 torrential summer rains revealed inadequate homeowners' insurance protections against flood damage

Possible committee action

- increase homeowners' policy coverage to include water damage

Omnibus insurance bill

Reasons for consideration

- increase consumer protections in the areas of life, health, and property/casualty insurance

Possible committee action

- general changes in insurance laws

FUTURE & TECHNOLOGY

Chair: Leo Reding (DFL-Austin)

Advanced Manufacturing Research Center

Reasons for consideration

- small-and medium-sized manufacturing companies need updated technology; a research center would provide resources to improve productivity

Possible committee action

- conduct needs assessment
- propose the establishment of an advanced manufacturing research center

University of Minnesota Institute of Technology (IT)

Reasons for consideration

- to insure that the IT maintains up-to-date equipment and facilities to maintain a high rank among science and engineering colleges

Possible committee action

- review equipment inventory and facility needs
- recommend necessary funding

GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & GAMING

Chair: Richard Kostohryz (DFL-North St. Paul)

Lottery

Reasons for consideration

- increase state revenue
- a constitutional amendment would give Minnesotans the opportunity to vote for or against the lottery

Possible committee action

- review bills to establish a lottery after voters approve a constitutional amendment

Veterans Home

Reasons for consideration

- veterans want the Department of Veterans Affairs to manage the home instead of the Department of Human Services

- the home should represent quality health care in Minnesota

Possible committee action

- move jurisdiction of Veterans Home back to Department of Veterans Affairs

- review health standards and develop appropriate guidelines

Fund raising during session

Reasons for consideration

- to look at whether the issue affects legislators' productivity and independence
- to examine how voters feel about legislators campaigning during session

Possible committee action

- consider issues
- develop guidelines

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Chair: Wayne Simoneau (DFL-Fridley)

Information unavailable at print deadline

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Chair: Paul Anders Ogren (DFL-Aitkin)

Children's health insurance

Reasons for consideration

- children are covered only until age six and coverage is for outpatient services only
- availability of federal money

Possible committee action

- expand the breadth of coverage
- extend age limits

Guaranteed health insurance

Reasons for consideration

- 450,000 Minnesotans are without health insurance; although medical assistance is available for the very poor and most employers offer coverage, there are still many people such as farmers, small business owners and their employees who don't have access to insurance benefits.

Possible committee action

- initiate full committee discussion through testimony and hearings

HMO solvency and requirements

Reasons for consideration

- the pullout of four health maintenance organizations (HMOs) in 28 rural counties and failure of two HMOs shows the need to prevent insolvencies to

protect enrollees' rights

- to consider the need for replacement coverage if an HMO moves from the area

Possible committee action

- prevent insolvencies and develop contingency plans
- increase cancellation notification times and require conversion policies
- improve HMO/enrollee communications and rights

HIGHER EDUCATION

Chair: Mike Jaros (DFL-Duluth)

University of Minnesota: governance and structure

Reasons for consideration

- effect of the current structure on coordinate campuses

Possible committee action

- hear public testimony

Community College System, Technical Institutes

Reasons for consideration

- need to look at whether the two systems should merge

Possible committee action

- review proposal for merger, HF1100 (Larsen, DFL-Ramsey)
- hear testimony

Board of Regents

Reasons for consideration

- guidelines for selecting candidates

Possible committee action

- review selection process
- recommend new guidelines

JUDICIARY

Chair: Randy Kelly (DFL-St. Paul)

Permanency planning for children (termination of parental rights)

Reasons for consideration

- children are languishing in foster care
- current process to terminate parental rights is difficult

Possible committee action

- speed up court proceedings and government agencies' decisions
- make a child's best interest most important

Living wills

Reasons for consideration

- to encourage decision-making before one becomes incompetent
- clarify the legality of such documents

Possible committee action

- recognize living wills
- recognize living wills only under limited circumstances
- leave it to the courts

Surrogate contracts

Reasons for consideration

- these arrangements are occurring and legal questions are bound to arise

Possible committee action

- make surrogate contracts unenforceable
- regulate surrogate contracts
- let the courts decide

Crime & Family Law Division/JUDICIARY

Chair: Kathleen Vellenga (DFL-St. Paul)

Child abuse

Reasons for consideration

- an increase in the number of child abuse reports has burdened the system
- study of child abuse subjects for six months shows some cases dropped, others ignored

Possible committee action

- increase training requirements and training availability for child protection workers and judges
- create cleaner policy guidelines on termination of parental rights
- encourage judicial use of advocates

Surrogate mothers (contract parenting)

Reasons for consideration

- contract parenting is a profit-making venture—surrogate mothers and attorneys who arrange such contracts each receive \$10,000
- custody disputes arise when a surrogate mother changes her mind

Possible committee action

- HF1647 (Bishop, IR-Rochester) would recognize and regulate contracts
- HF1584 (Kelly, DFL-St. Paul) would make contracts not enforceable
- HF1701 (Rest, DFL-New Hope) would make contracts not enforceable, profit-making a felony, and would prohibit advertising

Child support/visitation*Reasons for consideration*

- non-custodial parents believe their visitation rights aren't upheld, and that children of subsequent marriages don't get a fair share
- custodial parents cite figures that show women and children increasingly live in poverty following divorce

Possible committee action

- strengthen non-custodial parents' rights
- strengthen support provisions

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

Chair: Joe Begich (DFL-Eveleth)

Workers' compensation*Reasons for consideration*

- high premium cost to small businesses
- workers must go through complex system
- questions on the insurance industry and the rates they charge
- questions on injured worker rehabilitation

Possible committee action

- review a report on the worker's compensation system and consider study recommendations
- reduce workers' compensation costs and premiums

Railroad acquisitions*Reasons for consideration*

- an increasing number of railroads are being sold without public discussion or financial disclosures
- employees' rights may be violated as a result of some railroad acquisitions
- some newly formed railroad companies may not be following railroad safety guidelines

Possible committee action

- take action on HF1486 (Beard, DFL-Cottage Grove) which would regulate the sale of railroad companies, including railroad acquisition reporting, investigations, and disclosure requirements

Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA)*Reasons for consideration*

- employee deaths in certain industries have increased
- businesses' failure to pay violation fines

Possible committee action

- increase penalties for businesses that violate OSHA standards where the violation causes or contributes to an employee's death
- increase penalties and assessments for businesses that fail to pay fines for past OSHA violations

Unemployment Insurance & Workers' Compensation Division/LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

Chair: Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown)

See Labor-Management Relations: Workers' compensation

LOCAL & URBAN AFFAIRS

Chair: David Battaglia (DFL-Two Harbors)

State mandates*Reasons for consideration*

- regulation of the development, imposition, and management of state mandates on local units of government
- lack of funding for state-mandated services
- state reimbursement to localities for costs of state mandates
- need for method to review mandates or administrative rules and the fiscal impact they have on local government.

Possible committee action

- improve fiscal note process for state-mandated actions
- create a division of state and local mandate to review state mandates and administrative rules and the fiscal impact they have on local governments
- require any bills the Legislature introduces that impose a mandate on local governments to state program goals, performance standards, and fiscal implications

Land-use planning recodification*Reasons for consideration*

- land-use law is presently in three different sections of *Minnesota Statutes*
- land-use planning process varies between local units of government; needs uniformity throughout state

- conflicts exist between local units of government on zoning issues

Possible committee action

- combine land-use laws into one law
- streamline land-use planning process
- provide unified land-use planning process for townships, counties, and cities

Pay equity and aid to local units of government*Reasons for consideration*

- some local units of government are not complying with pay equity laws in a timely manner
- state needs to encourage local units of government to comply with pay equity laws

Possible committee action

- restrict/reduce aid to local units of government that are not in compliance with state pay equity laws
- require local units of government to report to the Minnesota Department of Employee Relations on implementation of pay equity plans

METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

Chair: Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul)

Vehicle emission inspections*Reasons for consideration*

- conformance with Environmental Protection Agency standards regarding vehicle emissions
- carbon monoxide is harmful to health

Possible committee action

- explore legislation mandating vehicle emission inspections

Funding for Metro Mobility*Reasons for consideration*

- to expand service to those not receiving service

Possible committee action

- increase funding and establish a policy statement for Metro Mobility

Metropolitan governance*Reasons for consideration*

- interim hearings concerning metropolitan governance indicate a possible need for changes

Possible committee action

- changes in metropolitan governance

Affirmative action*Reasons for consideration*

- compliance with affirmative action program

Possible committee action

- examine implementation of affirmative action program by metropolitan agencies

REGULATED INDUSTRIES

Chair: Joel Jacobs (DFL-Coon Rapids)

Telephone costs*Reasons for consideration*

- more affordable telephone service

Possible committee action

- adjust 1987 deregulation bill
- expand eligibility of Telephone Assistance Program

Telephone services*Reasons for consideration*

- protection of consumer interests

Possible committee action

- regulate 976 (toll call) services
- increase restrictions on automatic dialing devices

Alcohol sales*Reasons for consideration*

- state restriction of alcohol sales

Possible committee action

- legalize sale of wine in grocery stores
- expand hours of Thanksgiving Eve sales

RULES AND LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

Chair: Rep. Ann Wynia (DFL-St. Paul)

Possible committee action

- make administrative decisions

TAXES

Chair: Gordon Voss (DFL-Blaine)

Restoring the Property Tax Refund and Renters' Credit*Reasons for consideration*

- restoration of the property tax refund and renters' credit

Possible committee action

- seek to restore property tax refund and renters' credit; committee has scheduled this issue for the first meeting of the

session due to strong public support of restoration at interim hearings throughout the state

Highway and transportation funding*Reasons for consideration*

- the Taxes Committee must review all bills impacting taxes

Possible committee action

- review the revenue and tax policy aspects of highway funding legislation the Transportation Committee initiates (and any alternative highway revenues)

Omnibus tax bill*Reasons for consideration*

- property tax reform to address unequal local tax bases and the need for greater fairness, efficiency, and accountability; an update of the federal tax code; technical and policy amendments to Minnesota tax laws; and adjustments for the revised revenue forecast and any revenue or funding enactments

Possible committee action

- review and act on these issues

Property Taxes Division/TAXES

Chair: Lona A. Minne (DFL-Hibbing)

Property Taxes

- See Taxes: Restoring the Property Tax Refund and Renters' Credit

Property tax administration*Reason for consideration*

- make administration of property tax laws and procedures easier for auditors and assessors to implement

Possible committee action

- housekeeping and general administration changes

Tax Laws Division/TAXES

Chair: Dee Long (DFL-Mpls)

Corporate taxes*Possible committee action*

- technical, policy, or revenue adjustments in the area of corporate taxes
- substantive corporate tax issues the full committee may refer to the division

TRANSPORTATION

Chair: Henry Kalis (DFL-Walters)

Transportation funding*Reasons for consideration*

- escalating highway construction costs
- cutbacks in highway improvement projects
- public transit assistance
- alternative funding for transportation services

Possible committee action

- review the Transportation Finance Study Commission's report and consider study recommendations
- increase the state gasoline tax by three cents per gallon, effective April 1, 1988
- increase from 5 percent to 35 percent the share of Motor Vehicle Excess Tax revenues going to transportation, effective July 15, 1988

Transportation Study Board*Reasons for consideration*

- need for a long-range plan to define the state's transportation needs and to formulate methods of meeting those needs, including long-term sources of financing

Possible committee action

- create a Transportation Study Board of legislators and a broad cross-section of the public, including representatives of business, labor, manufacturing, agriculture, tourism and other major highway users, to prepare a long-range study of transportation needs and funding

WAYS & MEANS

Chair: Robert Vanasek (DFL-New Prague)

1988-89 revenue forecast*Possible committee action*

- overview of 1988-89 governor's forecast

1988-89 governor's budget*Possible committee action*

- overview of governor's recommendations

1988 capital budget*Possible committee action*

- overview of governor's 1988 capital budget request

COMING UP NEXT WEEK...

ADVANCE COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

February 8-12, 1988

This schedule is subject to change. For information, call House Calls at (612) 296-9283 or contact Dorothy Sawyer at (612) 296-2146. All meetings are open to the public.

Monday, Feb. 8

12:00 noon

Task Force on Affirmative Action/ METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peter McLaughlin

Agenda: Legal background; charge to task force; plans for proceeding.

2:00 p.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Sun Ray Library, 2105 Wilson Ave., St. Paul

Chr. Rep. Paul Anders Ogren

Agenda: HFxxx (Trimble) Child care coordinating and quality.

Tuesday, Feb. 9

2:00 p.m.

The House will meet in Session.

Wednesday, Feb. 10

8:00 a.m.

Health & Human Services Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Department of Health - overview of recent changes in federal grants, department structure and staffing.

8:30 a.m.

School Facilities Subcommittee/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Joe Quinn

Agenda: Testimony on the conditions of school facilities in suburban districts.

10:00 a.m.

Agriculture Finance Subcommittee/AGRICULTURE

Basement Hearing Room

Chr. Rep. Wally Sparby

Agenda: Interest buy down bill.

HIGHER EDUCATION

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros

Agenda: Governance of the University of Minnesota as it relates to the coordinate campuses.

METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Update on interim activities of subcommittees and committee.

12:00 noon

TRANSPORTATION

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: HFxxx (Kalis) Highway funding package; motor vehicle excise tax transfer and gas tax.

2:00 p.m.

Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ken Nelson

Agenda: Response from Duluth, Mpls., and St. Paul to Department of Education Desegregation Cost Study and other desegregation issues; cost of living study.

Thursday, Feb. 11

8:30 a.m.

State Departments Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: Management Study of Veterans Home.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wayne Simoneau

Agenda: HF1705 (Simoneau) State government; restoring certain duties of the state treasurer.

10:00 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger
Agenda: To be announced.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Paul Anders Ogren
Agenda: HFxxx (Trimble) Child care development; HF421 (Ogren) Health Department subpoena authority; HFxxx (Battaglia) Providing for swing bed payments under medical assistance for sole community nursing homes; HFxxx (Segal) Children's mental health plan.

2:00 p.m.

The House will meet in Session.

Friday, Feb. 12

8:00 a.m.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
Chr. Rep. Randy Kelly
Agenda: HF402 (Reding) Obscenity; prohibiting distribution and exhibition of obscene materials and performances; HFxxx (Kelly) Crime victims; authorizing the Crime Victims Reparations Board to pay costs of returning an abducted child home; HF297 (Long) Real property; creating a lien against real property for expenses incurred by agencies to protect public health, safety or the environment; HF1710 (Vellenga) Crime; prohibiting the display of sexually explicit material to minors in places of public accommodation; HFxxx (Kelly) Statutes; directing the revisor of statutes to assign chapter numbers.

Public Finance Subcommittee/ TAXES

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ann Rest
Agenda: Discussion of county bonding authority for capital projects.

10:00 a.m.

Government Structures Subcommittee/METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phil Carruthers
Agenda: Metropolitan Council metropolitan significance rules.

12:00 noon

Environment Subcommittee/ METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Darby Nelson
Agenda: Air quality standards and vehicle emission controls.



Session Weekly is a publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 1988 Legislative Session, each issue reports daily House action Thursday (2 p.m.) to Thursday (2 p.m.) each week, lists bill introductions and advance committee schedules, and provides other information. The publication is a service of the Minnesota House. No fee. To subscribe, contact:
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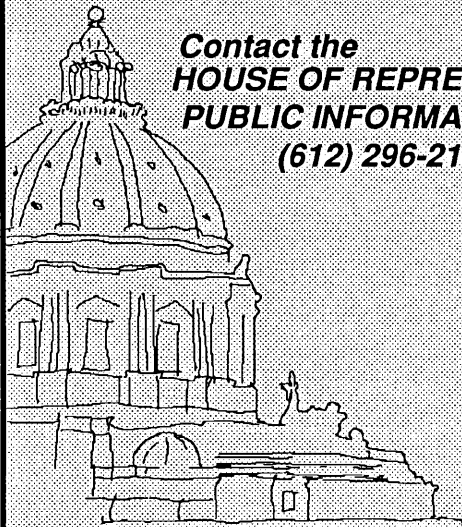
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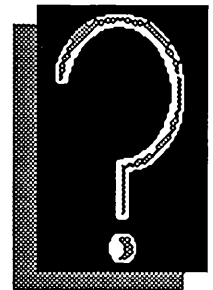
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Do You Know



In 1987, the 75th Legislative Session met from Jan. 6 to May 18, and will meet again beginning Feb. 9. Since 1973, the Legislature has met for a biennium (two-year) session beginning in January of each odd-numbered year. By May of the first year, they adjourn temporarily, setting a certain date to return next year. At the end of the second year, they adjourn *sine die* (without a certain date) until January of the next year.

In 1887, the 25th Legislative Session met from Jan. 4 to March 4, then adjourned *sine die*. In the 1800s, the Legislature met only every other year.

Currently, the House of Representatives has 134 members; the Senate 67. Just over 100 years ago, the House had 103 members; the Senate 47.

So far, in this biennium, legislators have introduced 1,688 House bills and 1,553 Senate bills. More will come in 1988. In 1887, they introduced 994 House bills and 681 Senate bills.

Last year alone, the governor signed 405 bills. In 1887, the governor signed 175 bills into law.