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April 6, 1990 bession Volume 7 Number 9 eek Minnesota House of Representatives

It's a fact!

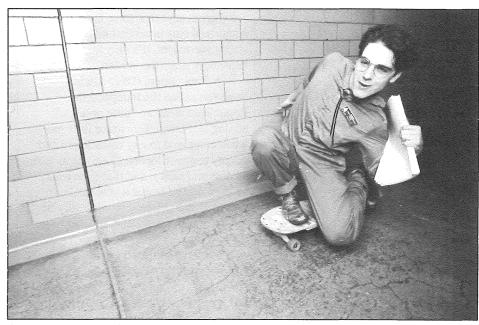
The first centers of government for Minnesota were in Paris and Madrid. Sound strange? Yes, but it's often forgotten that Minnesota was once part of territories staked out by France, Spain, and England.

St. Paul is actually our tenth capital, although it's the only one Minnesota has ever known since it was declared a territory in 1849.

In 1671, the land that is now known as Minnesota was under the flag of France, who later secretly ceded it to Spain in 1762. But in 1800, Spain ceded the Louisiana Territory back to France. Three years later, in 1803, Napoleon, who was strapped for cash, sold the vast territory to the United States for \$15 million.

In September 1805, explorer Zebulon Pike landed on the western side of an island at the mouth of the Mississippi River, where he raised the first American flag to fly over Minnesota.

Since that time, the land that comprises Minnesota has been included within the territorial boundaries of Indiana, Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, and Wisconsin.



As the pace quickens in the remaining days of this Legislative Session, House page Bob Boyd uses a skateboard in the Capitol tunnel to deliver bills and other documents.

# Highlights

### Minnesota-made pulltabs

Pulltabs sold in Minnesota would have to be manufactured in the state under an amendment the Taxes Committee approved April 4.

Rep. Joe Quinn (DFL-Coon Rapids) says requiring the pulltabs to be made in Minnesota would give the state more control over the industry.

"If we do not get control of manufacturing and distribution [of pulltabs] . . . it will be absolutely impossible for us to get any control of gaming in Minnesota," says Quinn, the author of a major lawful gambling regulation bill.

Bill Clower, a pulltab distributor for 13 years, says a small number of manufacturers control the industry by granting credit, fixing prices, restricting supply, and occasionally threatening violence. Clower says a manufacturer once told him that if he didn't buy all his pulltab products from him, he'd have both his legs broken.

Quinn says 20 manufacturers have licenses to sell equipment in the state, but because they're in 16 different states, they escape regulation and oversight by state officials. The provision would take effect July 1, 1992.

The committee also removed a sunset provision within the bill that would have phased out lawful gambling in Minnesota after July 1, 1993. The sunset would have required the Legislature to reauthorize lawful gambling for it to have continued.

The provision calling for Minnesotamade pulltabs was amended to a major gambling regulation and enforcement bill, HF2005, which passed the House April 5. Session Weekly

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#### Salary freeze

A proposal to freeze scheduled increases in legislators' salaries in 1991 and 1992 was rejected by the House on a 68-51 vote April 2.

Bill sponsor Steve Sviggum (IR-Kenyon) told lawmakers they should forego their 6 percent salary increases in 1991 and 1992 to help alleviate the state's budget shortfall. Salaries are scheduled to increase from the current \$26,395 per year to \$29,657 in 1992.

Sviggum says that since lawmakers authorized cuts in several other areas of state government, it's only fair that legislators share the burden.

Rep. Paul Ogren, (DFL-Aitkin), however, called the Independent-Republican measure "pure politics," adding that lawmakers make little money when compared to city councilmen and county commissioners. "Legislators earn an absymal salary, and that's the truth," he says, and adds that a vote on the proposed salary freeze would really be "a matter of self respect and whether or not we have any."

"I happen to think I'm worth the salary I'm getting," says Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), whose state departments' bill was given final approval by the House on a 68-56 vote.

#### 'No' to fewer legislators

The House decided that fewer isn't necessarily better when it defeated an amendment that would have reduced legislative membership from 201 to 147.

"We have the largest Senate in the United States," argues amendment sponsor Rep. Jerry Knickerbocker (IR-Minnetonka), noting the state has the 11th largest House of Representatives in the country.

Having fewer legislators means the ones in office must be more knowledgeable and more accountable, Knickerbocker says. Also, they would serve the interest of the entire state instead of their representative district.

Opponents say the amendment would make it harder for constituents to talk to their representatives because of potentially greater distance. They also say the measure would lead to a professional legislature, rather than the current citizen legislature. Knickerbocker attempted to add the amendment to HF2419, the state department's budget bill.

#### Taxes or fees?

The Appropriations Committee has no business imposing taxes and calling them fees, the House decided April 2 when it deleted two fees from the state departments' appropriations bill.

Fees on cigarettes and liquors are, in reality, taxes, says Rep. Paul Ogren (DFL-Aitkin), who sponsored the amendment to eliminate the additional tax/fees on cigarettes and alcohol,

The bill would have required cigarette distributors to pay a one-cent fee per carton, and spirits manufacturers and distributors to pay a .002-cent tax per liter on liquors and wines.

The fees could have been used to help the Department of Revenue enforce current tax laws, says Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), chair of the Appropriations Committee's State Departments Division.

But Ogren, the Taxes Committee chair, says the issue should have been decided by his panel because "a tax is a tax is a tax, just like a rose."

Kahn defends the division's authority to establish fees. She says the Appropriations Committee decides policies regarding fees, and these were in fact fees, not taxes.

HF2419 was sent to the Senate for further discussion.

#### Boards' drug sanctions

Business and professional licensing boards would be required to establish policies on sanctions that would be imposed on board members who are convicted of drug offenses if a bill the House approved April 3 becomes law.

Under an amendment attached to the omnibus drug bill (Kelly, DFL-St. Paul), licensing boards would be required to determine the sanctions, ranging from a warning for a first offense and/or the revocation of a license for serious or repeat offenses. Some type of disciplinary action would be required under the bill.

"It's important we stop seeing the casual user as a benign problem," says Rep. Linda Runbeck (IR-Circle Pines), author of the amendment. "We need to

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make them more accountable."

One way to do that, Runbeck says, is to tie people's drug use to their employment.

HF1843 was approved on a 128-2 vote. A similar bill is pending before the Senate.

#### Real cheese

Suspicious about that cheese dog you ate for dinner last night? A bill that would require restaurants and retailers who use artificial cheese to post signs noting that fact passed the House April 4 on a 83-48 vote after a lengthy debate.

"I believe consumers have a right to know what they're eating," says bill sponsor Andy Steensma (DFL-Luverne), adding that it was a "pro-dairy" bill for Minnesota.

Opponents of the measure, however, call it "negative advertising" and say it might intimidate establishments from using cheese for fear of scaring off customers who are unable to eat it because of medical reasons.

Some lawmakers also asked about the cost of developing and enforcing rules for the bill. Steensma's measure contains no appropriation.

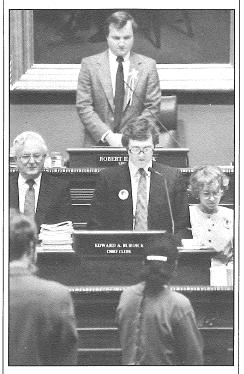
Lawmakers rejected an amendment offered by Rep. Steve Sviggum (IR-Kenyon) that would have exempted establishments from posting signs if they provided customers, upon request, a notice of foods served that contained artificial cheese.

HF173 awaits Senate action.

#### Local call status

People from New Prague and other outlying suburbs currently have to pay long-distance rates for some calls made to Minneapolis. But that could change if a bill the House approved on a 113-13 vote April 3 becomes law — although it may result in increased telephone rates for metro telephone users.

The measure, sponsored by Rep. Joel Jacobs (DFL-Coon Rapids), would allow eight area telephone exchanges whose wire services are located within the seven county metro region to become part of the metro Extended Area Service (EAS) if residents in the exchange approve admittance after being informed of the costs involved.



Jerry Wetterling gave the invocation before the House floor session April 4 and asked for the safe return of his son, Jacob, who was abducted last October. He was joined by his wife, Patty, at right. Chief Clerk Edward A. Burdick is on the left, and House Speaker Robert Vanasek is behind them.

Other exchange areas within the sevencounty metro region could also enter the EAS but they would have to petition the Public Utilities Commission for "local call" status and meet a variety of conditions. These conditions include that at least half the customers in the area requesting the extended service make one or more calls per month to the area they want included in the toll-free zone.

Several metropolitan area legislators spoke against the measure because of anticipated increased costs.

"The Twin Cities already encompasses the largest telecommunications area," says Rep. Ron Abrams (IR-Minnetonka). "This bill will expand it more and metro people will have to pay these costs."

Under the bill, existing EAS members would pay 25 percent of the expansion costs and people petitioning for the extended service would pay the rest.

While actual phone bill increases depend on the number of areas added to the metro EAS, Abrams says metro phone bills could go up as much as 24 cents per month.

#### Video pulltab machines 🖿

A proposal to give Minnesota pulltab gamblers another game of choice was defeated on a 75-49 vote on the House floor April 5.

The provision that was approved earlier by the Appropriations Committee would have permitted the installation of 100 video pulltab machines in charitable gambling establishments on a trial basis.

Monitoring these machines would give the state information on whether video pulltabs are less susceptible to skimming and rigging than paper pulltabs.

Video pulltab machines are electronic devices that visually simulate the peeling open of a pulltab when a coin or token is inserted into the machine. Winning tickets are determined by an electronic chip. The machines don't dispense money.

"There are a lot of ways to cheat in paper pulltabs," said Rep. Don Frerichs (IR-Rochester), during the committee meeting. Sellers know which pulltabs are high-percentage winners, he said. They may sell these to friends and/or collect a percentage of the winnings. On the other hand, video pulltabs can't be manipulated in this way, according to some people who testified at the meeting. "I've been told video pulltabs are 99 percent foolproof," he said. "And I don't know how anyone would rig it. It's a real game of chance."

Rep. Peter Rodosovich (DFL-Faribault) questioned the 99 percent foolproof rate and spoke against the video pulltab machines.

"If the Gambling Control Board is right and 80 percent of Minnesota's charitable gambling is out of compliance, why are we adding another level of gambling before we have the current problems under control?" asked Rodosovich in the committee meeting.

Legalized use of video pulltab machines is part of a major bill (SF2018) that tightens charitable gambling regulations.

The use of video pulltabs is expected to be reconsidered in conference committee.



State Court Administrator Sue Dosal, Court Personnel Director Judith Rehak, and Chief Justice D. D. Wozniak of the Minnesota Court of Appeals, *left-right*, listen intently to the debate on the state departments appropriations bill April 2.

#### Governor's veto

A bill that would have given judges discretion concerning pre-sentencing reports was vetoed by Gov. Rudy Perpich.

"By eliminating pre-sentence investigations for may defendants, this bill would remove the opportunity for the crime victim to address the court, request restitution, or express a sentencing preference," Perpich wrote in his veto message. The Senate sponsor of the bill asked that it be vetoed because several groups raised opposition to it after it was approved. The measure had no known opposition as it moved through the House and Senate.

It would have given judges the authority to waive a pre-sentencing report in cases where the defendant would go to prison under the state's sentencing guidelines.

Judges have such powers now in misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor cases. The bill the governor vetoed would have extended that power to certain felony cases.

The bill, vetoed April 3, was the first of the 1990 session that the governor didn't sign.

#### Eurasian milfoil

Lawmakers, hoping to keep 11,825 of Minnesota's 11,842 lakes free of Eurasian water milfoil, approved a bill April 4 that would require boat owners to clean their boats before transporting them from one body of water to another.

Eurasian water milfoil, a carpet-like plant that spreads rapidly once introduced to a body of water, has contaminated 17 lakes and several rivers in and around the Twin Cities metro area, says Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), sponsor of the milfoil bill in the House. He says the weed could be controlled by chemical treatment or harvesting.

"This is an ounce of prevention type bill," says Skoglund. "If we don't do something, it's going to be in every other lake in the state."

Skoglund says boat owners who don't remove the milfoil before moving their boats to another body of water could be charged with a misdemeanor offense.

The bill (SF1670) was unanimously approved by the House and was sent back to the Senate for reconsideration. The House changed the Senate's version of the bill, so the measure now must be approved again by the Senate.

The Department of Natural Resources recognizes 11,842 lakes in the state.

#### Honeybee compensation

People whose honeybee colonies suffered losses during the spraying for grasshoppers during the recent drought would be compensated by the state under a bill approved April 3 by the Agriculture, Transportation and Semi-State Division of the Appropriations Committee.

The proposal would entitle the owners of honeybee colonies to the fair market value of lost honey production because of the pesticide spraying. It would also compensate owners for the cost of replacing the colonies damaged or destroyed by the pesticides.

Compensation by the Department of Agriculture would only apply after insurance policies, federal programs, and other types of compensation for loss of honeybee colonies and honey production have been exhausted.

HF1808 will go to the Appropriations Committee for further consideration.

#### Targeted group businesses

Businesses run by women, minorities, and the handicapped would be targeted for more state contracts under a bill the House approved on a 129-1 vote, April 3.

The bill would establish a program for state agencies to purchase goods and services from these targeted businesses. It would also give the Department of Administration the authority to require prime contractors to subcontract portions of a contract to targeted businesses.

This program is one way to remedy past discrimination against members of these targeted groups, says Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls), author of the bill.

In addition, the bill would allow small businesses located in economically disadvantaged areas to be given priority on their bids for state contracts. The small businesses would be given preference when the bids are up to 4 percent more than the lowest one.

Businesses can be classified as economically disadvantaged if they are a rehabilitation facility or work activity program, if they are located in an area designated as a labor surplus area by the United States Department of Labor, or if the business is located in a county where the median income for married couples is less than 70 percent of the state median.

Jefferson says the bill is in reponse to a Department of Administration and University of Minnesota study that concluded businesses run by women, minorities, and the handicapped are discriminated against.

A measure similar to HF2230 is pending in the Senate.

#### Racial bias in the courts

The Minnesota Supreme Court would receive \$25,000 from the Legislature in 1991 to establish a task force to study racial bias in the court system if a bill the Appropriations Committee approved April 4 becomes law.

The study would examine the extent to which racial bias exists in the courts, including the discriminatory treatment of litigants, witnesses, jurors, judges, attorneys, and court personnel who are members of minority races.

It would try to identify minority representation or under representation in various positions within the court system. The study group would also examine sentencing patterns to find out if the length or conditions of sentences vary based on defendants' race.

The task force would report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature by January 1993.

#### **Freer freebies**

Free community newspapers may not be tossed out of their distribution boxes like yesterday's news thanks to a bill the governor signed.

The law would prohibit exclusive contracts to display free newspapers for distribution in public places such as malls or in business entrances. When the bill was first heard in the Commerce Committee, neighborhood newspaper officials said they discovered their publications had been removed because they were not included in the exclusive contracts.

They also said the cost of such contracts was imposing a financial burden on some smaller community newspapers.

Bill sponsor Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul) says the measure doesn't prohibit the contract, but bars its exclusiveness. A business owner may sign a contract with a newspaper distributor for space, but the owner may also allow the display of free journals.

The law (HF2594) went into effect March 31 and applies to contracts entered into or renewed on or after that date.

#### Gambling 'strike force'

A proposal to add a seven-person criminal investigation team to the Department of Revenue to probe tax fraud in the lawful gambling industry was approved by the House April 2 — despite strong objections from many House members.

A bid to remove the team, which would enforce charitable gambling tax laws and deal with other criminal violations in the lawful, or charitable, gambling industry, was narrowly defeated on a 60-61 vote.

Rep. Joe Quinn (DFL-Coon Rapids) offered an amendment to the state departments' bill that would remove what he called the "strike force," saying the Department of Revenue doesn't want enhanced police powers to enforce charitable gambling tax compliance.

He added that the Department of Public Safety is more qualified to do the policing of charitable gambling.

"We have a police force in this state, we have people with guns and flak

jackets, we have people licensed and trained to go underground," says Quinn.

But Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), the sponsor of the state departments bill that called for language to create the team, says that those two divisions aren't qualified to deal with criminal tax investigations. "We're looking at tax policy and seeing if we're getting our proper tax money. We're not looking at blazing guns going into the VFW clubs." she says.

Currently, the department has four positions to enforce charitable gambling tax laws.

Quinn's amend-

ment also attempted to remove a provision in the state departments' bill that would give the Attorney General's Office the primary jurisdiction over county attorneys in prosecuting charitable gambling violations.

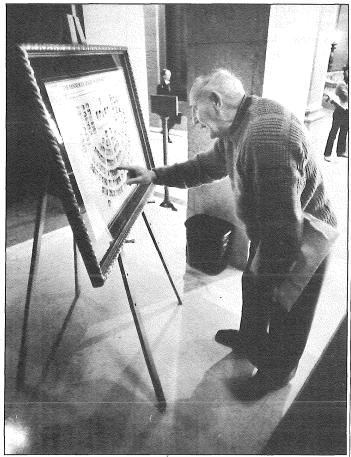
The state departments' bill, which passed the House on a 68-56 vote, awaits Senate action.

#### Land trust

A proposal that would allow community residents to own land in their neighborhoods as a way of ensuring decent and affordable housing was presented to members of Financial Institutions and Housing Committee division during a St. Paul neighborhood housing tour March 30.

Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) told the committee's Housing Division that he'll ask the Legislature for a \$3 million appropriation next session to set up about 10 community land trusts throughout the state.

Dawkins says the community land trust



Stan Bourassa of Edina looks over the members' seating chart outside the House chamber April 2.

proposal would help curb the state's continuous flow of dollars into housing development, and would put stability back into the neighborhoods.

His proposal calls for community residents to buy and perpetually own the land in their neighborhoods, fix up rundown structures on the property, and then sell the dwellings at an affordable price to people with low and moderate incomes.

"The land trusts would ensure that the long-term affordability of low cost housing and commercial buildings is always there," says Greg Finzell, director of the Summit-University Planning Council, which has established a land trust task force.

Land trusts allow neighborhood residents to control the land so they can develop it the way they want to, adds St. Paul resident Emmy Treichel.

Members saw a cooperative in Treichel's neighborhood where residents received low-interest loans to buy and develop low-income housing as a way of maintaining and stabilizing their neighborhood.

Treichel says the coop helps stop land developers from "buying neighborhood houses cheap, doing a sloppy job rehabilitating them, and becoming absentee landlords."

#### Low-income housing

A proposed tax exemption for lowincome housing developed by local housing authorities with nonprofit organizations was removed from a bill the Taxes Committee approved April 3.

Property tax payments would have been replaced by a service charge on the amount of rent collected on a housing unit, which would have made the property eligible for a federal tax credit.

Jerry Boardman, president of the Minnesota Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies, says the exemption could have lowered rents on low-income housing an additional 36 percent by qualifying for the federal tax credit.

He also says granting the exemption could greatly increase the availability of low-income housing.

But Rep. Paul Anders Ogren (DFL-Aitkin), chair of the committee, says exempting that amount of property from property taxes could have a big impact on state revenue. He says the proposal should be examined during the interim and possibly considered again next session.

The bill also establishes a local government housing account for rehabilitation and modernization of transitional and public housing units, and home ownership programs would be eligible for



Shawn Sears, *left*, had to duck under the balloon bouquet he delivered to House Speaker Robert Vanasek on the speaker's birthday April 2.

money from the housing trust fund.

In addition, the Minnesota Housing Finance Authority, with other state agencies, would study needs and services for the homeless.

The bill, HF2283 (Jefferson, DFL-Mpls), will be considered next on the House floor.

#### Drug programs 📼

A bill that would allocate \$2.7 million for drug-related programs was approved April 2 by the Appropriations Committee.

Community-based crime and drug prevention programs would receive \$450,000 under the bill, and an intensive community supervision program for less serious offenders would receive a \$650,000 appropriation.

The intensive supervision program is designed to track offenders as they are released from prison — a time, prison officials say, when offenders are most likely to repeat their crimes.

If the state approves the programs, the federal government would chip in additional money to fund the two programs.

The intensive supervision program would allow Department of Corrections officials to remove offenders from prison and return them to society under controlled conditions. Offenders in the program would be subject to unannounced searches of their homes, automobiles, and bodies.

In addition, offenders would be subject to urinalysis and breath tests and be required to hold frequent meetings with probation officers.

The bill, authored by Rep. Randy Kelly (DFL-St. Paul), also would appropriate \$500,000 for the expansion of sentencing to service and work-release correctional programs; \$400,000 for the expansion of chemical dependency treatment programs in prisons; and \$200,000 for the expansion of programs for victims of domestic assault and abuse where alcohol or drugs were involved.

Another \$450,000 would be appropriated to fund pilot projects for local chemical dependency treatment programs, to use drug testing programs as a condition of probation, and to implement chemical dependency assessments for drug offenders.

HF1843 will go to the House floor for further consideration.

#### Environmental ed program

The Appropriations Committee approved a bill April 2 that would establish an environmental education program for public school students in kindergarten through grade 12.

The program would provide students and Minnesota citizens with an understanding of ecological systems, the cause and effect relationship between human attitudes and behavior and the environment, as well as other environmental issues.

The purpose of the educational program would be to develop an awareness of environmental issues so people would become committed to work toward maintaining a healthy environment.

The Department of Education would be responsible for in-service teacher training in environmental education.

#### Minimum wage

Small-business employees would earn a minimum of \$4 an hour while workers at larger firms would earn \$4.25 an hour under provisions of a House bill awaiting the governor's signature.

The legislation, effective next January, would affect not only about 150,000 Minnesotans now working for minimum wage, but also people not covered by a federal law that goes into effect in April 1991.

The Senate passed the companion bill to HF1839 (Kelly, DFL-St. Paul), on March 30, the same day the House approved the measure on a 118-14 vote.

Supporters of the House bill successfully defeated attempts to grant restaurant owners a delay in providing the minimum wage increase for their employees who receive tips.

#### Inver Hills fire

Inver Hills Community College now has about \$2 million in state funds to defray repair and cleanup costs caused by a fire on campus in early March.

Gov. Rudy Perpich signed the emergency funding measure on March 30; the money was available the following day. The state will sell bonds to cover the costs.

While fire damage was confined to the roof of the 10-year-old college center, extensive smoke and water damage affected the entire building. Fire officials traced the blaze to a faulty coffee pot.

#### Access review panel

The physically disabled would have better access to some buildings, if a bill the Appropriations Committee approved April 5 becomes law.

The measure would establish an access review board that would consider applications for waivers from the state building code to install stairway chairlifts.

The chairlifts would provide limited accessibility for the physically disabled to buildings that have no other access, and buildings where access is deemed architecturally impossible according to the state building code.

In reviewing applications, the board would examine other possible access options, and require certain criteria to be met before approving an application.

The proposed board's decision to approve an application would have to be unanimous. The measure, HF2769, moves next to the House floor.



Nine-year-old Tony Stanius spent a school holiday with his father, Rep. Brad Stanius, and played a little solitaire during floor session April 2.

#### Early retirement incentive

Executive branch employees who choose to retire early can get state-paid health insurance for themselves and dependents if an amendment to the state departments budget bill becomes law. The House adopted the amendment April 2.

Eligible employees would have to exercise this option before July 1, 1990, be at least 55 years old, and have worked for the state for 25 years.

Amendment sponsor Rep. Bob. Johnson (DFL-Bemidji) says 130 of the 959 eligible employees indicate they would be willing to retire under this proposal.

Johnson says this measure could save the state \$3.5 million if the agencies choose to leave those positions unfilled, or fill them at lower salary levels.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) supported the amendment, but added that this measure wouldn't save the state any money this biennium, but could save money in the next two-year spending cycle. A measure that would limit the flush volume of new and replacement toilets to 1.6 gallons of water after 1992 was approved by the Appropriations Committee April 5. The toilets would have to meet the standards of the American National Standards Institute. Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) offered the amendment to HF1948, which pertains to well water construction.

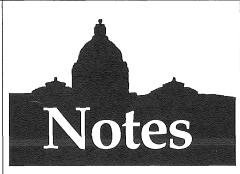
County fairs would be appropriated \$130,000 under an amendment to the state departments bill, HF2419, adopted by the House April 2. Rep. Henry Kalis (DFL-Walters) says that since the governor has declared 1990 as the year of the county fair, the Legislature should appropriate money for them. The money would pay for premiums at county fairs across the state. The appropriation would go to the Department of Agriculture, which would distribute the money to the various county fairs.

. . .

People in the gaming industry could be required to be fingerprinted by the Department of Public Safety's Division of Gaming Enforcement under a measure approved by the House April 5. The provision would apply to anyone working for licensed lawful gambling-related organizations, including organizations conducting gaming, and distributors and manufacturers of gaming equipment. Refusal could lead to license revocation. The measure would also require winners of \$50 or more to produce identification before they could collect their money. SF2018 now moves to conference committee for further review.

. . .

Farm families experience disabling accidents at a rate far higher than the average Minnesotan family, according to a legislative study that drew heavily from insurance company reports. In response to dangers on the farm, the Appropriations Committee April 4 approved a bill (HF2495) that would create a program designed to pinpoint and correct farm safety problems.



**One pound of marijuana** has an estimated street value of \$2,000 and produces approximately 1,100 joints, says Rep. Marcus Marsh (IR-Sauk Rapids), quoting Bureau of Criminal Apprehension statistics. An amendment offered by Marsh to the omnibus drug bill (HF1843) approved April 3 would lower the threshold from 224 pounds to 22.5 pounds for the crime of possession of a controlled substance in the first degree.

. . .

More interaction between buyers and sales personnel would be required if a bill that would restrict cigarette vending machines is signed into law. On March 30, the House accepted Senate changes to Rep. Bob McEachern's (DFL-Maple Lake) bill that would restrict locations for the machines and require them to have a device that a clerk must activate to release cigarette packs. HF2042 awaits the governor's signature.

. . .

A person convicted of crossing a state or international border into Minnesota while in possession of a controlled substance may be sentenced to up to 35 years in prison and fined up to \$1.3 million under a major drug bill approved April 2 by the Appropriations Committee. HF1843 will go to the House floor for further consideration.

. . .

Automobile safety awareness week will be observed the third week in March if a bill passed by the House on a 129-0 vote April 3 becomes law. Public schools would be encouraged to discuss car safety topics such as the hazards of drinking and driving, the use of seat belts, driver courtesy, and pedestrian safety. HF2016 is waiting for the governor's signature. No more than 40 percent of political contributions to U.S. House and Senate campaigns could come from political action committees (PACs) under an amendment to a campaign fundraising bill (HF2666) the House passed March 29. The bill, which is designed to curb campaign spending, would also outlaw fund-raisers during legislative sessions.

The Department of Finance would be required to submit a quarterly revenue forecast to the House Appropriations Committee and to the Senate Finance Committee under a measure the House approved April 2. Rep. Bill Schreiber (IR-Brooklyn Park) attached the amendment to the state departments bill, HF2419, saying it's important that others besides the governor have access to revenue forecasts.

. . .

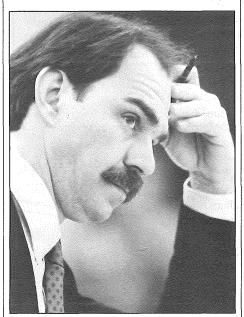
Authority to create a new state high school hockey tournament would be returned to the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) under a bill the House approved April 3. The bill, SF1727 (Milbert, DFL-South St. Paul), repeals a law passed last year requiring the league to operate a two-tier hockey tournament. The Senate passed the bill March 1; it now awaits the governor's signature. The MSHSL earlier agreed to work with high school hockey coaches on a new format for the state tournament.

### Ogren, Johnson: A study in contrasts

# House, Senate tax chairs go at it in arena 15

It hardly qualifies as the legendary Thrilla from Manilla boxing match of two decades ago, particularly when the sparring will be over the size of the state's budget reserve and tax policy details.

But political insiders are eagerly watching the matchup in the Tax Conference Committee between Sen. Doug



**Rep. Paul Ogren** 

Johnson (DFL-Cook) and Rep. Paul Ogren (DFL-Aitkin).

The two veteran lawmakers, who began the critical face-off this week, are among the most powerful and forceful members of the Legislature. But they are a study in contrasts.

Johnson is the smiling, immovable legend who has been Senate Taxes and Tax Law Committee chair since 1979. By most accounts Johnson has come away the winner in his negotiations with five previous House Taxes Committee chairs during his 11-year tenure as the chief architect of Senate tax policy.

He's short, a bit round, and viewed as something of a soft-spoken charmer. But he carries a big stick and his foes say he isn't afraid to use it.

Ogren, on the other hand, is tall and angular, and who, by his own admission,

doesn't wince at the prospect of a rumble. He, too, carries a big stick and seems to swing it at will.

"I'm often quite confrontational," admits Ogren, who was appointed Taxes Committee chair late last year.

While the face-off in the circular arena of Room 15 lends itself to the boxing analogy, it's anything but exciting. The meetings drone on for hours and the volume of debate on tax details seem to obscure the progress.

But that hasn't stopped some from discussing the match-up.

"Dougie's more of a velvet glove over the iron fist and Ogren has more of a bare-knuckles sort of style," says Wayne Cox, a lobbyist for the Minnesota Citizens for Tax Justice.

The primary dispute to be resolved this year is the size of the budget reserve. Johnson and the Senate want it to remain at \$550 million; Ogren and the House want it scaled back to \$450 million, and to use the extra \$100 million to help defray a portion of the expected \$145 million budget shortfall this biennium.

Both men appear firmly entrenched in those positions, and the adjournment date of this legislative session could hang in the balance. What will happen this year?

"Historically, the Senate bests the House as a rule," says Cox. "But they may have met their match with Paul Ogren because he's such a strong-willed, tough competitor."

Ogren concedes that Johnson's experience on tax issues (he's served on every tax conference committee since 1974 dating back to his tenure in the House) gives him a clear advantage.

But Ogren says the House position just plain makes more sense.

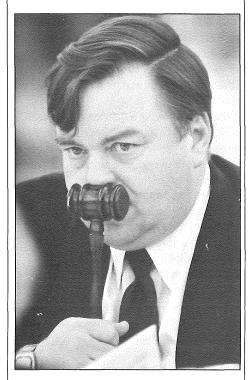
"Doug is very clever and he's very charming but he has a bill that is far less popular with legislators than the House bill. So he'll have to be as clever and charming as he can," says Ogren.

Johnson, of course, begs to differ.

He says it's only prudent to maintain the \$550 million reserve so the state won't have to inflict massive budget cuts or increase taxes if the economy takes a turn for the worse.

And in contrast to Ogren's aggressive style of politicking, Johnson is all sweetness.

"The key is to develop a relationship with the House conferees, to develop a level of trust with them," he says, adding that some earlier House Taxes Committee chairs also had reputations as tough



Sen. Doug Johnson

negotiators.

"My style in negotiating with Paul will be low-key and amicable. We have a good working relationship."

But that doesn't mean he's about to change his mind on the budget reserve. Just how entrenched is he?

"I'm very firm to stay at \$550 million," he says.

# **Conference committees work out differences**

Conference committees meet to work out differences between the Senate and House versions of a similar bill.

The speaker of the House and the Subcommittee on Committees in the Senate appoint members from their respective houses to the conference committees.

But as a practical matter, it's really the majority leader who appoints members from the Senate.

Either three or five members from each house are appointed to the committees, depending on the topic. And the composition of the committees usually has a mix of both DFLers and Independent-Republicans.

Whenever there is a difference between the House and Senate version of a companion bill, a conference committee must be named unless one side agrees to accept the other house's language.

Another important function of conference committees is to balance the total financial picture of the state budget.

They are a sort of clearinghouse to balance available state revenues with appropriations made in several different committees in both the House and Senate.

The leadership in the House and Senate keeps a tight rein on the various committees to ensure that more money isn't spent than is available.

The following major spending bills are now being debated in conference committees:

• Omnibus tax bill (HF2478).

• Omnibus school aids bill (HF2200).

• Omnibus Agriculture, Transportation and Semi-States bill (HF2617).

• Omnibus higher education bill

(HF2269).

• Omnibus health and human services bill (HF2621).

Conference committees on the bonding and state departments appropriations bills were named late April 5.

The following bills are also being discussed in conference committees:

• Department of Administration changes (HF257).

- Prostitution—penalties for patrons (HF1846).
- Public furniture—flammability requirements (HF1730).
- Long-term care insurance—changes (HF2474).
- Life insurance—cancellation renewal (HF2500).
- Labor disputes—security guards, agents (HF1928).
- Wildlife management—farmer agreements (HF1960).
- Seed potatoes—growing area restrictions (HF2025).
- Peace officers—jurisdictional increase (HF2056).

- Wild land arson—penalties (HF2131).
- Water statutes—recodification (HF771).
- Eurasian water milfoil regulation (HF2092)
- Wild rice—promotion council establishment (HF2253).
- Presidential primary—changes (HF2325).
- Motor vehicle registration—harassment
- (HF1952).
  - Driver's licenses—electronic pictures (HF2294).
- Comprehensive health insurance—data (HF2343).



Sen. Doug Johnson, *on left at head of table*, is a veteran of several tax conference committees. He is shown here at last year's conference committee.

# Resolutions run the gamut of legislative concerns

From Roosevelt to Roseau, legislators have spoken their minds — even when it has little or nothing to do with state business.

They do so in the form of resolutions: those stiff, formal expressions of lawmakers' collective thought.

In 1945, for example, lawmakers let the family of President Franklin Roosevelt know they were thinking of them when the popular president died in office. They passed a resolution of condolence.

This year, when tiny Roseau's hockey team won the state hockey tournament in Hoosier-like fashion, legislators once again spoke their collective minds:

"BE IT RESOLVED... the House of Representatives of the State of Minnesota congratulates the Roseau High School Rams Hockey Team for winning the 1990 State High School Hockey Tournament."

Resolutions run the gamut of legislators' feelings. Iran and the Soviet Union, for example, each have been targets of recent resolutions.

Legislators used resolutions to condemn Iran for its treatment of author Salman Rushdie; they also memorialized Congress and the president to try to halt Iranian persecution of its Baha'i minority.

Resolutions targeted at the Soviet Union have protested discrimination against Jews, and asked that it provide exit visas for Soviet Jews being held as prisoners of conscience.

But there have also been a number of resolutions on the domestic front. They have been used to ask for more funding from Congress for agriculture, environment, and veterans' programs.

Resolutions have also dealt with less pressing topics. For example, a 1984 resolution proclaimed that Minnesota and Bavaria had become sister states.

Other resolutions notified the United

States Olympic Committee of the state's support for the XXVI Olympiad and for the enactment of a national health insurance program.

The Legislature also passes resolutions to ratify state and federal constitutional amendments. Last year, they adopted a resolution that called on members of the U.S. Congress to delay their pay raises until after the next election occurs.

The Minnesota resolution was an attempt to ratify a proposed U.S. constitutional amendment that was first suggested back in 1789, but has yet to be adopted.

Resolutions are also used to adjourn the Legislature or invoke changes in rules governing its operation.

Resolutions are treated much like bills. They usually have bill numbers, move through committees, and are voted on by both houses of the Legislature. Some resolutions even have the effect of law if they're signed by the governor.

#### House advisories

In 1973, then-Speaker Rep. Martin Olav Sabo created House "advisories," which are internal requests for studies on particular issues.

Advisories are introduced like bills and are sent to committees for study, usually during the interim.

They start with the words "a proposal to study . . ." and usually involve an issue a legislator is concerned about.

This year, 14 advisories have been introduced. Among them are proposals to study the possibility of a state-sponsored group health insurance plan, affirmative action programs for Minnesota financial institutions, and links between cancer and exposure to electromagnetic fields.

Depending on the outcome of their studies, representatives may or may not choose to introduce a bill on the topic.



### Marshal nomination

Rep. Tony Bennett (IR-Shoreview) isn't letting his nomination for U.S. Marshal interfere with his legislative duties and plans for retaining his House seat.

He won and accepted his party's endorsement for the November election and plans to work toward re-election to a seventh term until he is sworn in as the federal marshal for Minnesota.

"I'm proud and honored," says Bennett, a 26-year veteran of the St. Paul Police Department. "But it's not a done deal."

To complete his eligibility for the job, Bennett must undergo a background check, a confirmation hearing in the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, and receive the president's signature, provided the full U.S. Senate confirms him. If his nomination is approved by the president, Bennett would succeed Robert Pavlak, another former House member who was in law enforcement.

A federal marshal's duties include maintaining federal courtroom security and transporting federal prisoners.



As It Happens . . .

March 29 - April 5, 1990

# **Committee and Floor Action**

### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

#### **APPROPRIATIONS**

Monday, April 2

**Drugs**—penalty increases HF1843/SF1759 (Kelly, DFL-St. Paul)recommended to pass as amended. (SF in Senate Finance Committee)

Nurse practitioners-drug dispensation HF1845/SF1821\* (McLaughlin, DFL-Mpls)-recommended to pass as amended.

#### Gambling-task force recommendations HF2005/SF2018 (Quinn, DFL-Coon Rapids)-recommended to pass as amended; re-referred to Taxes Committee. (SF in Senate Finance

Committee)

**Environmental education program** HF2383/SF2160 (K. Nelson, DFL-Mpls)-recommended to pass as amended. (SF in Senate Finance Committee)

Child protection—omnibus bill HF2390/SF2188 (Vellenga, DFL-St. Paul)-recommended to pass as amended. (SF in Senate Finance Committee)

Workers' compensation—loggers HF2616/SF2375 (Begich, DFL-Eveleth)-recommended to pass as amended. (SF in Senate Finance Committee)

Judges-staggering terms HF2751/SF2054\* (Kelly, DFL-St. Paul)-recommended to pass as amended.

#### Tuesday, April 3

Petroleum tank cleanup fundchanges HF1816/SF1725\* (Sparby, DFL-Thief River Falls)-recommended to pass as amended.

Drug distributors—licensing HF1847/SF1758\* (Greenfield, DFL-Mpls)-recommended to pass as amended.

Higher education-midwestern compact HF2024/SF2248 (K. Olson, DFL-Sherburn)—recommended to pass. (SF in Senate Finance Committee)

Lake Superior authority establishment HF2459/SF1866\* (Jaros, DFL-Duluth)---recommended to pass as amended.

Flexible gas rates—regulation HF2520/SF2158 (Jacobs, DFL-Coon Rapids)-recommended to pass as amended. (SF on Senate Floor)

#### Wednesday, April 4 🔳

**Drivers' licenses—permit fees** HF972/SF1162\* (Bauerly, DFL-Sauk Rapids)—recommended to pass.

Judicial system-racial bias study HF1158/SF1081\* (Dawkins, DFL-St. Paul)-recommended to pass as amended.

#### Fire protection-advisory council establishment

HF1453/SF1255 (Simoneau, DFL-Fridley)-recommended to pass as amended. (SF in Senate Finance Committee)

**Community dispute resolution** program HF1478/SF1001\* (Orenstein, DFL-St. Paul)-recommended to pass.

Technology assistance review panel HF1728/SF1520\* (Greenfield, DFL-Mpls)-recommended to pass as amended.

#### **Domestic abuse**—prosecution

HF1884/SF1860 (Pappas, DFL-St. Paul)—recommended to pass as amended. (SF in Senate Finance Committee)

Physician assistants-drug dispensation HF1887/SF1798 (Dauner, DFL-Hawley)—recommended to pass as amended. (SF on Senate Floor)

**Bone marrow donors—education** HF1889/SF1903\* (Weaver, IR-Champlin)—recommended to pass as amended.

Truck safety—annual inspections HF1898/SF2030 (Lasley, DFL-Cambridge)—recommended to pass as amended. (SF in Senate Finance Committee)

Rural health care-omnibus bill HF1965/SF1896 (Cooper, DFL-Bird Island)—recommended to pass as amended. (SF in Senate Finance Committee)

Dept. of Health-housekeeping bill HF2021/SF1838\* (Rodosovich, DFL-Faribault)-recommended to pass.

Agricultural contracts—mediation, arbitration HF2060/SF1779 (Bauerly, DFL-Sauk Rapids)—recommended to pass. (SF in Senate Finance Committee)

Farm products—redefinition, penalties HF2061/SF2037 (Bauerly, DFL-Sauk Rapids)—recommended to pass as amended.

(SF in Senate Finance Committee)

**Toxic pollution**—prevention HF2198/SF2173 (Munger, DFL-Duluth)-recommended to pass as amended. (SF on Senate Floor)

**Commercial drivers' licenses**—changes HF2238/SF2060 (Lasley, DFL-Cambridge)-recommended to pass.

(SF in Senate Finance Committee)

Public employees—insurance plan HF2323/SF2246 (Simoneau, DFL-Fridley)—recommended to pass. (SF in Senate Finance Committee)

DWI repeat offenders—license plates HF2420/SF2177 (Rest, DFL-Mpls) recommended to pass as amended. (SF in Senate Finance Committee)

Claims against the state—payment HF2812/SF2619 (Lieder, DFL-Crookston)—recommended to pass. (SF on Senate Floor)

Home Buyers' Bill of Rights HF556/SF188\* (Osthoff, DFL-St. Paul)—recommended to pass.

Thursday, April 5 🔳

License plates—term change HF946/SF838\* (Steensma, DFL-Luverne)—recommended to pass.

Greenhouse effect—reduction HF1617/SF1473 (Kahn, DFL-Mpls) recommended to pass. (SF on Senate Floor)

Grasshopper control—program modifications HF1808/SF1674 (C. Nelson, DFL-Barrett)—recommended to pass as amended. (SF in Senate Finance Committee)

### Farmer-Lender Mediation Act extension

HF1815/SF1750 (Sparby, DFL-Thief River Falls)—recommended to pass as amended. (SF in Senate Finance Committee)

### Guardianship—conservatorship proceedings

HF1882/SF1400\* (Abrams, IR-Minnetonka)—recommended to pass as amended.

Charitable gambling—changes HF1891/SF1853 (Kelly, DFL-St. Paul) recommended to pass. (SF on Senate Floor)

Nursing home Medicare certification HF1911/SF1813\* (Welle, DFL-Willmar)—recommended to pass. Well construction, ownership requirements HF1948/SF2126 (Price, DFL-Woodbury)—recommended to pass as amended. (SF on Senate Floor)

Wastewater treatment grants requirements HF1949/SF1925 (Winter, DFL-Fulda) recommended to pass as amended. (SF in Senate Finance Committee)

#### Metropolitan water management regulation HF2007/SF1894 (Price, DFL-

Woodbury)—recommended to pass as amended. (SF in Senate Finance Committee)

# Veterans Home Board—surplus facilities

HF2023/SF2531 (Steensma, DFL-Luverne)—recommended to pass. (SF in Senate Finance Committee)

## Technical colleges—agricultural programs

HF2035/SF1718 (Wenzel, DFL-Little Falls)—recommended to pass as amended.

(SF in Senate Finance Committee)

PCA property—disposition HF2353/SF2396\* (McGuire, DFL-Falcon Heights)—recommended to pass as amended.

MA—case management services HF2379/SF2073 (Welle, DFL-Willmar)—recommended to pass as amended. (SF in Senate Finance Committee)

Minneapolis, Koochiching County bond deposit refunds HF2446/SF2055 (Kahn, DFL-Mpls) recommended to pass as amended. (SF in Senate Finance Committee)

Farm safety audit—pilot project HF2495/SF2345 (Dille, IR-Dassel) recommended to pass as amended. (SF in Senate Finance Committee)

Board of Medical Examiners procedures

HF2582/SF2216\* (Greenfield, DFL-Mpls)—recommended to pass as amended.

State Building Code—handicapped access

HF2769/SF2346 (Kalis, DFL-Walters) recommended to pass as amended. (SF on Senate Floor)

#### Agriculture, Transportation & Semi-State Division/APPROPRIATIONS

Friday, March 30

Drugs—penalty increases HF1843/SF1759 (Kelly, DFL-St. Paul) recommended to pass as amended; rereferred to Appropriations Committee. (SF in Senate Finance Committee)

Gambling—task force recommendations HF2005/SF2018 (Quinn, DFL-Coon Rapids)—recommended to pass as amended; re-referred to Appropriations Committee. (SF in Senate Finance Committee)

Tuesday, April 3 🛛 📟

Grasshopper control—program modifications HF1808/SF1674 (C. Nelson, DFL-

Barrett)—recommended to pass as amended; re-referred to Appropriations Committee.

(SF in Senate Finance Committee)

Truck safety—annual inspections HF1898/SF2030 (Lasley, DFL-Cambridge)—recommended to pass as amended; re-referred to Appropriations Committee. (SF in Senate Finance Committee)

Technical colleges—agricultural programs HF2035/SF1718 (Wenzel, DFL-Little Falls)—recommended to pass; rereferred to Appropriations

Agricultural contracts—mediation, arbitration

HF2060/SF1779 (Bauerly, DFL-Sauk Rapids)—recommended to pass as amended; re-referred to Appropriations Committee. (SF in Senate Finance Committee)

Farm products—redefinition, penalties HF2061/SF2037 (Bauerly, DFL-Sauk Rapids)—recommended to pass as amended; re-referred to Appropriations Committee. (SF in Senate Finance Committee) Commercial drivers' licenses—changes HF2238/SF2060 (Lasley, DFL-Cambridge)—recommended to pass as amended; re-referred to Appropriations Committee. (SF in Senate Finance Committee)

Farm safety audit—pilot project HF2495/SF2345 (Dille, IR-Dassel) recommended to pass as amended; rereferred to Appropriations Committee. (SF in Senate Finance Committee)

#### State Departments Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

Friday, March 30

Rural health care—omnibus bill HF1965/SF1896 (Cooper, DFL-Bird Island)—recommended to pass as amended. (SF in Senate Finance Committee)

Toxic pollution—prevention HF2198/SF2173 (Munger, DFL-Duluth)—recommended to pass as amended; re-referred to Agriculture, Transportation & Semi-State Division. (SF in Senate Finance Committee)

Monday, April 2 💼

Workers' compensation—loggers HF2616/SF2375 (Begich, DFL-Eveleth)—recommended to pass as amended; re-referred to Appropriations Committee.

(SF in Senate Finance Committee)

Tuesday, April 3 🔳

Greenhouse effect—reduction HF1616/SF1473 (Kahn, DFL-Mpls) recommended to pass as amended; rereferred to Appropriations Committee. (SF in Senate Finance Committee)

Guardianship—conservatorship proceedings HF1882/SF1400\* (Abrams, IR-

Minnetonka)—recommended to pass as amended; re-referred to Appropriations Committee.

Well construction, ownership requirement HF1948/SF2126 (Price, DFL-Woodbury)—recommended to pass as amended; re-referred to Appropriations Committee. (SF in Senate Finance Committee) Waste Management Act—changes HF2108/SF1996 (Wagenius, DFL-Mpls)—heard; re-referred to Appropriations Committee.

(SF in Senate Finance Committee)

Essential employees—arbitration awards

HF2332/SF2145 (Begich, DFL-Eveleth)—recommended to pass as amended; re-referred to Appropriations Committee.

(SF in Senate Governmental Operations Committee)

Mpls., Koochiching County—bond deposit refunds

HF2446/SF2055 (Kahn, DFL-Mpls) recommended to pass as amended; rereferred to Appropriations Committee. (SF in Senate Finance Committee)

State Building Code—handicapped access

HF2769/SF2346 (Kalis, DFL-Walter) recommended to pass as amended; rereferred to Appropriations Committee. (SF on Senate Floor)

#### TAXES

Tuesday, April 3

Gambling—task force recommendations HF2005/SF2018 (Quinn, DFL-Coon Rapids)—recommended to pass as amended. (SF in Senate Finance Committee)

Public housing—low-rent, Section 8 changes HF2117/SF1822\* (Osthoff, DFL-St. Paul)—recommended to pass as amended.

Housing Finance Agency—loans, grants HF2283/SF1950 (Jefferson, DFL-Mpls)—recommended to pass as amended.

(SF in Senate Finance Committee)

### **FLOOR ACTION**

#### **CONCURRENCE & REPASSAGE**

Thursday, March 29

Dept. of Commerce—commun. regulations HF1985\*/SF2547 (Skoglund, DFL-Mpls)—repassed as amended by the Senate (132-0).

Service brakes—requirements HF2124\*/SF2074 (Bertram, DFL-Paynesville)—repassed as amended by the Senate (133-0).

Potato research—promotion council changes

HF2374\*/SF1889 (Bauerly, DFL-Sauk Rapids)—repassed as amended by the Senate (133-0).

Garage door openers—regulation HF2393\*/SF2261 (Milbert, DFL-South St. Paul)—repassed as amended by the Senate (133-0)

Friday, March 30 💼

Tobacco vending machines restrictions HF2042\*/SF1923 (McEachern, DFL-Maple Lake)—repassed as amended by the Senate (131-0).

Administrative procedures restrictions HF2462\*/SF2252 (Gruenes, IR-St. Cloud)—repassed as amended by the Senate (132-0).

Wednesday, April 4 🛛 🗖

State park permits—agent sales HF2350\*/SF2408 (McGuire, DFL-Falcon Heights)—repassed as amended by the Senate (124-0).

#### **CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, April 4 💼

Motor vehicle registration—changes HF1981\*/SF2084 (A. Johnson, DFL-Spring Lake Park)—repassed as amended by Conference (128-0).

14 SESSION WEEKLY/April 6, 1990

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

#### Thursday, March 29

Rights-of-way—map, plot filings HF1784/SF2541\* (Dempsey, IR-New Ulm)—passed (132-0).

Environ. offenses—statute of limitations HF2184/SF2355\* (Wagenius, DFL-Mpls)—passed (133-0).

Wild rice—promotion council establishment HF2253/SF2299\* (Clark, DFL-Mpls) passed as amended (132-0).

Presidential primary—changes HF2325/SF2421\* (Scheid, DFL-Brooklyn Park)—passed as amended (127-3).

Data practices—omnibus bill HF2365\*/SF2200 (Pugh, DFL-South St. Paul)—passed as amended (133-0). (SF in Senate Rules & Administration Committee)

Election, ethics—changes HF2666\*/SF2334 (Scheid, DFL-Brooklyn Park)—passed as amended (127-0). (SF in Senate Finance Committee)

Monday, April 2 🔳

State Departments—omnibus bill HF2419\*/SF2306 (Solberg, DFL-Bovey)—passed as amended (68-56). (SF in Senate Finance Committee)

Tuesday, April 3 🔳

Drugs—penalty increases HF1843\*/SF1759 (Kelly, DFL-St. Paul)—passed as amended (128-2). (SF in Senate Finance Committee)

Automobile safety awareness week HF2016/SF1971\* (Swenson, IR-Forest Lake)—passed as amended (129-0).

Revisor's bill—statutory corrections HF2220/SF2072\* (Milbert, DFL-South St. Paul)—passed (130-0).

Set-aside program—targeted groups HF2230\*/SF2075 (Jefferson, DFL-Mpls)—passed as amended (129-1). (SF in Senate Finance Committee) Home loans—securities regulation HF2234/SF1848\* (O'Connor, DFL-St. Paul)—passed as amended (130-0).

Metropolitan telephone service expansion HF2327/SF1743\* (Jacobs, DFL-Coon Rapids)—passed as amended (113-13).

Minnesota Project Outreach Corp. changes HF2534/SF2360\* (Otis, DFL-Mpls) passed (130-0).

Hockey—two-class tournament repeal HF1826/SF1727\* (Milbert, DFL-South St. Paul)—passed (118-10).

#### Wednesday, April 4

Food ingredients—consumer information HF173\* (Steensma, DFL-Luverne) passed (83-48).

Liability insurance—claim denials HF1897/SF1942\* (Winter, DFL-Fulda)—passed as amended (113-15).

Timber sales—multiple sale locations HF1939/SF1879\* (Kinkel, DFL-Park Rapids)—passed as amended (131-0).

Veterans—redefinition HF2001/SF1794\* (O'Connor, DFL-St. Paul)—passed as amended (130-0).

Vocational-technical board—changes HF2011/SF1927\* (Price, DFL-Woodbury)—passed (129-0).

Detroit Lakes—detached banking facilities HF2057\*/SF1871 (Dauner, DFL-Hawley)—passed (87-41). (SF laid over)

Crime victims' rights, reparations HF2063/SF1873\* (Seaberg, IR-Eagan) passed as amended (130-0).

Track abandonment—standards HF2064/SF1752\* (Brown, DFL-Appleton)—passed as amended (131-0).

Blue Earth County—office appointment HF2078/SF2119\* (Dorn, DFL-Mankato)—passed (95-31).

Body armor—penalties HF2086/SF2134\* (Kelly, DFL-St. Paul)—passed (130-0). Eurasian water milfoil—regulation HF2092/SF1670\* (Skoglund, DFL-Mpls)—passed as amended (131-0).

Child care funding—county payments HF2132/SF1726\* (Greenfield-DFL-Mpls)—passed (130-0).

Veterans Home Board woman members HF2138\*/SF1989 (Blatz, IR-Bloomington)—passed (129-0). (SF in Senate Veterans & Military Affairs Committee)

Public employees—vesting HF2148\*/SF2577 (R. Johnson, DFL-Bemidji)—passed as amended (131-0). (SF in Senate Governmental Operations Committee)

Street vacation—notification HF2187/SF1980\* (Leider, DFL-Crookston)—passed (128-0).

City, county assessors—appointments HF2189/SF1897\* (Bauerly, DFL-Sauk Rapids)—passed as amended (129-0).

Public insurance adjusters regulations HF2205/SF2130\* (Skoglund, DFL-Mpls)—passed as amended (130-0).

Helmer Myre, Newstrand Woods state parks HF2219/SF2079\* (Rodosovich, DFL-Faribault)—passed (130-0).

Sexual assault victims—notice of risk HF2277/SF2046\* (Pappas, DFL-St. Paul)—passed (131-0).

**Drought emergencies—task force** HF2299/SF2172\* (Solberg, DFL-Bovey)—passed (131-0).

Education task force—member changes HF2381/SF2136\* (K. Nelson, DFL-Mpls)—passed (131-0).

Forestry—expansion, maintenance program HF2382/SF2127\* (Lasley, DFL-Cambridge)—passed as amended (129-0).

Child protection—omnibus bill HF2390\*/SF2188 (Vellenga, DFL-St. Paul)—passed as amended (131-0).

## Social workers assaults—penalties increase

HF2434/SF2089\* (K. Nelson, DFL-Mpls)—passed as amended (130-0).

Olmsted County—treasurer, auditor comb. HF2448/SF2373\* (Bishop, IR-Rochester)—passed (100-28).

#### Hazardous materials—incident response HF2458\*/SF2194 (Reding, DFL-Austin)—passed (131-0). (SF in Senate Finance Committee)

Metropolitan airport search area protection HF2614/SF2433\* (Lieder, DFL-Crookston)—passed (130-0).

#### SUSPENSION OF RULES

Thursday, March 29 🔳

Permanent University Fund investments SF2618\* (House author: L. Carlson, DFL-Crystal)—passed as amended (131-0).

Friday, March 30 🔳

Ag., Trans. & Semi State—omnibus bill SF2617\* (House author: Rice, DFL-Mpls)—passed as amended (126-4).

Health & Human Services—omnibus bill SF2621\* (House author: Greenfield, DFL-Mpls)—passed as amended (74-52).

#### 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

### BILLS THE GOVERNOR SIGNED

#### Thursday, March 29 📟

Mille Lacs, Kanabec counties—town contributions HF1893\*/SF1761 (Peterson, DFL-Princeton)—Chapter 362. Effective: Aug. 1, 1990

Vocational rehabilitation employment HF2487/SF2353\* (Cooper, DFL-Bird Island)—Chapter 363. Effective: day after enactment (March 30, 1990)

Minneapolis schools—unclassified positions HF2508\*/SF2314 (Wagenius, DFL-Mpls)—Chapter 366. Effective: upon local approval

Port authorities—title changes HF2149\*/SF1960 (Hausman, DFL-St. Paul)—Chapter 367. Effective: day after enactment (March 30, 1990)

Low-income housing—tax credits HF1987\*/SF1850 (Jefferson, DFL-Mpls)—Chapter 368. Effective: day after enactment (March 30, 1990)

Redwood County—ditch abandonment HF1792/SF1663\* (Girard, IR-Lynd)— Chapter 369. Effective: upon local approval

Utilities—competitive electric rates HF951\*/SF363 (C. Nelson, DFL-Barrett)—Chapter 370. Effective: day after enactment (March 30, 1990) with qualifications

Volunteer drivers—rule exemptions HF1859\*/SF1806 (Steensma, DFL-Luverne)—Chapter 372. Effective: day after enactment (March 30, 1990).

Free newspapers—distribution sites HF2594\*/SF2391 (Hausman, DFL-St. Paul)—Chapter 379. Effective: day after enactment (March 30, 1990) with qualifications

#### Friday, March 30 🚥

Credit unions—closing agent exemption HF2028/SF1922\* (L.Carlson, DFL-Crystal)—Chapter 364. Effective: day after enactment (March 31, 1990)

Inver Hills CC—emergency funding HF2609\*/SF2371 (Milbert, DFL-South St. Paul)—Chapter 365. Effective: day after enactment (March 31, 1990)

DWI—crime victims reparations HF2143\*/SF2043 (Janezich, DFL-Chisholm)—Chapter 371. Effective: Aug. 1, 1990

Waseca County—FarmAmerica exemption HF2336\*/SF1890 (Frederick, IR-Rochester)—Chapter 373. Effective: Aug. 1, 1990

Health Care Access Commission members HF2521\*/SF2286 (Ogren, DFL-Aitkin)—Chapter 374. Effective date: Aug. 1, 1990

Vocational-technical colleges title changes HF2058\* (L.Carlson, DFL-Crystal)— Chapter 375. Effective date: Aug. 1, 1990

County extension service—changes HF2212\*/SF2310 (L. Carlson, DFL-Crystal)—Chapter 376. Effective date: July 1, 1990

Graduate asst.—public employee coverage HF2062\*/SF1936 (Reding, DFL-Austin)—Chapter 377. Effective date: day after enactment (March 31, 1990)

Mental retardation—definition HF2045\*/SF1905 (Williams, DFL-Moorhead)—Chapter 378. Effective date: Aug. 1, 1990

#### Tuesday, April 3 🛚

Cemetery—land transfer HF2650\*/SF2455 (Waltman, IR-Elgin)— Chapter 380. Effective: Aug. 1, 1990.

Asbestos abatement—changes HF2407\*/SF2481 (K. Olson, DFL-Sherburn)—Chapter 381. Effective: Aug. 1, 1990.

Corporal punishment HF2685/SF2048\* (Pelowski, DFL-Winona)—Chapter 382. Effective: retroactive to Aug. 1, 1989.

Regent candidate advisory recommendations HF2418/SF2159\* (Otis, DFL-Mpls)— Chapter 383. Effective: Aug. 1, 1990.

Labor-management committees mediation HF 2608/SF2381\* (Rodosovich, DFL-Faribault )—Chapter 384. Effective: day after enactment (April 4, 1990).

Well drilling vehicle—tax exemption HF2621/SF2039\* (Kalis, DFL-Walters)—Chapter 385. Effective: day after enactment (April 4, 1990).

Upsala—boundary commission HF2683/SF2383\* (Bertram, DFL-Paynesville)—Chapter 386. Effective: Aug. 1, 1990.

Animal ownership—restriction HF2099/SF1968\* (Simoneau, DFL-Fridley)—Chapter 387. Effective: day after enactment (April 4, 1990).

Public safety—fire code changes HF2080/SF1692\* (Brown, DFL-Appleton)—Chapter 388. Effective: day after enactment (April 4, 1990) with qualifications.

County performance bonds HF2156\*/SF2517 (Pelowski, DFL-Winona)—Chapter 389. Effective: Aug. 1, 1990.

St. Louis County—solid waste management HF2386\*/SF2270 (Rukavina, DFL-Virginia)—Chapter 400. Effective: day after enactment (April 4, 1990) with exceptions.

#### Wednesday, April 4

Students—HECB HF1067\*/SF1551 (Trimble, DFL-St. Paul)—Chapter 393. Effective: Aug. 1, 1990.

Legal newspaper—deadline change HF2018\*/SF1909 (Bertram, DFL-Paynesville)—Chapter 395. Effective: day after enactment (April 5, 1990).

Plat monuments—tampering penalties HF1785\*/SF2141 (Dempsey, IR-New Ulm)—Chapter 396. Effective: Aug. 1, 1990, with qualifications

Revisor's bill—changes HF2084\*/SF1986 (Milbert, DFL-South St. Paul)—Chapter 401. Effective: Aug. 1, 1990.

**Cemeteries—unlawful body removal** HF2706/SF2432\* (Blatz, IR-Bloomington)—Chapter 402. Effective: Aug. 1, 1990, with qualification.

Aviation Training Center—remodeling HF2059\*/SF1895 (L. Carlson, DFL-Crystal)—Chapter 410. Effective: day after enactment (April 5, 1990).

### BILLS THE GOVERNOR VETOED

Tuesday, April 3 💻

Felony—pre-sentence investigation HF2481\*/SF2237 (Peterson, DFL-Princeton)—Chapter 390.



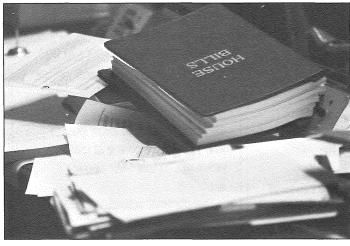
The Sheldon Valley Children's Trout Fishing contest isn't just for children anymore. The sixth annual event held in Sheldon Valley near Houston, Minn., will be adding another category to allow people who fish, and who are at least 16 years old, to test their angling expertise.

The contest, scheduled for April 14, runs from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration begins an hour earlier. The event, sponsored by the Sheldon Valley Sportsmen's Club, is free.

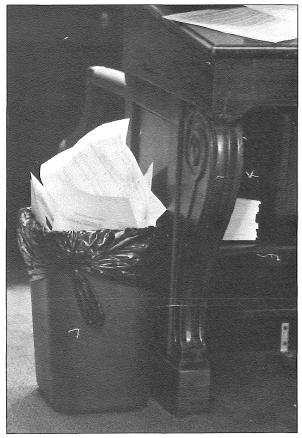
A trophy and a \$50 savings bond will be awarded to the fisherman who hooks the largest trout, as well as to the angler who produces the longest stringer. All contestants will receive a complimentary spinner lure. The contest is part of the state's "Celebrate Minnesota" campaign this year. For more information, contact Adrian Traff at (507) 896-2262.



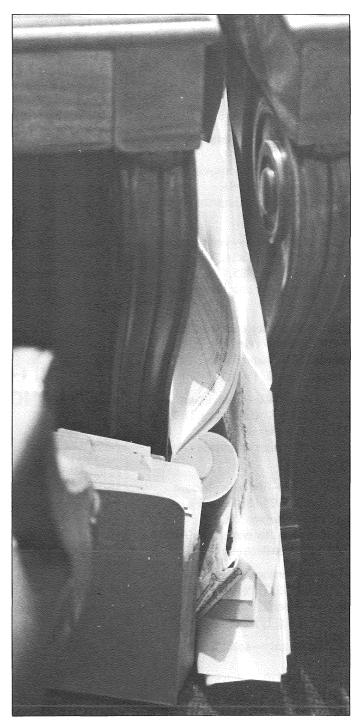
# The Paper Chase



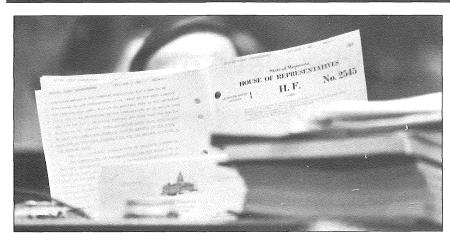
House member's desks often get buried in bills during a day in session.



Overflowing waste baskets are a common sight on the House floor.



Some of the 2,000 plus bills introduced each session fall between the cracks.



A member studies one of a multitude of copies of a bill.



Paper covers the table in the retiring room behind the House chamber.

Trees can rest a little easier when the Minnesota Legislature is not in session.

About three million sheets of paper flowed fast and furiously through the Capitol during the 1989 Legislative Session, says Dan Olson, the Capitol's sergeant of supply.

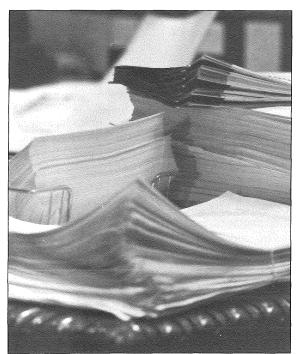
Bills, resolutions, daily journals, agendas, and other assorted pieces of paper were among those consumed during the 1989 session.

Laid end to end, that paper would have stretched from the top of Minnesota's border to the bottom and half way up again — 634 miles altogether.

Of those three million pieces of paper used last session, 80 percent were legal-sized, says Olson. The  $8.5 \times 14$  legal-sized paper is used primarily for the 2,000 plus bills — and copies of those bills — circulated through the Capitol each session.

The state Capitol and State Office Building recycled 96 tons of paper during the 1989 Legislative Session, according to statistics from the Department of Administration's Resource Recovery Program.

Jeff Anderson, coordinator of the state recycling program, estimates that about half of the paper used at the state Capitol during session is recycled.



Stockpiles of amendments await distribution to lawmakers.

# Pages, interns get 'insider view' of Capitol

This year more than 160 Minnesota high school and college students have pushed aside their government textbooks and let experience be their teacher. The High School Page and College Intern programs, both part of the Minnesota House of Representatives' Educational Programs division of the Sergeant at Arms Office, give students an opportunity to become directly involved in Minnesota's legislative process.

#### **High School Pages**

During their week stay, high school pages get a first hand look at how a bill becomes a law. They meet with their district representatives, serve on the House floor handing out bills and vote tallies, participate in seminars, and attend committee meetings. Pages also get the opportunity to meet and discuss ideas with the governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, and a Minnesota Supreme Court justice.

"The High School Page Program has been so successful that it is hard to accommodate all of the applicants," says LeClair Lambert, educational programs coordinator, noting that over 500 students from around the state apply each year. About 125 high school pages — 14 per week — have served during the 1990 session.

All interested Minnesota high school juniors are eligible to participate. High schools nominate the student. Ideally, one



page is chosen from each of the 134 legislative districts.

The House reimburses at least 80 percent of a student's lodging and transportation expenses. Lambert says that most metro students stay at home during their week as a page. House staff members supervise the students from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. After that, they're on their own. Many students will use their free time to tour the Capitol and visit with other pages from around the state. The High School Page Program is 15 years old.



High school page Pelina Wilson of St. Paul straightens out a member's desk before session.

#### **College Interns**

College interns perform a variety of tasks for lawmakers, ranging from conducting research, constituent work, and surveys to monitoring committee meetings and summarizing reports or bills

Interns, usually juniors or seniors, are paired with representatives based on "what they want to accomplish, and what the needs are of a House member," says Lambert.

For example, if the student is interested in health issues, they would likely intern for a Health and Human Services Committee member. Interns, who are not paid, are mainly political science majors, but Lambert says this is not a prerequisite.

"As long as they have an interest in state government, we try to accommodate them," he says.

Most interns apply for college credit. The interns are given weekly briefings that feature a guest speaker or discussion leader who focuses on different aspects of the legislative process, or current issues facing lawmakers.

Lambert says the interns number about 35 this session. Most come for a quarter;

others stay for a month or a semester. The majority are students at the University of Minnesota, but many are from outstate schools. Some interns are Minnesota residents but are attending schools in Wisconsin.

Tom Keliher, an economics major at the University of Minnesota, is an intern for Rochester Rep. David Bishop. Keliher says he has "learned the legislative process from the top down."

"Later in my life I would like to become an elected official. Right now, I want to learn about the process and this is the perfect way to go about it," he says. "You couldn't pay for an education like this."

Prior to the internship, the student and member-supervisor must complete a "basic working agreement" which outlines mutual responsibilites and individual goals in the internship. A report or research paper is usually required by the student's college at the end of the internship.

Lambert says his job is mainly to provide advice and help with any problems that may arise during the internship.

20 SESSION WEEKLY/April 6, 1990



# In the Hopper . . .

# **Bill Introductions**

March 30 - April 5, 1990

HF2816-HF2826

#### Friday, March 30 🚥

HF2816—Kalis (DFL) Transportation Motor carriers; providing rules exemptions for certain private and agricultural carriers.

HF2817—Bishop (IR) Rules & Legislative Administration Legislative enactments; providing for the correction of miscellaneous oversights, inconsistencies, ambiguities, unintended results, and technical errors of a noncontroversial nature.

HF2818—Kinkel (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Waters; prohibiting certain ice blocks upon the surface of frozen waters.

HF2819—Segal (DFL) Health & Human Services Health; abortions; preventing abortions for birth control purposes.

HF2820—Trimble (DFL) Education Education; providing for aid for courses with independent study when pupils complete the specified hours; making adult high school graduation aid conform to aid for other secondary pupils.

#### Monday, April 2

HF2821—Orenstein (DFL) Judiciary Civil actions; adopting the discovery rule for medical malpractice statutes of limitation.

HF2822—Poppenhagen (IR) Taxes Taxation; repealing the lawful gambling combined receipts tax; providing for refunds; appropriating money.

Tuesday, April 3

HF2823—Runbeck (IR) Taxes Taxation; property; providing for valuation of manufactured home parks; classifying manufactured home parks; limiting valuation increases for manufactured home parks; requiring a notice to park residents.

#### Thursday, April 5

HF2824—Dempsey (IR) Education

Education; establishing a program providing general education revenue for lower-income pupils who attend nonpublic schools participating in the program; establishing certain requirements and restrictions.

#### HF2825-Milbert (DFL)

Taxes

Taxation; repealing the lawful gambling combined receipts tax; providing for refunds; appropriating money.

HF2826—C. Nelson (DFL) Economic Development Resolution; memorializing the president and Congress of the United States to prevent the severe cutbacks in local programming on KCCO/KCCW-TV in Alexandria and Walker.

#### **House Advisories**

Monday, April 2

HA48—Carruthers (DFL) Governmental Operations A proposal to study the feasibility of permitting the transfer of accumulated sick leave from metropolitan agencies to state employment.

#### Tuesday, April 3

HA49—Gutknecht (IR) Health & Human Services A proposal to require the House Health and Human Services Committee to study "Rule 53."

#### Thursday, April 5

HA50—Dawkins (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources A proposal to study proposed legislation regarding registration, regulation and use of off-road recreational vehicles.

HA51—Otis (DFL) Governmental Operations A proposal to study location of state offices outside the metropolitan area.

### First Readings/Senate Bills

#### Friday, March 30

SF1104—Pogemiller (DFL) Referred to the Chief Clerk for comparison with HF1101—Greenfield (DFL) Probate; adopting the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act (1987); correcting cross-references.

SF1790—Solon (DFL) Referred to the Chief Clerk for comparison with HF1997—Jaros (DFL) Health; establishing a legislative task force to study the regulation of health insurance premium rates and health care costs.

#### SF2195—Morse (DFL)

Referred to the Chief Clerk for comparison with HF2311—Greenfield (DFL) Waste; prohibiting certain types of low-level radioactive waste from being disposed of at other than licensed facilities; providing for a task force on radioactive waste deregulation.

SF2236—Dahl (DFL) Referred to the Chief Clerk for comparison with HF2695—Kahn (DFL) Environment; defining facility and employer for purposes of infectious and pathological waste regulations; clarifying persons subject to infectious and pathological waste requirements.

Tuesday, April 3

SF1520—Lantry (DFL) Appropriations Human services; creating a technology assistance review panel.

SF1799—Waldorf (DFL) Appropriations Higher education; authorizing an appropriation for a parking deck at Moorhead State University to be used to acquire land and construct parking spaces.

SF1854—R. W. Peterson (DFL) Referred to the Chief Clerk for comparison with HF1890—Pugh (DFL)

Government data practices; establishing procedures for computerized comparisons of data; requiring matching agreements; providing for contesting of data; requiring reviews and reports; imposing penalties.

SF1891—R. W. Peterson (DFL) Referred to the Chief Clerk for comparison with HF2223—Pugh (DFL) Trusts; changing certain trust requirements.

SF1994—Merriam (DFL) Appropriations Revenue bonds and notes; stating the intent of the Legislature not to appropriate money from the general fund to pay for revenue bonds or notes.

SF2282—Frank (DFL) Referred to the Chief Clerk for comparison with HF2426—Rice (DFL) Contracts; providing for enforcement of certain contracts.

SF2382—Dicklich (DFL) Appropriations Energy conservation; appropriating oil overcharge money for energy conservation projects that directly serve low-income Minnesotans.

#### SF2396-Morse (DFL) Appropriations

Environment; regulating the disposition of property acquired for response action; appropriating money.

#### SF2489-Lessard (DFL)

#### Referred to the Chief Clerk for comparison with HF2656-Rukavina (DFL)

State lands; authorizing the sale of certain taxforfeited land in Koochiching and Lincoln counties; authorizing the private sale of certain state lands in Scott, Hubbard, and Fillmore counties; appropriating proceeds of the Scott County conveyance; authorizing the sale of certain surplus land in Lake County; authorizing the sale of certain trust fund land in St. Louis County; authorizing the sale of surplus land in Grant County for recreational purposes; authorizing the sale of certain wildlife land in Washington County to IndependentSchool District No. 834.

#### Wednesday, April 4

### SF1847—Reichgott (DFL)

Referred to the Chief Clerk for comparison with HF2038—Orenstein (DFL)

Human rights; amending the definition of age; clarifying medical information obtainable from prospective employees; clarifying protection for pregnant employees; prohibiting threats against home owners and renters; prohibiting discriminatory business practices; clarifying the meaning of business necessity and continuing violations; renumbering definitions.

#### SF1903-Merriam (DFL) Appropriations

Health; providing programs and incentives for persons to volunteer as bone marrow donors; requiring the commissioner of health to educate residents about the need for volunteer bone marrow donors; requiring paid leave for employees to donate bone marrow; requiring a bone marrow donor drive to encourage state employees to volunteer as bone marrow donors; appropriating money.

#### SF2347-Solon (DFL) Appropriations

Environmental protection; approving state membership in the Great Lakes Protection Fund.

#### SF2430—Solon (DFL)

Referred to the Chief Clerk for comparison with HF2770—Osthoff (DFL)

Financial institutions; establishing a system for the evaluation and rating of community reinvestment by depository financial institutions owned by interstate holding companies; providing uniformity with federal financial institutions regulatory practices; regulating public disclosure of uniform rating; requiring notice to the commissioner of proposed acquisitions of control; regulating Minnesota transmission facilities; allowing equal access by other transmission facilities; permitting interstate banking with an additional reciprocating state.

#### Thursday, April 5

#### SF1807—Freeman (DFL)

Referred to the Chief Clerk for comparison with HF1877—Schreiber (IR)

Local government; permitting the issuance of obligations by the Hennepin County Board for a public safety building; permitting Rosemount to incur debt for an armory; requiring a planning process and public hearing.

#### SF2018-Lantry (DFL)

Referred to the Chief Clerk for comparison with HF2005-Quinn (DFL)

Lawful gambling; defining lawful purposes for expenditures of gambling profits; establishing licensing qualifications for organizations and manufacturers; requiring organizations to report monthly on expenditures and contributions of gambling profits; authorizing the gambling control board to require recipients of contributions of gambling profits to register with the board; authorizing summary suspension of gambling licenses for failure to file tax returns; authorizing a limited number of video pull-tab devices and establishing standards and requirements for them; requiring inspection and testing of gambling equipment; requiring permits for gambling premises; requiring gambling managers to be licensed; requiring that employees of organizations conducting lawful gambling be registered with the board; requiring local gambling taxes and



Coming Up Next Week . . .

April 9 - 13, 1990

# **Committee Schedule**

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

Monday, April 9 🖛

**Before Session** 

### RULES & LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

Retiring Room Capitol Chr. Dee Long Agenda: Special Orders

1:00 p.m.

The house will meet in session.

TUESDAY, April 10 🚥

Community Stabilization & Development Subcommittee/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

300S State Office Building Chr. Rep. Karen Clark Agenda:Housing and job impact information relating to current Light Rail Transit proposals: both loss/displacement and opportunities for communities.

#### **Before session**

#### RULES & LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

Retiring Room Capitol Chr. Dee Long Agenda: Special Orders

12:30 p.m.

The House will meet in session

WEDNESDAY, April 11-

**Before Session** 

RULES & LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION Retiring Room Capitol

Chr. Dee Long Agenda: Special Orders

12:30 p.m.

The House will meet in session.

THURSDAY, April 12-

**Before Session** 

RULES & LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION Retiring Room Capitol Chr. Dee Long Agenda: Special Orders

12:30 p.m.

The House will meet in Session.

### CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

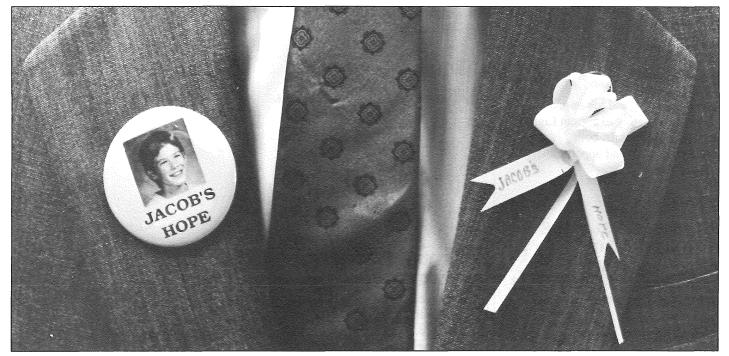
meet at the call of the chair, who is also the chief author of the bill in conference. For current information concerning these meetings, call (612) 296-2146.



Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office 175 State Office Building • St. Paul, MN 55155-1298 (612) 296-2146 1-800-657-3550

Speaker of the House: Robert Vanasek Majority Leader: Dee Long Minority Leader: William H. Schreiber





Rep. Jeff Bertram wore a "Jacob's Hope" button and ribbon to show his continued support for Jacob Wetterling and his family April 4. Legislators were asked to wear the buttons and ribbons for the remainder of session.