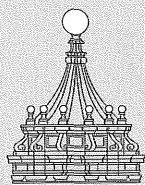


Session Weekly

Minnesota House of Representatives • March 15, 1991 • Volume 8, Number 10





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Flashback

The Legislature is fraught with weird terms that mean just the opposite of what you'd think. The example most often cited is the word "progress," which, at the Capitol, describes what happens when action on a bill is delayed.

But you also can make a good case for lampooning the term "midpoint," which is how this week at the Capitol has been commonly described. In other words, we're halfway through the legislative session.

It's an accurate description in a sense, but only in the same way a sundial is an accurate measure of time on cloudy days. The truth is, the real session is just fixing to begin. The session is half over, but only a fraction of the work has been completed. A few statistics are in order.

In the last budget year in 1989, 353 bills were signed into law. If this was truly the midpoint, there would be at least 175 bills on the governor's desk. In fact, he has signed just six. And aside from the governor's first budget reduction bill, none of the signed bills were particularly controversial — unless you consider a change in the way the identities of corporate mortgagees are recorded as earth-shaking.

And it's not as if a flood of bills is ready to arrive on the governor's desk, either. According to House Index, the House has approved just 39 bills as of March 13 and sent them to the Senate. Even the number of bill introductions — which is really not a measure of anything — is slightly off the pace of two years ago. A total of 1,801 bills were introduced in the House in 1989; as of March 13 this year, 876 have been introduced.

That the legislative pace this year is slower than usual comes as no surprise to those at the Capitol. In a year when money is in scarce supply, legislators are wont to move slowly.

But that doesn't mean the pace won't pick up in the remaining weeks of the session, which is scheduled to adjourn May 20. It always does. If you were to measure the midpoint in terms of *real work* (formal action taken on bills), it would probably fall in late April or early May.

—Grant Moos

INSIDE

Highlights	3
Freshman Profiles	13
Women's Suffrage Feature	15
Committee, Floor & Final Action	16
Bill Introductions (HF742-HF742)	22
Committee Schedule (March 18-22)	26

On the cover: DFL and IR legislative leaders were invited by Gov. Arne Carlson to a March 12 summit meeting on property tax reform. The summit was billed as an opportunity to draft a mutually acceptable tax package, but ended with no agreement. (Photo by Andrew VonBank)

Highlights



Family

Coming together for kids

A bill to establish a legislative commission on children and families won approval from a third House committee March 12, but not before members of the Governmental Operations Committee voted to include one of its members on the proposed panel.

HF9 would create a panel of eight senators and eight House members to examine current policy and delivery of services concerning children's issues.

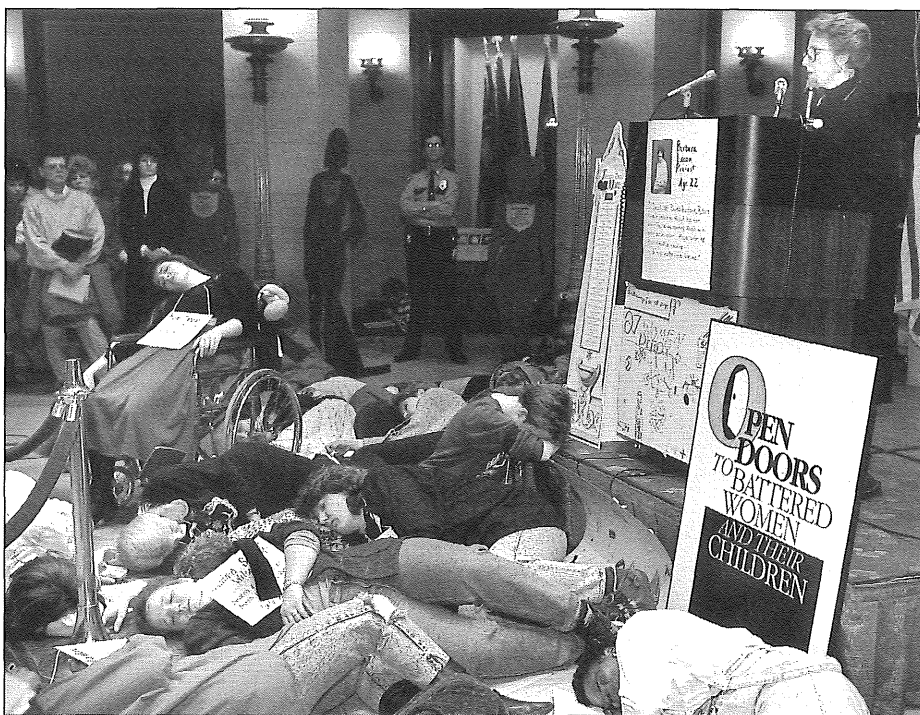
The bill prescribes that commission membership must include representatives of certain committees "who play essential roles in developing children's policy," says bill sponsor Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park). The measure defines the Appropriations, Education, Health and Human Services, and Judiciary committees from both legislative bodies as these key players.

But committee members voted to include the Governmental Operations Committee among those key players because, among other reasons, the proposal seeks to alter government structure.

The commission would be unique in its attempt to coordinate all aspects of children's issues, "bringing all the different policy components to the same table," says Johnson.

"We [as legislators] become specialists in certain areas. Our process is fragmented. What we're attempting to do here is coordinate our efforts, to raise an awareness of what each of us is doing."

HF9 was referred to the Health and Human Services Committee for further discussion.



Women who say they represent 28 battered women killed in Minnesota last year lay down during a demonstration March 14 in the Capitol rotunda. Meanwhile, Molly Culligan read a poem to honor the victims. The event was organized by the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women.



Education

Early childhood screening

A bill that would require all pre-school children to undergo early childhood screening — and that insurance companies pick up most of the costs — has some insurance companies crying foul.

But proponents of the measure (HF420) insist it will help catch children's problems before they get worse.

"This is step one," says bill author Rep. Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee). "We're missing a large number of kids out there [with the screening process], and I think it's *those* kids who need it the most. . . I want to eliminate any feeling that this evaluation is optional."

The screenings are now voluntary; Kelso's bill would make pre-kindergarten screenings mandatory.

Members are expected to continue discussion of the bill next week before

taking action.

The early childhood screening program was restructured in 1989 to target 3-year-olds instead of 4- and 5-year-olds. But because school districts have had trouble in getting reimbursement for the service, the districts haven't been pushing early screening for 3-year-olds.

Under HF420, \$25 per child would be charged for the screening to those families with incomes over \$25,000. But it would require insurance companies to reimburse school districts for expenses incurred in setting up the screenings.

Kelso told members of the Education Committee's Education Finance Division that the bill is intended to catch the 40 percent of Minnesota children who are not currently being screened.

Insurance company officials, however, were not enamored with the bill.

"Believe me, this is going to have an ill-effect on health care costs if you mandate this," says Tom Griffin of Medica, an organization representing two Minnesota HMO plans.

Don't hit the teacher

Hitting a school teacher will always get you in trouble, but students and others could be in deeper water if a bill approved March 13 by the Judiciary Committee's Criminal Justice Division becomes law.

The measure (HF583) proposed by Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) would increase the penalty for assaulting a school official from a misdemeanor to a gross misdemeanor — provided the assault results in "demonstrable bodily harm."

The maximum penalty would be a year in jail and a \$3,000 fine as opposed to the misdemeanor maximum penalty of 90 days in jail and a \$700 fine.

The proposal would apply to public and private school officials who are defined as teachers, school administrators, and other school employees.

In addition, the bill would similarly increase the maximum penalty for the wreckless handling of a weapon — provided the offense occurred in a school zone, park zone, or certain "public housing zones."

And the bill would also increase the maximum penalty for felony crimes that are committed within such restricted zones. Selling or possessing a silencer for a gun, furnishing a minor with a gun or ammunition in certain instances, or intentionally discharging a gun in these areas would be punishable by a maximum of five years in prison, up from two years.

Solberg says the measure is just one more attempt "to create a safe place for kids."

Rep. Kathleen Vellenga (DFL-St. Paul) amended the bill to include "public housing zones," which, she says, have been beset by crime problems.

The measure would also appropriate funds to establish a pilot grant program to provide employment and education counseling for troubled youths between the ages of 14 and 18.

HF583 was referred to the Judiciary Committee for further review.

School district funding

Most schools will be able to continue cooperative ventures with neighboring school districts despite a proposed drop in state funding next year for those programs, state education officials say.

State funding for education districts — where two or more school districts join to offer classes they can't afford on their own — would fall from \$60 per student to \$48 next school year, says Tom Melcher, a finance analyst with the state Department of Education.

Melcher, however, says the money taken from the education district program is, instead, being used to increase the general education formula all schools receive from the state.

Under Gov. Arne Carlson's public school funding plan, the state would provide school districts with at least \$3,050 per student during each of the next two years, a slight increase over current levels.

Had the governor chosen to fund education districts at current levels, Melcher told the Education Finance Division of the Education Committee March 11, the basic formula would have dipped to about \$3,040 per student.

The overall effect of the change will give individual schools "more flexibility" in spending decisions, Melcher says, adding that the schools could continue the cooperative ventures if they so choose.

But several division members criticized the plan, saying most school districts will,

instead, drop the programs.

The legislation (HF462) also calls for cuts in several organizational aid categories — those dollars that are earmarked for specific programs such as interdistrict cooperation — during the first year of the biennium, with funding generally rebounding to current levels in the 1992-93 school year.

The plan would also cut state funding to school districts considering combining with other districts; the per student funding would drop from \$100 to \$80.

The proposal would, however, nearly double the money available for such programs in the 1992-93 school year.

Teachers, students on board?

Should one teacher and one student be added to school boards as non-voting members?

The Education Committee says yes. The committee approved an amendment to an education reform bill (HF350) March 11.

Supporters of the measure say it's necessary to provide better communication between school boards on one side and teachers and students on the other. They question how teachers can be expected to implement ambitious reforms when they are one step removed from where many of those key decisions are made.

"There's a great level of frustration out there," says Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St.



Second grade artist Katy Stangl (left) and Natalie Stangl, both of Edina, viewed works in the Youth Art Month Exhibit at the Capitol. The exhibit, which runs through March 18, is sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Education and Art Educators of Minnesota.

Paul). "I don't understand what we're afraid of . . . in having non-voting students and teachers be more integral and be in a position to offer advice on a more regular basis."

But opponents of the measure say they are concerned about adding non-elected officials to the board. They also question whether non-voting positions will truly increase teacher and student influence since board meetings are open to the public.

In addition, they say one section of HF350 calls for a "school site management agreement" between the school board and a local "team" made up of the principal, teachers, students, parents, and non-parent community members. The idea is to increase local, or "site-based," control to determine what's best for the school.

The bill also calls for a longer school year and would tie 40 percent of future commercial/industrial tax revenues to fund public K-12 education.

Although the amendment was approved, HF350 remains in the Education Committee for further debate.

Big or small beautiful?

With funding for public libraries in shorter supply than usual, libraries across the state are faced with a dilemma. Should central libraries be improved or should the focus be on improving regional networks so smaller libraries can access information stored at the larger ones.

The Education Committee's Joint Subcommittee on Libraries heard conflicting testimony on the subject March 8 while discussing the governor's proposed budget for libraries.

Public libraries received little in funding increases throughout the 1980s and Gov. Arne Carlson is proposing that 1991 levels remain the same for 1992 and 1993.

According to a Citizens League report, renovation and upgrading of central libraries should be deferred until Minnesota establishes an interconnecting library system with regional centers that will provide wide access through electronic and computer technology.

Money should not be spent to house

administrations and large physical collections on expensive real estate, says Allan Baumgarten of the Citizens League. A new Minneapolis central library is projected to cost about \$100 million.

But an official from the Hennepin County Libraries says the issue isn't so black and white — central libraries versus improving regional networks. While that may sound like a lot, Hennepin County Libraries Director Robert Rohlf says central libraries are "keystones of our democracy."

And although building such a central library makes it sound as if only Minneapolis residents would benefit, Rohlf says that's not true. He says that Hennepin County libraries serve more out-of-county residents than some libraries in large counties, such as Scott or Carver, serve their own residents.

Rohlf says the costs aren't great when compared to stadiums and convention centers.



Law

Murphy's (school bus) law

It's long been a crime to pass a stopped school bus, but the penalty will be a lot greater if a bill approved by the Transportation Committee March 13 becomes law.

The measure (HF244) would make it a gross misdemeanor — up from a misdemeanor — to pass a school bus on the right when its stop arm is extended and flashing lights are activated.

That was just one of several provisions of a school bus operations bill authored by Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown) that included parts of a measure authored by Rep. Edwina Garcia (DFL-Richfield).

The other provisions:

- require applicants for new or renewed drivers' licenses to, by signature, acknowledge they are aware of their driving responsibilities with respect to school buses;
- empower local authorities to require school bus drivers to use the stop arm and signals at locations off streets and highways even if motorists are warned by signs they must stop for the bus; and
- allow school bus roofs to be painted

white for increased cooling during warm months.

HF 244 was referred to the Judiciary Committee for further review.

Preventing early detox release

The House granted final approval March 13 to a measure that would prohibit the early releases from a treatment facility without a court hearing of some people who are mentally ill or intoxicated.

Under current law, people who appear mentally ill or intoxicated and are in danger of harming themselves or others can be detained in such a facility for up to 72 hours.

But oftentimes they aren't held for the full time allotted by law. In fact, one-third of all people held under the law are released before the full observation period expires, says Wayne Raske of the Department of Human Services.

HF98, sponsored by Rep. Art Seaberg (IR-Eagan), was prompted, in part, by a Sunfish Lake homicide last July. Dr. Douglas Simmons was accused of murdering his wife after a judge, by phone, ordered his release from a detox center. (See *Session Weekly*, March 8).

The House unanimously approved the bill, on a 129-0 vote. The measure now goes to the Senate Rules and Administration Committee.

'Dimler Amendment' repeal

Drivers caught speeding — as long as it's not more than 10 miles per hour over the speed limit — may still have those violations shielded from their driving records.

An attempt to repeal the so-called Dimler Amendment, which prevented such violations from being placed on driving records, failed March 13 in the Judiciary Committee's Criminal Justice Division.

Chief author Rep. Marcus Marsh (IR-Sauk Rapids) told the committee that the provision allows habitual speeders to plea bargain their speeding tickets to within that 10-mile-per hour window so the violation doesn't appear on driving or insurance records.

Minnesota State Patrol Chief Tony

Kozojed says about one-fourth of State Patrol speeding arrests in 1990 were not recorded on drivers' records. He adds that, in the same year, Minnesota had the second highest percentage of vehicles exceeding the 55-miles-per-hour speed limit in the nation, and was considerably higher than any neighboring states.

Kozojed says that since the Dimler Amendment went into effect in 1986, the percentage of vehicles that exceed the 55 mile-per-hour limit increased from 57 percent to 73 percent.

Marsh says the main reason he sponsored the repeal measure (HF337) is safety. He adds, however, that Minnesota could lose substantial federal highway aid if the law isn't changed.

"We may be losing some federal dollars in excess of \$7 million if we don't pass this legislation because we're at a border line situation for being out of compliance with the federal government," he says.

Access to patient records

A bill that would allow coroners and medical examiners access to patient records and other data relevant in determining cause of death prompted spirited debate in the Data Privacy Subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee March 13.

Under provisions of HF423, coroners and examiners could simply provide doctors or hospitals with a written request in order to obtain the records. Currently, a court-issued subpoena is required to get such information.

But a provision in the bill sponsored by Rep. Ray Welker (IR-Montevideo) calling for the release of psychological records was sharply criticized by at least one witness.

Proponents of the bill say such records are at times essential in accurately determining cause of death. But others are skeptical, wondering if releasing such records won't lead to inaccurate speculation, especially in dealing with possible suicides.

"Providing psychological records [to examiners] will inevitably reveal information concerning and potentially harming persons still living," Bill Conley of the Mental Health Association of Minnesota told members.

He also says that without physical



Nancy Shaleen (standing) of Anoka held back tears March 12 as Joanne Kost, coordinator of the Anoka County STRIDE Program, testified before the Health Access and Delivery Subcommittee. Kost and Shaleen, a single parent and student who is working to get off welfare, testified on a bill that would provide statewide health care access.

evidence to support a suicide finding, the record of past suicide attempts could lead coroners to inaccurate and harmful conclusions.

"Such a finding could result in the loss of thousands of dollars of insurance money that would otherwise benefit surviving family members," says Conley.

But Hennepin County Medical Examiner Gary Peterson disagrees.

"Psychological records can often erase the possibility of suicide," he says. "Admittedly, this is sensitive information, but we [as examiners] are charged with determining cause of death. To do that, we need those [psychological] records."

Discussion on HF423 is expected to continue in the subcommittee.



Health

Living will of mental health

A bill that some call "the living will of mental health" was recommended to pass as amended by the Health and Human Services Committee March 14 and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

The bill (HF233) authored by Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls) would allow people with episodic mental illness to prescribe, in advance, the treatment they want to receive if they become ill.

In the absence of a treatment plan, the individual can designate someone to make treatment decisions in their place should the need arise.

The bill is in response to a 1988 Minnesota Supreme Court decision, *Jarvis v. Levine*, which holds that court approval is necessary before medication can be forcibly administered to a committed, mentally ill patient.

Greenfield says that the court decision has caused serious delays in treatment and is very costly for taxpayers.

HF233's companion in the Senate is SF187, which is currently pending before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

RTC layoffs possible

Proposed budget cuts by Gov. Arne Carlson could mean layoffs for more than 740 state employees in the state's network of regional treatment centers over the next two years, says a Department of Human Services spokesman.

The governor has called for a shutdown by December of all seven of the state's chemical dependency treatment programs in regional treatment centers, which would eliminate 210 jobs, says Bob Baird of the department's Health Care and Residential Programs Management Division.

In addition, the governor's budget would require that 424 staff people who work with the developmentally disadvantaged be laid off in 1992, and calls for another 106 layoffs in 1993.

Baird says the cuts are being proposed because client populations at the centers have decreased in recent years. A 1989 law mandated that nearly all clients at the centers be moved to community-based

facilities by 1999.

That law also spelled out the job rights of those state employees, which included a provision giving them first dibs on jobs at state-run community-based facilities.

According to committee administrator Vic Thorstenson, Carlson does not support the 1989 "memorandum of understanding" concerning those employees and has said it would not apply to the cutbacks.

Baird discussed the budget cuts at the March 12 meeting of the Appropriations Committee's Human Resources Division.

Health care costs and welfare

Families who work their way off welfare often are forced to return because of high health care costs, says Joanne Kost, who works with Anoka County families on welfare programs.

Kost told the Health Care Access and Delivery Subcommittee March 12 that the Minnesotan's Health Care Plan "could be a very critical and instrumental piece in helping individuals get off and stay off of welfare."

The subcommittee took no action on HF2, which contains a portion of the Minnesotan's Health Care Plan; discussion will continue on the proposal.

Kost says that in the 1980s, 70 percent of all new job growth in Minnesota was in the service sector. These jobs pay less, offer fewer hours (32 hours per week average), offer less job security, and are less likely to offer benefits.

Kost gave a rundown of the typical STRIDE client going off welfare. In a 15-month period in Anoka County, 145 families left STRIDE, a program designed to help people work their way off welfare, because the primary wage-earner or single parent secured a job.

But the average pay of those jobs — 140 of which are in the service sector — is \$7.67 per hour with limited or no medical coverage. At the same time, they lose most, if not all of their food stamps, and their housing subsidy will decrease rapidly, says Kost.

Families in poverty often have outstanding medical issues, particularly with their children, says Kost, and the uncertainty and expense of health care coverage can often "tip the scales" back to welfare.

The overall view from these families was that this plan would act as an incentive for people to stay off welfare, says Kost. They say they will have added employment options and the mental relief of knowing their family is covered adequately, she adds.

Rep. Eileen Tompkins (IR-Apple Valley) wants to know if Kost's clients really understand all the ramifications of the bill. Tompkins says the measure "will reduce the quality of medical care across the board," and will also eliminate charity care.

Kost, however, says her clients are more interested in getting some type of medical coverage. "When you talk to people who are struggling and have no medical care, it's really hard to talk to them about equity when they lack equity of any kind," says Kost.



Environment

Don't trash that stove

Consumers shopping for a new clothes dryer or oven are often faced with a dilemma: What to do with the old beast?

If a bill approved March 13 by the Environment and Natural Resources Committee becomes law, stores that sell major appliances also will be required to take them back or to make arrangements for collection.

That might be a load off consumers' minds, but some Minnesota businesses think the regulation would add to their costs.

The provision is part of a broad waste management bill (HF303) proposed by Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) that cleans up language in current Minnesota laws.

After three days of hearings and amendments, the committee recommended passage of the bill and referred it to the Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee.

Discussion of the major appliance provisions proved one of the more controversial areas of the bill. Judy Cook, president of the Minnesota Retail Merchants Association, told the committee that forcing stores to take back major appliances would be unfair because of the additional costs they would incur.

The bill also would make it illegal for a person to dump major appliances in landfills or, as sometimes seen in rural settings or on abandoned city lots, on the land.

Under the bill, major appliances include clothes washers and dryers, dishwashers, hot water heaters, residential furnaces, garbage disposals, trash compactors, conventional and microwave ovens, ranges and stoves, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, refrigerators and freezers.

Wet bikes and the law

As you dust off your Jet Ski to get ready for a summer's day on the lake, you might have to brush up on a new law, too.

The Environment and Natural Resources Committee March 14 approved HF633, proposed by Rep. Anthony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids), which would regulate personal watercraft.

Under the bill, you'll have to be at least 16 to operate a personal watercraft by yourself and be required to wear a life jacket and watch when and where you use your "wet bike."

Kinkel proposed the bill to deal with complaints about unsafe use of personal watercraft on Minnesota lakes and rivers. A total of 6,145 personal watercraft were registered in the state last year, says the Department of Natural Resources.

Kim Elverum, the DNR's boat and water safety coordinator, told the committee that with the rise in popularity of wet bikes, more accidents are being reported. Last year, he says, a man and a boy drowned because they weren't wearing life jackets when riding on one such watercraft.

Lawmakers in an 11-10 vote defeated an amendment to the bill, offered by Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda), that would have dropped the age limit on solo use of personal watercraft to 13.

Children younger than 16 still will be able to operate the personal watercraft, but only if an adult is riding with them. Sixteen- and 17-year-olds, meanwhile, will be required to hold watercraft operator's licenses.

The bill now moves to the full House for consideration.

Hunting, fishing fee hike?

Hunters and anglers in Minnesota might see another increase in their license fees by the mid-1990s because the state's game and fish fund faces a \$10 million deficit by 1997, says the Office of the Legislative Auditor.

Any fee boost would follow a 10 percent increase, approved by the 1989 Legislature, that went into effect this month. Money collected from the fees goes into the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) game and fish fund.

The audit, which was released March 13, was called for last year after lawmakers raised concerns about the rate of fee increases and about how money from the \$45 million game and fish fund was being spent.

Although the audit found no problems with the fund, it says 44 percent of spending from the fund is for programs other than fish and wildlife management. But many of those programs, such as enforcement of hunting and fishing laws, benefit hunters and anglers, the audit says.

In some areas, the DNR might be spending too much of the game and fish fund on administrative costs, the audit adds.

Don't look for the \$10 million deficit to ever happen, however.

"We'll never actually get there, because there will be a license increase before then," says Tom Walstrom of the legislative auditor's office.

Cleaning up their act

The state Attorney General's Office needs the Legislature's approval to add five new employees so it can help enforce the 1990 federal Clean Air Act, but it isn't requesting an appropriation to pay for the new positions.

That's an unusual — and welcome — twist in a year when requests for more money haven't been viewed favorably by a Legislature that faces a projected \$1.2 billion deficit in the next biennium.

Representatives from the state Attorney General's Office made the personnel request March 8 while presenting their 1992-93 budget to the Appropriations Committee's State Government Division.

Assistant Attorney General Beverly Jones Heydinger explained that a

combination of existing funds from the federal government and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) are available to fund the new positions.

Heydinger says the 1990 federal Clean Air Act will greatly increase state responsibility for regulating air pollution levels. The 1,400 permits Minnesota currently issues per year for air quality purposes will double under the act, she says.

Two of the five people the Attorney General's Environmental Protection Division hopes to hire would be charged with implementing provisions of the Clean Air Act, says Heydinger. The other three would work in the division's cost recovery unit, which tries to regain cleanup costs of waste created by private companies or individuals.

Heydinger says the state's policy is to clean up first, and try to recover costs through court action later. Currently, the office has a backlog of cases to recover cleanup costs.

The committee took no action on the request, which may be included in the omnibus appropriations bill drafted by the full Appropriations Committee.

PRIM and proper

The first in a series of 51 maps showing where the state's public recreation sites are should be on sale by April 1, says the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) learned March 11 that the first batch of maps, which will sell for \$3.95 each, will cover the state's southeastern corner and the lakes region of the north.

The LCMR in the last biennium allocated \$570,000 to the DNR to design the Public Recreation Information Map (PRIM). The maps provide information about fishing piers, historic sites, campgrounds, travel information centers, and other recreational features.

The maps also tell users where they can get more information, including other maps.

But is PRIM proper?

Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul) says the DNR should be careful to include enough information in the maps to make planning trips quick and easy.

"The end use of this has to have some value to my person in the metro area who

wants to go somewhere on a day trip," he says.

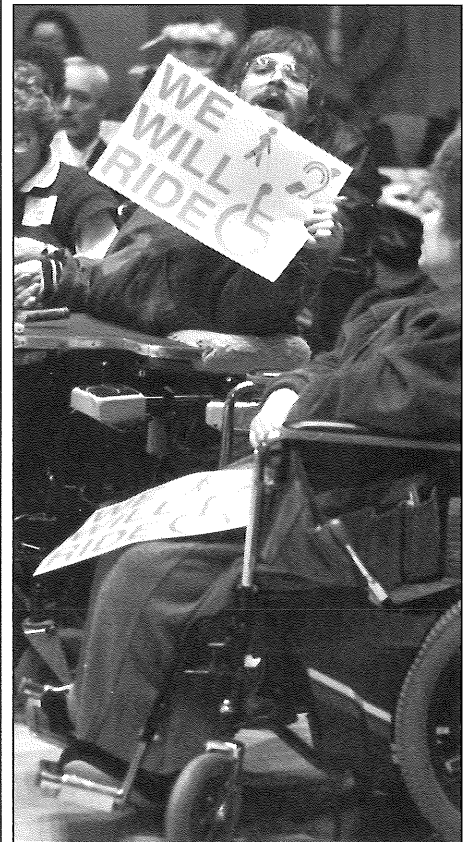
A second batch of maps, covering more of northern Minnesota and the New Ulm area, is scheduled for release this fall. Two more sets of maps will be released in the spring and fall of 1992.

More money for tank spills

State officials estimate that by 1993 it may cost \$45 million a year to clean up petroleum spills caused by aging and leaky underground storage tanks throughout Minnesota.

The state Department of Commerce says applications under its Petroleum Tank Release Cleanup Fund have ballooned during its first three years and are expected to climb steadily in the future.

To meet the anticipated demands, three more employees are needed for the so-called "Petro Board," commerce officials told members of an Appropriations Committee division March 12. Two



Jeff Hoff of Minneapolis held up a sign to protest cuts in the Metro Mobility program. Handicapped groups and senior citizens rallied in the Capitol rotunda March 11 against the cuts.

new analysts and an extra clerical employee would supplement the board's current two-person staff.

Assistant Commerce Commissioner Tammy Wetterling says numerous spills likely will be discovered as about 40,000 gas and oil tanks in Minnesota are unearthed and replaced to comply with new federal law.

The state cleanup fund was established in 1988 to encourage storage tank owners to report petroleum spills that often would have gone unreported. Funding for the program is raised through a 1-cent-per-gallon fee on gasoline distributors.

Under the program, the state will pick up 90 percent of the investigation and cleanup costs of a spill up to a maximum of \$1 million.

Only three applications for compensation were made in 1988, the first year of the program. That number jumped to 314 last year and is predicted to total 1,600 yearly by 1992 and 1993, according to department estimates.

The cleanup fund now has about a \$12 million balance. The department is requesting a \$307,000 appropriation from the Legislature to fund the three new positions in the next two-year spending cycle. The request is included in Gov. Arne Carlson's budget.

But because of the expected increase in demand, Wetterling says, "There is some question whether [current] fees will be sufficient."

She adds, however, that the department is not yet seeking a fee increase. The Economic Development, Infrastructure, and Regulation Division of the Appropriations Committee took no action on the request.



Agriculture

Wetlands bill advances

After a five-hour meeting March 14, Rep. Willard Munger's (DFL-Duluth) wetlands bill passed a critical hurdle with a stack of amendments attached to it.

HF1, which would establish the Wetland Enhancement, Preservation, and Protection Act of 1991, was approved by the Soil and Water Resources Subcommittee of the Agriculture Committee.

Lawmakers voted on 22 amendments,

barely approving a key provision that calls for spending \$50 million for wetlands-related programs. Agriculture groups expressed concern about how much money would go to farmers and also questioned the formula for compensating farmers for wetlands held out of crop production.

The package is expected to move to the full Agriculture Committee next week, where it is sure to get further scrutiny from farm groups upset by compensation and wetlands restoration provisions.

"This bill came in here with six legs on it. I think we chopped one leg off tonight," says Rep. Andy Steensma (DFL-Luverne), adding that some of the amendments eased wetlands regulations in the bill.

Many farmers, however, believe regulations in the bill are still too stringent.

Farm advocates face cuts

The state's Farm Advocate Program could come to an end despite signs that depressed milk and wheat prices might mean continued hard times for some farmers.

The program, which counsels financially struggling farmers, would be dropped from the state Department of Agriculture's 1992-1993 budget under a recommendation from Gov. Arne Carlson.

But department officials told a division of the Appropriations Committee March 11 that they will find ways to keep the farm advocates using money from other sources.

Cutting the 24 farm advocates does concern Rep. Wally Sparby (DFL-Thief River Falls), a farmer himself.

"I think that to totally eliminate that program is a serious mistake," he said during the meeting of the Environment and Natural Resources Division.

The Governor's Office, arguing that farmers' financial situation "has improved significantly" since the height of the farm crisis in the early 1980s, recommends eliminating the \$400,000 annual program. The program never was intended to be permanent, says Herbert I. Halvorson, assistant commissioner of the department.

But, Halvorson adds, "We recognize

there are serious problems" for some farmers.

In 1989, the state's 24 farm advocates had contact with 17,801 farmers, lawyers, lenders, and others who could help farmers resolve problems, says the department.

Rep. Bernie Omann (R-St. Joseph), also a farmer, questioned the need for continuing the Farm Advocate Program. He thinks more effort should be put into the state's farmer-lender mediation program, administered through the Minnesota Extension Service.



Housing

A cat, a dog, two birds

Landlords whose property was built or maintained with public money would be required to allow their elderly residents to keep a pet if a bill authored by Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls) becomes law.

The proposal is aimed at easing a senior citizen's transition from a single family home to an apartment, says Jefferson. Such moves often follow trauma, such as the loss of a spouse, and can be more difficult if the new apartment dweller must also lose a pet, he adds.

The measure (HF123) stipulates that renters aged 62 or older who live alone must be allowed at least one dog or cat, or two birds, in their publicly assisted unit. The definition of assistance includes any federal, state, or local financing for development, construction, and operating costs.

However, as a concession to affected property owners, landlords would be able to increase damage deposits for elderly tenants with pets, Jefferson told a March 11 meeting of the committee.

Minneapolis Community Development Association spokeswoman Lorrie Louder testified on behalf of the bill, saying that current federal law requires all public housing authorities to allow senior citizens one pet per unit. Louder says the law, which also applies to senior citizen high rises, has caused no problems.

But the bill's detractors say the assumption that people with pets have trouble finding housing is wrong. Jim Sorbel, director of the Minnesota Multi-Housing

Association's governmental relations division, says that nearly two-thirds of apartment dwellings in the Twin Cities area allow pets. That translates to approximately 25,000 units that accept animals.

The proposed law would actually take away choices for people who want to live in pet-free complexes, explains Sorbel. He says between 80 and 90 percent of apartments built in the past 20 years have received some public assistance, meaning most would have to comply with the law proposed by Jefferson.

Sorbel adds that the law would be a disincentive for people to own and operate rental housing. Rep. Greg Davids (IR-Preston), a rental property owner, agreed, saying he would rather leave his apartments empty than accept pets.

This session marks the third introduction of the bill, which stalled in 1990 when the Senate ran out of time to consider it, says Jefferson.

The Housing Committee took no action on HF123; discussion will continue at its next meeting.



Energy

Fluorescent bulbs in exit signs

The traditional light bulbs in most exit signs in both public and private buildings would need to be changed with energy-efficient fluorescent bulbs by 1994 if a bill approved by the Energy Committee March 13 becomes law.

Michael Noble of Minnesotans for an Energy Efficient Economy says there are about 2 million exit signs throughout the state which generally use two 20-watt incandescent bulbs.

Noble says just one 10-watt fluorescent bulb could be used in the signs, reducing the total energy consumption by about 75 percent.

In addition, the fluorescent bulbs generally last six times longer than traditional incandescent ones — 12,000 hours versus 2,000 hours, says Noble.

Although the changeover cost is estimated at \$13 million, chief author Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) says the measure would save Minnesotans \$9 million in energy costs in the first year.

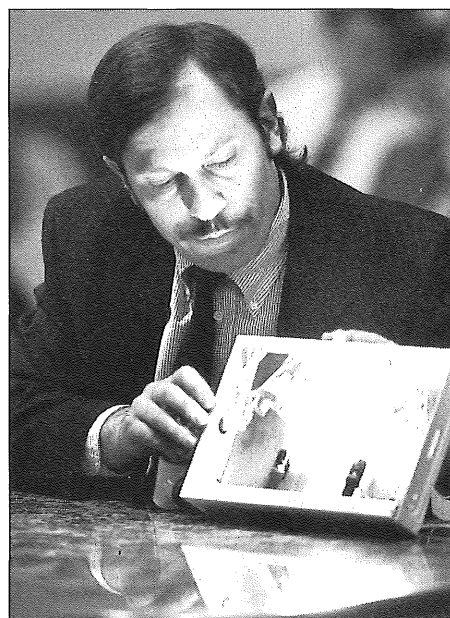
The measure was highly supported, but

some committee members frowned on the mandate provision. Rep. Katy Olson (DFL-Sherburn) says people should be allowed a choice in what type of light bulb they want to use.

But Dawkins says that "if we at the state can decide to outlaw fire hazards . . . it seems to me that we can outlaw inefficient use of energy."

In addition to savings in energy costs, the bill also has an environmental impact. Noble says the energy savings would lead to a decrease in the emission of carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide from coal-burning electric plants.

HF132 now moves to the House floor for more discussion.



Rep. Andy Dawkins, testifying March 13 on his bill to ban incandescent lamps inside exit signs, showed members of the Energy Committee the inside of one such sign.



Business

Help for entrepreneurs

Entrepreneurs looking for money to pursue a business dream often have a tough time convincing banks and venture capitalists about the value of their idea.

But if they can tap into the millions of dollars of federal research and development grants available each year, Minnesota entrepreneurs could bring more jobs and tax revenue to the state.

Under a bill proposed by Rep. Richard Krueger (DFL-Staples), the state would

spend \$1.36 million over the next two years to help businesses get an estimated \$12 million annually in federal Small Business Innovation Grants (SBIR).

The International Trade and Technology Division of the Economic Development Committee March 14 approved Krueger's bill (HF658) and sent it to the full committee for further review.

The money would be funneled through Minnesota Project Innovation (MPI), a private nonprofit organization financed by state, federal, and corporate dollars. MPI would market the SBIR program to scientists, engineers, and entrepreneurs and help them write grant proposals.

Brian Brockway, vice-chair of MPI and president of Roseville-based Data Sciences Inc., told lawmakers that his company has obtained \$1.15 million in SBIR grants since starting up in 1983. The company, which makes medical devices for the study of laboratory animals, employs 36 people.

Keeping up with the Dakotas

Neighboring states are doing a better job luring new and expanding businesses with sophisticated marketing operations, while Minnesota is relying primarily on local and community efforts, says Department of Trade and Economic Development Commissioner E. Peter Gillette.

To equalize the competition, Gillette is asking the Legislature to partially finance a centralized marketing program, in league with the state's business community.

The proposed quasi-public nonprofit corporation, similar to the Greater Minnesota Corporation, would require financing from both the state and private business, Gillette told the Economic Development Committee at a March 12 meeting.

The program, tentatively called Advantage Minnesota, comes with a \$750,000 price tag for the next biennium and is modeled on a similar program in Wisconsin, says Gillette.

Previously, state-supported marketing programs have primarily been in the area of travel and tourism, whereas the business of attracting new enterprise has been a secondary consideration, says Gillette.

"We need to tell the Minnesota story to our prospective customers," he says "Right now, we're competing with one arm tied behind our back."

Committee Chair Rep. Gloria Segal (DFL-St. Louis Park) urged Gillette to have the proposal put in bill form so the Legislature can properly debate the request.

Flare-up over fuel burners

A bill that would require people in the seven-county metro area who work on fuel-burner systems such as furnaces to meet more stringent safety and training requirements produced a lot of heat March 12.

So much so that debate on the measure (HF412) was postponed after supporters and opponents of the bill authored by Rep. Thomas Pugh (DFL-St. Paul) squared off at the Commerce Committee meeting.

The measure would require people who install, repair, or service such systems in the seven-county area to meet the same standards set in Minneapolis and St. Paul, which are generally more stringent than those in the suburbs.

The two cities require that such workers hold a master or journeyman certificate of competency from either Minneapolis or St. Paul in order to work on fuel-burning systems.

Proponents of the bill say the measure would ensure that only skilled workers service the equipment — a requirement that could help prevent potentially devastating accidents from occurring.

Dennis Chada of the United Association of Pipefitters says the lack of more uniform licensing requirements is a "recipe for disaster."

"Installing and repairing fuel burning equipment is not an entry level job, and the need for extensive and specialized knowledge is obvious," he says.

But opponents say the bill could force many already competent service people out of business. They say there is no evidence that their work is substandard or poses a safety threat.

In addition, they say regulation of the industry should be carried out on the state level — not through Minneapolis and St. Paul.

George Hawkins of the Associated

Builders and Contractors says HF412 would prevent a lot of people from practicing their trade in the very cities in which they live.

"It's hard to understand the justification that says a local business doing business in its own hometown . . . currently licensed and capable and currently practicing the art in an artful manner, is no longer competent," he says.

The Commerce Committee expects to continue discussion on the bill.

No permanent replacements?

Companies would be barred from hiring permanent replacement workers during a strike or lockout under a bill that received preliminary approval March 13 by the House.

The measure (HF304) sponsored by Rep. Irv Anderson (Int'l Falls) was approved on a 78-54 vote. It is scheduled to be considered for final passage March 18.

The bill had the support of several union groups, including the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), the AFL-CIO, and the Minnesota Farmers Union.

Union officials say allowing companies to hire permanent workers to replace strikers gives companies an unfair advantage at the bargaining table.

But opponents of the bill say it's not fair to employers, arguing that it would tip the scales too far on the side of labor. (Session Weekly, March 1)

"This is a bad bill," says Rep. Steven Sviggum (IR-Kenyon). "It totally destroys all chances of negotiations."

The Senate companion bill is pending in the Senate Employment Committee.



Government

Reassessment forgiveness

Lawmakers March 12 delayed action on a bill that would have allowed Wabasha County officials to recoup payments made to a Michigan company for what they term botched tax appraisals.

The measure (HF 231) would forgive the remaining \$38,000 the county still owes the state Department of Revenue

and would reimburse the county for a \$38,000 deduction tax officials withdrew from its state aid check last year.

The bill was laid over by the Fiscal Affairs Subcommittee of the Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee to allow author Rep. Bob Waltman (IR-Elgin) an opportunity to rewrite portions of his legislation.

The dispute arose after state tax officials recommended a Michigan-based firm to help reassess local property values in the wake of an ongoing dispute over local property values. The firm has since been paid by the state, but the state has not yet been repaid by the county.

The dispute was triggered by allegations that a member of the Wabasha County Board of Commissioners had used his influence to obtain below-market valuations on property.

The officials involved in the dispute are no longer in office, and current county personnel say the recommended appraisal team made a large number of mistakes in reassessing county properties.

They say they have subsequently had to revise many of the reassessments following tax hearings and court challenges, and now blame state officials for the additional costs.

Although the revenue department concedes some mistakes were initially made, they say most have since been resolved and the county should not be excused for its share of the reassessment costs.



Elections

Regular pay for election judges

A bill approved by a House elections division would require employers to continue paying their workers regular wages when those employees take time off to serve as election judges.

The measure (HF398) authored by Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul) is just one more way to expand the pool of election judges, says Osthoff.

He says some Minnesota companies pay their employees for jury duty, so why not pay them for service as election judges as well? The bill would also allow employers to limit the number of employees who could be election judges to 20 percent of their total.

Joyce Mercil, director of elections for the city of Minneapolis, says "we need to get some of the workforce into our elections." Many 80- and 90-year-olds who have been judges for years are unable to continue, she says.

Some members of the committee think that if employees get good compensation, recruitment will not be such a problem and the use of students will not be necessary. A separate provision of the bill calls for students to be allowed to work as election judges.

The Elections Division of the General Legislation, Veterans Affairs, and Gaming Committee referred HF398 to the full committee for further review.

Student election judges?

Should high school students be trained as election judges? The Elections Division of the General Legislation, Veterans Affairs, and Gaming Committee thinks so. Members approved a bill March 12 that would do just that — if students' parents consent to the idea.

Chief author Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul) says there is already a shortage of election judges and the existing pool is shrinking rapidly.

Osthoff says he wants to train students to be judges "as an entity of education and citizen involvement . . . like an extra-curricular activity."

Rep. Gene Pelowski (DFL-Winona) thinks that students as election judges could be a part of community service curriculum where they could earn credit.

"We should try to entice students to go into different types of governmental service," says Pelowski.

Although election judges are currently required to declare their major party affiliation, it was suggested that students could be non-partisan trainees.

HF398 was amended to include parental consent language and was referred to the full General Legislation, Veterans Affairs, and Gaming Committee.



Veterans

Voters could decide vet bonus

Should the Minnesota Constitution be amended to permit the payment of bonuses to veterans of the war in the Persian Gulf? You just might encounter that question at the voting booth next year.

A bill unanimously approved March 12 by the Veterans Affairs Division of the General Legislation, Veterans Affairs, and Gaming Committee would let Minnesota voters decide the issue.

The measure, (HF224) sponsored by Rep. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids), would place the question on the ballot for the 1992 general election. Similar measures were approved in 1948 and 1972 to give bonuses to WWII and Vietnam War veterans, respectively.

But some legislators drew a distinction between the war in the Persian Gulf and the Vietnam War. The conflict in the Persian Gulf was fought with an all-volunteer force, while Vietnam was not, raising the question that the military personnel in the Gulf "knew the risks of war when they joined."

Privately, some members are wondering whether the measure should be postponed given the projected \$1.2 billion deficit in the next two-year spending cycle.

Although legal experts say a constitutional amendment isn't required, lawmakers prefer to go that route because the precedent was set following WWII and the Vietnam War.

No dollar amount for the bonus was discussed. But in past wars, the amount varied depending on where veterans served.

In WWII, veterans who served overseas received a \$400 bonus, while those serving stateside got \$270. And in the Vietnam War, those listed as missing in action or as prisoners of war, or their families, received a \$1,000 bonus. Those serving in Vietnam received \$600, while those serving stateside got \$300.

The WWI bonus was authorized without a constitutional amendment. The Korean War bonus was considered as an extension of the WWII bonus program. WWI vets received a bonus of \$15 per month, while Korean vets got \$400 if they served in Korea; \$200 if they served

stateside.

The earliest Persian Gulf vets could receive bonuses would be the summer of 1993 because the Legislature would have to enact enabling legislation if the voters approve the proposed amendment.

HF224 was laid over by the full committee March 14. Committee chair Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul) intends to take up the bill when minor language conflicts are resolved by the author.

Trading guns for books

Veterans of the Persian Gulf war could get a free ride to school, but it won't be in armored personnel carriers.

Members of the Veterans Affairs Division of the General Legislation, Veterans Affairs, and Gaming Committee debated a bill March 12 that would give the veterans two free years at any public Minnesota college.

"Their lives have been turned upside down," says Donna Stapel, whose husband is still serving in Saudi Arabia. "You've got a chance here to make a lasting investment in the future of our country."

She told members that, in a recent conversation, her husband said, "The idea of sitting in a classroom after all that's happened is very strange."

People are going to need an incentive to return to academia, she says.

Tom Nerud, whose son was called to active duty with only two weeks left in his academic quarter at Inver Hills Community College, also urged support of the bill. Unable to continue schooling, his son's Pell Grant was revoked.

While it may be reinstated, this involves an application and processing delay of up to six months. The National Guard has scholarships available, but only on a reimbursement basis, he says.

"The kids still have to pay the tuition and book money up front," he told the committee. He's worried that the added bureaucratic hassles may keep veterans out of school.

HF426 (Beard, DFL-Cottage Grove) would cover reservists as well as active members of the service.

"The Iraqis and the Scud missiles didn't discriminate between the actives and the reserves, so there's no reason we should either," says Nerud.

Iowan Wejcman finds greener pastures in city

From Lake Street's urban brew to Minnehaha Parkway's well-groomed lawns, Minneapolis' District 60B is best described as diverse.

Beginning near the old Minneapolis Sears, 60B cuts a deep swath south along Nicollet Avenue to include some of the wealthier and poorer areas of Minneapolis.

But, for the freshman lawmaker who represents 60B in the House, the district's crazy-quilt variety of lifestyles, incomes, and races is not a headache.

"It's really super. I think all that the diversity does is add strength," says Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls).

After all, it wasn't more homogeneity that Wejcman was after when she fled her native Iowa for bigger and more exciting places. Once here, she has not only enjoyed the benefits, but has set about tackling the problems of city life.

A full-time community activist, Wejcman formally stepped into the political arena when former DFL Rep. Peter McLaughlin decided to run for a seat on the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners.

Although the political action is bigger at the Capitol, Wejcman says the routine isn't much different from her 15 years in neighborhood politics — further proof that all politics is, in fact, local.

"It's that meetings-all-the-time type of thing. Phone calls to handle, people with



Linda Wejcman (pronounced WAITS-man)

District 60B

Age: 51

Home: Minneapolis

Occupation: Consultant/community activist

District traits: 60B includes a section of Minneapolis' south side. The heavily DFL district voted for Paul Wellstone over Rudy Boschwitz in the 1990 U.S. Senate race by a 78.7-to-21.2 percent margin.

problems. It's pretty much what I expected," she says.

For 15 years, Wejcman and her husband, Jim, have been residents of the south side neighborhood. She helped found the Central Neighborhood Improvement Association in 1978, and is currently in her third term as president of the Southside Neighborhood Improvement Association.

Her 60B constituents, says Wejcman, are unified by a "general caring" about the problems associated with city living. While campaigning, she found a willingness to pay taxes for services that specifically combat urban blight: job programs, education, and work readiness.

As a member of the Health and Human Services Committee, Wejcman hopes to help shape the social programs her constituents prefer.

And with a seat on the Judiciary Committee, Wejcman says she also hopes to have a say in crafting the state's drug laws, noting that drug-related crimes have increased in her district in recent years. It's a concern that truly unifies the neighborhood, regardless of income, she adds.

"Crime is greater in some parts of the district," Wejcman admits. "But, even in the higher income area when I door-knocked last summer, I found one block that had shut down three crack houses within two weeks."

With the Energy, Governmental Operations, and Housing committees filling out her calendar, Wejcman notes a fortuitous match between her legislative assignments and 60B's concerns.

"I really feel lucky — and busy," she says.

It's a fact!

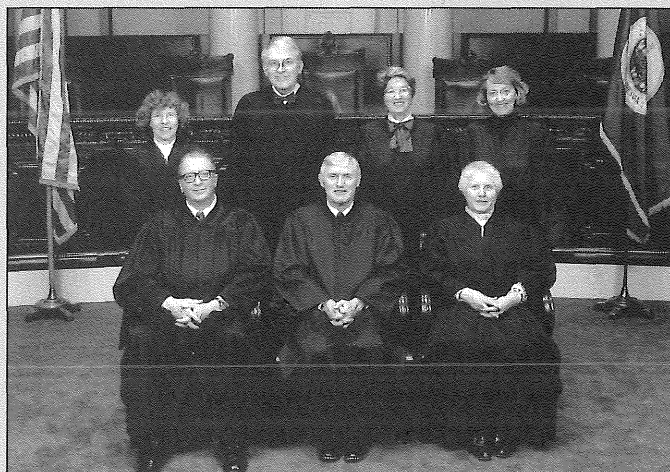
Female Supremes used to come in threes.

In Minnesota, there are now four of them, but — as far as anyone knows — Diana Ross has never performed with Justices Rosalie Wahl, M. Jeanne Coyne, Esther Tomljanovich, and Sandra Gardebring of the Minnesota Supreme Court.

What is special about the quartet of Minnesota Supreme Court justices is that they comprise the only female majority on any court of last resort in the nation.

Michigan (two of its five high court justices are women) ranks second in the gender balance scale, followed by Oklahoma, where two of its nine high court justices are women.

Twenty-one states have no women sitting on their courts of last resort.



Minnesota Supreme Court Justices (back row L-R) Esther M. Tomljanovich, John E. Simonett, M. Jeanne Coyne, Sandra S. Gardebring, (front row L-R) Lawrence R. Yetka, A.M. Keith and Rosalie E. Wahl.

(Photo courtesy Minnesota Supreme Court)

For IR Phil Heir, '3' is the magic number

While some of Rudy Perpich's judicial picks might have raised eyebrows, Independent-Republican Phil Heir of Blaine jokes that one particular appointment was the best decision the former governor ever made.

When Perpich selected former DFL Rep. Joseph Quinn of Anoka for the bench, it helped smooth Heir's way to the Capitol. Heir, who had twice unsuccessfully challenged Quinn for the District 50B seat, won a special election in February.

Heir's election may point to a mild political shift in the Twin Cities' northern suburbs, a working-class DFL stronghold. With growth in the white-collar population have come inroads for IR candidates.

When Heir and his wife moved to Blaine in 1974 to be closer to their church, he quickly became involved in local politics. "Everybody was a Democrat out there, so I went to a Democratic caucus," he recalls of his first precinct caucus. The following year, he went to the IR caucus.

"I just felt philosophically more comfortable there," he says.

Heir's involvement in the IR party increased to the point in 1988 when he became a candidate for the Legislature. "I was on the search committee [for an IR candidate to challenge Quinn], and it was the last day of filing, and we didn't have a candidate," he remembers. "And I just said the people need a choice. Without



Phil Heir

District 50B

Age: 52

Home: Blaine

Occupation: Systems analyst

District traits: 50B in Anoka County includes parts of the cities of Blaine and Coon Rapids. The district voted for Paul Wellstone over Rudy Boschwitz in the 1990 U.S. Senate election by a 51.7- to-48.3 percent margin.

any campaign, without any platform, I decided to run."

He entered the contest with a strategy: It probably would take three tries to build up name recognition and win the seat. Sure enough, his 1988 effort ended in defeat, although the 38 percent of ballots he received surprised him.

Last November, in his second try, Heir came closer, losing to Quinn by only a 55 percent to 45 percent margin.

And then the big break came. Perpich elevated Quinn to a judgeship and, running against DFLer Jim Nelson, Heir got 54 percent of the vote in a Feb. 5 special election to fill the seat.

Winning meant Heir had to take a leave of absence from his job as a systems analyst with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in St. Paul. He's been with the DNR for eight years and previously has worked for the Department of Administration and in the

banking industry.

Working for one of the state's chief environmental agencies no doubt gives Heir a better understanding of the environmental concerns of his district. The Anoka County area is rich in wetlands, he says, and he would like to see a federal wetlands laboratory established there.

Another issue important to his constituents is education.

Heir believes more local control of education is needed and that the state should pay a larger share of education costs. But he also foresees that school consolidation will be among major reforms coming in education. "We've got to believe we can do better," he says.

The freshman legislator also is concerned about property taxes and fears that big increases could hurt homeowners and businesses in his district.



Who are the lobbyists at the Capitol, and whom do they represent? Describe the work of lobbyists, both pro and con. What real influences do lobbyists and political contributions have on the legislative process? What is the significance of lobbying — paid versus grass roots?

There are lobbyists of all stripes and colors at the Legislature — so many, in fact, that they outnumber legislators by slightly more than 6 to 1. In 1990, there

were 1,237 lobbyists registered with the Minnesota Ethical Practices Board.

That's nearly twice the 690 lobbyists who were registered just 10 years ago. Do they work? Obviously many people and businesses think so; otherwise they wouldn't have paid the reported spending of \$2.1 million on lobbyists during the 12-month period ending June 30, 1990.

Although the public perception of lobbyists is somewhat shaky, they do play an integral role in the legislative process. Legislators often look to lobbyists to explain portions of a bill, whether it concerns the environment or another unit of government.

Because legislators are required to pass judgment on hundreds of topics each

session, it's nearly impossible to keep abreast of all the complex issues. That's when they sometimes turn to lobbyists — particularly ones who have provided reliable information in the past.

The rapid growth in the number of paid lobbyists in recent years has caused some legislators to question their necessity and effectiveness. Some lawmakers say it is much more effective for grass roots citizens to plead their cases with lawmakers rather than to rely on paid lobbyists.

How do they work? The term "lobbyist" stems from "lobby" — the place where these men and women originally congregated while awaiting lawmakers to emerge from the House and Senate chambers.

Looking back to 1917 . . .

House, Senate split on suffrage question

Former *Minneapolis Star* reporter Charles Chaney once asked, "If any considerable number of women want to vote, why should they be refused that right?"

Today's Legislature would be hard pressed to say anything but "why not?"

But when the question of equal suffrage came knocking at the Capitol door in the early 1900s, several Minnesota lawmakers and even some women rose to defend all-male voting, which, one member argued, was "designed by our forefathers."

Debate on the issue peaked in 1917 when the Minnesota Equal Suffrage Association decided to push for women's rights to vote in presidential elections. Several states, including North Dakota, had already approved such measures.

Clara Ueland, then president of the association, convinced Rep. A.M. Peterson of Coleraine to introduce a bill on the matter.

And the sparks began to fly on Feb. 21 when the proposal was debated on the House floor.

Rep. Thomas Girling of Robbinsdale stood first, arguing that "women shouldn't be dragged into the dirty pool of politics." Approving such a measure would "cause irreparable damage at great expense to the state," he said.

Despite Girling's impassioned plea, the bill to "submit to the men of the state whether women shall be given the full right to vote, just the same as the men," passed on an 85-41 vote.

But according to a St. Paul historian, when the Senate took up the bill only days later, it was a large group of women who came out strongly against the measure.

C.J. Buell, a political watchdog and author of several books on the Minnesota Legislature, noted, "The anti-suffrage women were out in full force — talking much and saying nothing. They begged and pleaded that the awful burden of putting a piece of paper into the ballot box once in awhile be not imposed on them. Well, there was nothing in the law to compel them to vote if they did not want to."



Women registered to vote in 1924 at the Calvin Coolidge campaign headquarters in Minneapolis.

(Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society)

But their testimony gave senators the political cover to defeat the measure. Leading the charge to squelch the female vote was Sen. F.A. Duxbury of Caledonia. He rose to argue that "disaster and ruin would overtake the nation."

A woman voter would only too soon lead to "government by females" because "men could never resist the blandishments of women," he argued.

Instead, he counseled women to "attach themselves to some man who will represent them in public affairs."

Duxbury's colleagues in the Senate may have taken his words to heart. They defeated the proposal on a 31-35 vote.

But the universal suffrage question returned two years later during the 1919 session. The debate in Minnesota took place after both its U.S. senators voted in Washington to give women the right to vote.

With little opposition, and Ueland's members "arguing everywhere," both Minnesota legislative bodies passed resolutions ratifying the federal equal suffrage decision that took effect Aug. 27, 1920, Buell noted.

Duxbury was no longer a member of the state Senate when the vote was taken.

His successor, Sen. John Hopp of Preston, voted in favor of the measure. The final vote was 49-7 in the Senate and 100-28 in the House.

Sen. Duxbury's sentiments now seem as dated as the thick cigar smoke that once filled the Senate chamber. Both have since disappeared, but not without a fight.

"These are relics of a bygone day," wrote the *Star's* Chaney.

It wasn't long before women came to the Capitol, not pleading for voting rights, but as elected representatives. In 1923, four women were sworn in as members of the House. Today, there are 29 women in the House — more than 20 percent of the membership.

And there is little evidence to suggest "disaster and ruin" have rained on Minnesota politics.

— John Tschida

March 18, 1858

On this day, Otter Tail County was established and named after the Otter Tail lake and river. Originally, the Ojibway named the lake for its long, narrow sand bar shaped like an otter's tail.

Committee, Floor & Final Action

How a bill becomes law in Minnesota

COMMITTEE ACTION

Introduction

A bill for a proposed new law is introduced in either the House or the Senate. The idea for a new law can come from virtually anybody: a legislator, an interest group, or an average citizen.

Committee Referral

The bill is referred to an appropriate committee. A bill about farming, for example, would be referred to the Agriculture Committee. A bill about altering the sales tax would be referred to the Taxes Committee.

Committee/Division

The bill is considered by either one committee (including its divisions), or several, before being sent to the House or Senate floor. A bill pertaining to pesticides used in farming, for example, could be sent to the Agriculture Committee and then re-referred to the Environment and Natural Resources Committee for further discussion.

Committee Report

The bill is discussed in committee(s) by members, with public testimony. Committees can only recommend action on the bill to the floor. The bill is either approved, amended and then approved, defeated, or debate is postponed. If the bill is approved, a committee report is sent to the House floor; the same happens in the Senate.

FLOOR ACTION

Final Passage

After receiving the committee report, each body debates the bill and considers amendments. Legislators then vote on the bill in its final form. Final approval requires at least 68 affirmative votes in the House; 34 in the Senate.

Vote

Vote totals and breakdowns by legislators are recorded in the House and Senate journals.

First reading in other body; substitution

When a bill reaches the other body, it is substituted for its companion and replaces it in the process.

Referred to Conference Committee

If the bills the House and the Senate pass differ, a conference committee is appointed to work out the differences between the two versions of the bill. Typically, either three or five members from each body are named to such committees.

Concurrence and Repassage

Once the conference committee reaches a compromise, the bill is sent back to the full House and Senate for approval. Sometimes the bill differs from the ones members in each body approved. But if both bodies concur and repass the bill, it is then sent to the governor for approval.

FINAL ACTION

Governor's Signature

When the bill passes both bodies, it is sent to the governor for action. If the governor vetoes the bill, it cannot become law unless two-thirds of the members in both the House and the Senate vote to override the veto and approve the bill. If the governor signs the bill, it becomes law.

In the following pages, bills that have been considered during the week — in committee, on the floor, and by the governor — are charted according to the type of legislative action that occurred.

Key to Committee/Division Abbreviations

AG	AGRICULTURE
AGR	AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT
AP	APPROPRIATIONS
AP/ecir	Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Div.
AP/ed	Education Division
AP/enr	Environment & Natural Resources Division
AP/hr	Human Resources Division
AP/sg	State Government Division
CO	COMMERCE
EC	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
EC/itt	International Trade & Technology Division
ED	EDUCATION
ED/edfin	Education Finance Division
ED/high	Higher Education Division
ED/ef	Education Funding Division
EE	ELECTIONS & ETHICS
EG	ENERGY
EH	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING
EM	EMPLOYMENT
EN	ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES
EP	ENERGY & PUBLIC UTILITIES
ET	ETHICS
FI	FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE
FI/bk	Banking Division
FN	FINANCE
GL	GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & GAMING
GL/elec	Elections Division
GL/vet	Veterans Affairs Division
GO	GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS
GO/gs	Government Structures Division
GR	GAMING REGULATION
HH	HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
HO	HOUSING
JU	JUDICIARY
JU/crjus	Criminal Justice Division
LA	LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS
LG	LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS
LO	LOCAL GOVERNMENT
MA	METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS
RA	RULES AND ADMINISTRATION
RE	REDISTRICTING
RI	REGULATED INDUSTRIES
RU	RULES & LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION
TA	TAXES
TR	TRANSPORTATION
TT	TAXES & TAX LAWS
VG	VETERANS & GENERAL LEGISLATION
WM	WAYS & MEANS

1991 MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE BILL STATUS TRACKING SHEET			COMMITTEE				FLOOR					FINAL
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File No.	Author	Committee/Division/Bill Title										
		APPROPRIATIONS										
HF0193	Greenfield	General Assistance—negotiated	2/4 HH	AP	3/11 rpa							
SF0141	Traub	agreement deadline delayed	1/31 FN	FN	2/7 rp		2/14	64-0	3/8			
		Education Division APPROPRIATIONS										
HF0381	Morrison	Dakota County Technical College—	2/18 ED	AP/ed	314 rp							
SF0353	Metzen	construction authority	2/18 ED									
		COMMERCE										
HF0146	O'Connor	Real estate closings—regulations	1/31 CO	CO	3/7 rpa		3/13	129-0				
SF0329	Metzen		2/18 CO									
HF0154	Scheid	Uniform commercial code—changes	1/31 CO	CO	3/12 rpa							
SF0403	Finn		2/21 JU									
HF0238	Wejcman	Credit cards—protection	2/7 CO	CO	2/28 rp		3/7	133-0				
SF0198	Berglin		2/7 CO									
HF0275	Farrell	Motor vehicle contracts—transfers	2/11 CO	CO	2/28 rp		3/7	127-0	3/14			
SF0242	Hottinger		2/11 CO	CO	3/7 rp							
HF0320	Brown	Auctioneers—licensing exemptions	2/14 CO	CO	3/11 rpa		3/13	128-2				
HF0373	Scheid	Real estate licenses—changes	2/18 CO	CO	3/13 rp							
SF0557	Price		3/4 CO									
HF0412	Pugh	Fuel burner systems—licensing	2/21 CO	CO	3/12 h							
SF0387	Metzen		2/20 EM									
		ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT										
HF0262	Pelowski	Capitol access program amended	2/7 EC	EC	3/13 rp	reAP						
SF0198	Beckman		2/7 EC									
		Int'l Trade & Technology Division ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT										
HF0658	Krueger	Small business research,	3/4 EC	EC	3/14 rpa							
SF0632	Morse	assistance program established	3/7 EC									
		EDUCATION										
HF0230	Waltman	Schools—combination referendum	2/7 ED	ED	3/13 rpa	reJU						
SF0152	Mehrkens	authorized	2/4 ED									
HF0277	Cooper	Independent school districts—	2/11 ED	ED	3/4 rp		3/7	133-0				
SF0203	Bernhagen	combination	2/7 ED									
HF0331	Kinkel	School boards—interactive	2/14 ED	ED	3/13 rpa							
SF0396	Finn	television	2/20 ED									
HF0350	McEachern	Open enrollment—procedures	2/14 ED	ED	3/13 h*							
		changed										

*HF0350-ED 3/11 a

1991 MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE BILL STATUS TRACKING SHEET			COMMITTEE				FLOOR					FINAL
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File No.	Author	Committee/Division/Bill Title										
HF0462	Ozment	Public school funding	2/25 ED	ED	3/11 h							
SF0466	Olson		2/25 ED									
HF0595	McEachern	School—withdrawal provisions	3/4 ED	ED	3/13 rp							
	modified											
HF0631	Dorn	Mankato schools—early levy	3/4 ED	ED	3/13 rp	reTA						
SF0700	Hottinger	authorized	3/11 ED									
HF0752	Tunheim	School districts—specific	3/11 ED	ED	3/13 rpa							
SF0719	Stumpf	consolidation	3/11 ED									
		Education Finance Division										
		EDUCATION										
HF0462	Ozment	Public school funding	2/25 ED	ED/edfin	3/14 h							
SF0466	Olson		2/25 ED									
HF0420	Kelso	Children—development	2/21 ED	ED/edfin	3/14 h							
		screening, insurance coverage										
HF0134	Swenson	Parent education program—	1/28 ED	ED/edfin	3/14 h							
SF0122	Pappas	community levy authorization	1/31 ED									
		ENERGY										
HF0132	Dawkins	Fluorescent lights—exit signs	1/28 EN	EG	3/13 rpa							
SF0137	Marty		1/31 EN	EG								
HF0434	Cooper	Information booklet—ethanol	2/21 EN	EG	3/13 rp	reAP						
SF0560	Frederickson	plant developers	3/4 AG	AG	3/14 rpa	reFN						
		ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES										
HF0128	Reding	Water detention—development	1/28 EN	EN	3/14 rpa							
SF0667	Morse	requirements	3/7 EN									
HF0303	Wagenius	Waste management—changes,	2/14 EN	EN	3/13 rpa	reLG						
SF0256	Merriam	additions to law	2/11 EN									
HF0602	Begich	Pesticide application—written	3/4 EN	EN	3/14 rpa							
		approval requirement										
HF0633	Kinkel	Watercraft use, operation—	3/4 EN	EN	3/14 rpa							
SF0442	Lessard	regulation	2/25 EN									
		FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE										
HF0004	Skoglund	Health insurance—Minnesotans'	1/9 FI	FI	3/13 h							
SF0023	Stumpf	Health Care Plan	1/14 HH									
HF0012	Skoglund	Insurance company solvency	1/9 FI	FI	3/13 a							
SF0037	Luther		1/14 CO									
HF0205	Skoglund	Life insurance—military	2/4 GL	FI	3/7 rpa		3/13	118-12				
HF0276	Orfield	X-ray use—banned in diagnostic	2/11 FI	FI	3/7 rpa		3/13	131-0				
SF0239	Adkins	care	2/11 CO									

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File No.	Author	Committee/Division/Bill Title										
		Elections Division										
		GENERAL LEGISLATION										
HF0326	Osthoff	Primary elections—employees	2/14 GL	GL/elec	3/12 rp	reGL						
SF0552	Hughes	excused to vote	3/4 EE									
HF398	Osthoff	Election judges—include high	2/21 GL	GL/elec	3/12 rpa	reGL						
SF0750	Hughes	school students	3/14 EE									
		Veterans Affairs Division										
		GENERAL LEGISLATION										
HF0224	Kinkel	Constitutional amendment—bonus	2/7 GL	GL/vet	3/12 rpa	reGL						
SF0144	Samuelson	to Iraq conflict servicemen	1/31 VG	RA	2/25 w	re/FN						
HF0379	Wenzel	State lands—authorization to	2/18 GL	GL/vet	3/12 rp	reGL						
SF0393	Samuelson	veterans organization	2/20 VG	VG?	3/7 rpa		3/11	62-0				
HF0426	Beard	Tuition exemption—Gulf War	2/21 GL	GL/vet	3/12 h							
		veterans										
HF0616	Frederick	Rulemaking authority clarified	3/4 GL	GL/vet	3/12 rp	reGL						
SF0611	Bertram		3/7 VG									
		GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS										
HF0009	A. Johnson	Commission on children, families—	1/9 GO	GO	3/13 rpa	reHH						
SF0116	Traub	creation	1/28 ED									
		Government Structures Division										
		GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS										
HF0167	Segal	Mental health—advisory council chair	1/31 GO	GO/gs	3/11 rp	reAP						
		HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES										
HF0011	Welle	Health facilities—pediatric	1/9 HH	HH	3/14 rpa	reAP						
SF0012	Samuelson	reimbursement	1/9 HH	HH	2/28 rpa	reFN						
HF0033	Sviggum	Hospital rates—retroactive appeals	1/14 HH	HH	3/14 rpa	reAP						
HF0020	Mehrkens		1/14 HH									
HF0036	Welle	Physicians—reciprocal licensing	1/14 HH	HH	2/25 rpa		3/7	133-0				
SF0073	Flynn	requirements change	1/22 HH									
HF0085	E. Olson	Nursing homes—	1/24 JU	HH	3/14 rpa							
SF0121	Finn	share administrators	1/31 HH									
HF0086	Greenfield	Child welfare—services notice	1/24 HH	HH	3/14 rp	reAP						
SF0120	Berglin	requirement	1/31 HH									
HF0185	Greenfield	Mental retardation—	2/4 HH	HH	3/14 rp							
SF0148	Sams	case management alternatives	2/4 HH	HH	2/7 rpa		3/7	56-0				
HF0233	Greenfield	Mental illness—patient rights	2/7 HH	HH	3/14 rpa	reJU						
SF0187	Spear		2/7 JU									
HF0638	Kinkel	Nursing homes—moratorium	3/4 HH	HH	3/14 h							
SF0473	Finn	exception	2/28 HH									

*SF0144-w=withdrawn

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File No.	Author	Committee/Division/Bill Title										
		HOUSING										
HF0027	Dawkins	Community land trusts	1/14 HO	HO	3/13 rpa	reTA						
SF0294	Kelly		2/14 EC									
HF0123	Jefferson	Pets—elderly tenants	1/28 HO	HO	3/11 h							
SF0043	Samuelson		1/16 EC									
		JUDICIARY										
HF0098	Seaberg	Ex parte release orders—	1/24 JU	JU	3/7 rpa		3/13	128-0				
SF0127	Marty	limitations	1/31 JU	JU	2/28 rpa							
HF0120	Jaros	Health professional—report injuries	1/28 JU	JU	3/11 h							
SF0089	Solon	from dangerous weapons	1/24 JU									
HF0148	Dawkins	Probate—estate limits increased	1/31 JU	JU	3/7 rpa							
SF0246	Hottinger		2/11 JU	JU	2/28 rpa		3/7	58-0	3/13			
HF0236	Solberg	Eminent domain proceedings—	2/7 JU	JU	3/11 rpa							
SF0186	Kelly	require land survey, inspection	2/7 JU									
HF0239	Carruthers	Disarming a police officer—felony	2/7 JU	JU	3/11 rpa							
SF0276	Kelly	penalty	2/14 JU									
HF0246	Tunheim	Canadian Consumption Card—	2/7 JU	JU	3/7 rpa		3/13	129-0				
SF0216	Stumpf	proof of identification	2/7 JU	JU	2/20 rpa							
HF0365	Welker	County court charges	2/18 JU	JU	3/11 rpa							
SF0283	Frederickson		2/14 JU									
		Criminal Justice Division										
		JUDICIARY										
HF0337	Marsh	Speeding ticket reporting—repeal	2/14 JU	JU/crjus	3/13 nrp							
SF0259	Kelly		2/11 TR									
HF0583	Solberg	Assault, weapon offenses—	2/28 JU	JU/crjus	3/13 rpa	reJU						
		penalties										
HF0600	Bishop	Juvenile detention services—	3/4 JU	JU/crjus	3/13 rpa							
SF0453	McGowan	appropriation	2/25 HH									
		LABOR-MANAGEMENT										
		RELATIONS										
HF0324	Farrell	Wages—liens	2/14 LA	LA	2/25 rp		3/11	130-0				
SF?												
HF0472	O'Connor	High pressure piping—chlorine	2/25 LA	LA	3/11 rp							
HF0407	Waldorf	included	2/21 EM									
		REGULATED INDUSTRIES										
HF0282	Cooper	Gas utilities—rate exemption	2/11 RI	RI	2/18 rpa		3/11	130-0				
SF0308	Bernhagen		2/14 EP									
HF0301	Jacobs	Telephone companies—rate	2/14 RI	RI	3/11 h							
		lowering cost studies										

Bill Introductions

HF742 — HF876

Monday, March 11

HF742—Uphus (IR)

Taxes

High income individuals provided increased tax rates.

HF743—Lieder (DFL)

Local Government & Metro. Affairs

Red River watershed management board to include all watersheds within the hydrologic basin of the Red River of the North; eligible funding criteria and levy use modified; and extended project cooperation provided.

HF744—Sparby (DFL)

Energy

Petrofund reimbursement to include interest costs.

HF745—Janezich (DFL)

Economic Development

St. Louis County allowed to establish subordinate service districts and purchasing law repealed; and economic development revolving funds allowed by counties.

HF746—Tompkins (IR)

Gen'l Leg., Vet's Affairs & Gaming

Political contribution tax credit repealed.

HF747—Johnson, R. (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Timber cutting contract bond and deposit requirements modified.

HF748—Osthoff (DFL)

Gen'l Leg., Vet's Affairs & Gaming

Amusement rides inspected annually and liability insurance required.

HF749—Pugh (DFL)

Judiciary

Motor vehicle license and registration records not released for commercial purposes.

HF750—Pugh (DFL)

Judiciary

Conciliation court established in each county.

HF751—Pugh (DFL)

Judiciary

Private data disclosure by law enforcement agencies restricted and subpoenas and court hearings required for dissemination of restricted data.

HF752—Tunheim (DFL)

Education

Independent school districts Nos. 351, Hallock, and 352, Humboldt-St. Vincent, allowed consolidation.

HF753—Clark (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Marijuana and tetrahydrocannabinols allowed for treatment of cancer or glaucoma.

HF754—Clark (DFL)

Health & Human Services

AIDS prevention grant program for communities of color established and money appropriated.

HF755—Trimble (DFL)

Gen'l Leg., Vet's Affairs & Gaming

Video display terminal (VDT) advisory committee established, working conditions regulated, and money appropriated.

HF756—Rukavina (DFL)

Labor-Management Relations

Unfair labor practice to include failing to allow labor unions access to employees.

HF757—Lourey (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Teachers allowed optional retirement annuity based on statewide average salaries.

HF758—Hausman (DFL)

Education

Early childhood family education programs for families of limited English proficiency appropriated money.

HF759—Hausman (DFL)

Education

School day requirement increased.

HF760—Lourey (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Physician loan forgiveness program modified, medical assistance reimbursement increased.

HF761—Mariani (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Training institute established for developmental disability service providers.

HF762—Segal (DFL)

Taxes

Property taxes; maximum fiscal disparities areawide tax capacity provided for the metropolitan area.

HF763—Macklin (IR)

Education

Intermediate school district Nos. 287, Hennepin and Wright Counties, 916, Anoka, Ramsey, and Washington Counties, and 917, Dakota County, allowed a special education levy.

HF764—Macklin (IR)

Education

Intermediate school district Nos. 287, Hennepin and Wright Counties, 916, Anoka, Ramsey, and Washington Counties, and 917, Dakota County, allowed to levy for retirement costs.

HF765—McGuire (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Health insurance; state-paid insurance eligibility after retirement provided.

HF766—McGuire (DFL)

Judiciary

Intensive community supervision program modified.

HF767—McGuire (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Reports to the legislature distribution restrictions and paper purchasing and printing suggestions provided.

HF768—Rest (DFL)

Judiciary

Protection order violation penalty increased for subsequent violations; arrest provisions clarified.

HF769—Krueger (DFL)

Agriculture

Central filing system established for purchasers of farm products with money appropriated.

HF770—Carlson (DFL)

Education

Special education funding formula increased.

HF771—Gruenes (IR)

Local Government & Metro. Affairs

Public officers allowed to rent space in public facilities.

HF772—McPherson (IR)

Agriculture

Extension committee membership to include members experienced in farming.

HF773—Kelso (DFL)

Education

Outcome-based schools authorized.

HF774—Vellenga (DFL)**Judiciary**

Child protection and placement provided for children and families of color and an office of ombudsperson created.

HF775—Haukoos (IR)**Taxes**

Truth in taxation hearing notice options provided for cities.

HF776—Haukoos (IR)**Rules & Legislative Administration**

Bill authorship limit in legislature repealed.

HF777—Haukoos (IR)**Education**

Higher education coordinating board executive director appointed by governor.

HF778—Haukoos (IR)**Education**

Technical college state system established.

HF779—Munger (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Packaging and toxic materials in packaging and products regulated, packaging advisory council established, and money appropriated.

HF780—Hartle (IR)**Taxes**

Tax increment financing districts provided exemption from reduction requirement.

HF781—Dille (IR)**Health & Human Services**

Infectious waste control act clarified to cover veterinarians.

HF782—Pauly (IR)**Transportation**

Motor vehicle title registration and certificates regulated and applications for title not issued to certain nonresidents.

HF783—Bishop (IR)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Well, boring, and elevator shaft provisions modified for drilling, sealing, and construction.

HF784—Lasley (DFL)**Agriculture**

Shade tree disease and diseased wood use programs modified.

HF785—Hugoson (IR)**Agriculture**

Agricultural development act adopted, beginning farmer and beginning farmer loan programs developed, and bond program provided.

HF786—Blatz (IR)**Commerce**

Contract enforcement laws provided technical changes and inconsistencies corrected.

HF787—Jennings (DFL)**Transportation**

Motor carrier inspections transferred to the public safety commissioner.

HF788—Olsen, S. (IR)**Redistricting**

Legislature reduced in size.

HF789—Pellow (IR)**Transportation**

Wrecker definition changed and peace officers exempted from video screen installation restrictions.

HF790—Johnson, V. (IR)**Local Government & Metro. Affairs**

Mandated cost options provided to local governments.

HF791—Peterson (DFL)**Education**

Independent school district No. 891, Canby, allowed to use debt redemption fund to replace and upgrade elementary school roof.

HF792—Rest (DFL)**Taxes**

Seasonal residential and recreational property tax refund extended to taxes payable in 1991.

HF793—Bertram (DFL)**Gen'l Leg., Vet's Affairs & Gaming**

Video lottery machines authorized and regulated.

HF794—Tompkins (IR)**Transportation**

Handicapped parking certificates authorized for vehicles transporting nursing home residents.

HF795—Jacobs (DFL)**Local Government & Metro. Affairs**

Morgues; county morgue restrictions repealed.

HF796—Davids (IR)**Transportation**

Interstate fuel tax agreements authorized and decal fee imposed on interstate motor carriers.

HF797—Omann (IR)**Regulated Industries**

County board location restrictions repealed for off-sale licenses.

HF798—Sviggum (IR)**Local Government & Metro. Affairs**

Mandated cost options provided to local governments.

HF799—Rodosovich (DFL)**Education**

Waseca campus transferred to technical colleges board and money appropriated.

HF800—Uphus (IR)**Taxes**

Hospital district governing body to hold a public hearing prior to adoption of a property tax levy.

HF801—Gruenes (IR)**Health & Human Services**

Regional treatment center resident discharge restrictions repealed.

HF802—Orenstein (DFL)**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Utilization review procedures modified for accident and health or dental insurance.

HF803—Ozment (IR)**Education**

Associate degree plan cooperation with a college institution not required.

HF804—Morrison (IR)**Transportation**

Motor vehicle carrier provisions modified and technical changes provided.

HF805—Wenzel (DFL)**Appropriations**

Transportation commissioner appropriated money for settlement of claims with Little Falls residents related to groundwater contamination.

HF806—O'Connor (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

St. Paul teachers retirement fund association allowed special post-retirement adjustment.

HF807—Rice (DFL)**Commerce**

Real estate brokers and salespersons to receive instruction in fair housing laws.

HF808—Orenstein (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Parent cooperative child care programs exempted from drop-in service staffing requirement.

HF809—Olson, E. (DFL)**Local Government & Metro. Affairs**

Document fees modified for counties.

HF810—Rodosovich (DFL)**Redistricting**

Special elections restricted, reestablishment of precinct boundaries provided.

HF811—Cooper (DFL)**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Comprehensive health insurance association membership modified and public hearings required before a rate increase.

HF812—Nelson, S. (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Contract awarding modified, state employee purchase of computers provided.

Wednesday, March 13

HF813—Jefferson (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Minneapolis police relief association provisions recodified, corrected, and amended.

HF814—Jaros (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Medical cost control commission established and money appropriated.

HF815—Skoglund (DFL)

Financial Institutions & Insurance

Comprehensive health insurance plan association open meetings restricted, preferred provider network allowed, and minimum benefits provided.

HF816—Reding (DFL)

Financial Institutions & Insurance

Consumers' health improvement plan pilot project established to design, implement, administer, and evaluate an outcomes-based model of health care management, with money appropriated.

HF817—Begich (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Iron ore and related mineral lease provisions modified.

HF818—Lourey (DFL)

Education

Tuition paid by resident district of a non-handicapped pupil temporarily placed in a residential program.

HF819—Lourey (DFL)

Education

District combination regulated for districts with outstanding capital loans.

HF820—Vellenga (DFL)

Taxes

Cottage and camp leased federal lands provided property tax exemption.

HF821—Lourey (DFL)

Financial Institutions & Insurance

Health care providers and insurers prohibited from entering into certain contracts.

HF822—Greenfield (DFL)

Energy

Head Start and community action programs act of 1991 adopted, energy conservation activities funded by the future resources fund, and money appropriated.

HF823—Lynch (IR)

Transportation

Handicapped parking permit eligibility extended to motorcycles, metered parking regulated, and space designation clarified.

HF824—Lourey (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Nurses; midlevel practitioner (nurse-midwife) loan forgiveness program established and money appropriated.

HF825—Carruthers (DFL)

Judiciary

Driving while intoxicated, implied consent law; notification requirements and refusal penalties provided.

HF826—Lynch (IR)

Health & Human Services

Mental health and community social services program requirements consolidated and amended for counties.

HF827—Jaros (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Wild rice industry regulated, wild rice marketing program established, and money appropriated.

HF828—Wagenius (DFL)

Judiciary

Candidates for elected office excused from jury duty upon request.

HF829—Bertram (DFL)

Agriculture

Noxious weed law adopted.

HF830—Jefferson (DFL)

Financial Institutions & Insurance

Chiropractors considered physicians for long-term care policies.

HF831—Limmer (IR)

Gen'l Leg., Vet's Affairs & Gaming

Military and national guard members; pay status clarified for public employees called to active duty.

HF832—Sparby (DFL)

Commerce

Heavy and utility equipment dealership agreements regulated.

HF833—Rest (DFL)

Economic Development

Housing Finance Agency; use of tax-exempt revenue bonds regulated.

HF834—Trimble (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Pilots retired from transportation department eligible for state-paid health insurance.

HF835—Runbeck (IR)

Transportation

Speed zones for city streets established by cities.

HF836—Schafer (IR)

Environment & Natural Resources

Wetlands acquisition procedures established between counties and land exchange board.

HF837—Cooper (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Decade of the environment declared for the 1990s and money appropriated.

HF838—Pelowski (DFL)

Local Government & Metro. Affairs

Winona authorized to impose a lodging tax.

HF839—Bauerly (DFL)

Gen'l Leg., Vet's Affairs & Gaming

County expenditures for state fair exhibits extended and limits provided.

HF840—Jefferson (DFL)

Economic Development

Neighborhood revitalization boards provided powers and organization for cities of the first class.

HF841—Schreiber (IR)

Local Government & Metro. Affairs

Hennepin county; suburban regional park district membership and powers modified.

HF842—McPherson (IR)

Governmental Operations

Retirement annuity reduced for former member of Public Employees Retirement Association.

HF843—Munger (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Western Lake Superior sanitary district; solid waste definition modified and budget adoption date extended.

HF844—Rukavina (DFL)

Labor-Management Relations

Safety violations by employers provided increased benefits.

HF845—Blatz (IR)

Local Government & Metro. Affairs

Bloomington lodging tax use required to market and promote the city as a tourist or convention center.

HF846—Blatz (IR)

Local Government & Metro. Affairs

Bloomington metropolitan sports facilities site property disposition provided.

HF847—Solberg (DFL)

Judiciary

Eighth judicial district court financing pilot project made permanent, county aid reduced for court costs assumed by the state, and supreme court study required.

HF848—Bertram (DFL)**Appropriations**

St. Cloud state university allowed to use nonstate funds for construction.

HF849—Kelso (DFL)**Education**

Education district No. 6979, Mid-State, allowed additional education revenue.

HF850—O'Connor (DFL)**Taxes**

Property tax statements mailed by county treasurer by March 15.

HF851—O'Connor (DFL)**Taxes**

Property tax refund claim late filing penalty repealed.

HF852—Johnson, V. (IR)**Taxes**

Deeds and mortgage registration tax established for a county survey monument and mapping control fund.

HF853—Johnson, V. (IR)**Health & Human Services**

Nursing home moratorium exception provided to provide service to persons who are developmentally disabled and in need of care.

HF854—Olsen, S. (IR)**Transportation**

Persian Gulf war veterans authorized special license plates.

HF855—Bertram (DFL)**Gen'l Leg., Vet's Affairs & Gaming**

Lawful purpose expenditure to include property tax payments.

HF856—Milbert (DFL)**Gen'l Leg., Vet's Affairs & Gaming**

High school league board membership expanded.

HF857—Weaver (IR)**Judiciary**

Health record information disclosure prohibited without patient consent.

HF858—Trimble (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Pollution control agency rulemaking to conform to the administrative procedure act, junk yard investigations allowed, and fee collection authorized.

HF859—Jacobs (DFL)**Regulated Industries**

Rate increases allowed by public utilities for government imposed costs.

HF860—Lieder (DFL)**Economic Development**

Red River trade corridor appropriated money.

HF861—Nelson, K. (DFL)**Judiciary**

Driving while intoxicated evidence admissible in civil proceeding.

HF862—Wejcman (DFL)**Judiciary**

Convention facility, arena, stadium, and theater data considered public data.

HF863—Wejcman (DFL)**Judiciary**

Law enforcement dispatching agency not required to release 911 caller information.

HF864—Steensma (DFL)**Education**

Open enrollment options extended to include border states.

HF865—Hausman (DFL)**Education**

Extended day programs extended, local standards required, and money appropriated.

HF866—Wenzel (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Health care plan for uninsured and underinsured established and money appropriated.

HF867—Orenstein (DFL)**Judiciary**

Juvenile use of a firearm in an offense considered prima facie case for adult court certification, felony penalty provided for furnishing a firearm to a minor, and felony penalty provided for unlawful possession of a pistol by a minor.

HF868—Wenzel (DFL)**Taxes**

Small cities provided separate local government aid formula.

HF869—Nelson, K. (DFL)**Education**

Interagency mentoring and youth community service act adopted.

HF870—Murphy (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Duluth police relief association surviving spouse provided alternative benefit coverage.

HF871—Farrell (DFL)**Labor-Management Relations**

Electricity board definitions clarified, complaint committee established, and board powers and duties expanded.

HF872—Ogren (DFL)**Judiciary**

Third and sixth judicial district aid reduced due to state assumption of court costs, public defender eligibility provided, and money appropriated.

HF873—Johnson, R. (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Retirement annuities based on highest three years of teacher salary.

HF874—Johnson, R. (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Annuities reduced for certain teachers drawing early retirement benefits.

HF875—Farrell (DFL)**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Rental vehicle required property damage liability coverage increased.

HF876—Rodosovich (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Service credit purchase authorized for teachers exempt due to pre-age 25 teaching service.

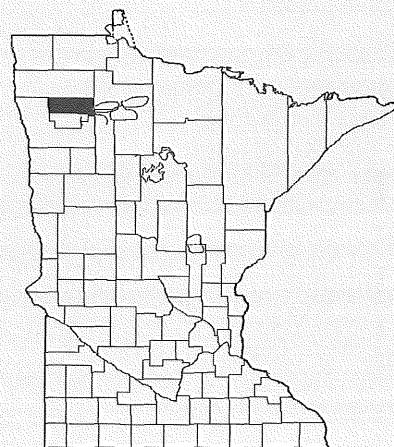
Do you know?

On November 23, 1910, the last county in Minnesota was etched onto the map: Pennington County.

Named after railroad switchman-turned-executive Edmund Pennington, the county was carved from the lands of neighboring Red Lake County.

As president of the Soo Line rail company, Pennington brought train service to the area of the Red River Valley named in his honor. Although he resided in Minneapolis, it was in the area of what is now Pennington County that he was perhaps the most revered.

In the county seat of Thief River Falls, the courthouse flag flew at half-mast upon news of Pennington's death on May 1, 1926.



Coming Up Next Week . . . March 18-22, 1991

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, March 18

8 a.m.

Education Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: University of Minnesota budget proposal.

Environment & Natural Resources Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

Basement Hearing Room State Office Building
Chr. Rep. David Battaglia

Agenda: Budget overview: Pollution Control Agency.

EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bob McEachern

Agenda: HF0121 (Jaros) Volunteer corps for USSR and East Central Europe program established and money appropriated.
HF0499 (O'Connor) Missing children school records flagged.

HF0173 (Rukavina) University of Minnesota bargaining unit structure to include an administrative unit.

HF0541 (Runbeck) Northeast Metropolitan Intermediate School District No. 916, Anoka, Ramsey, and Washington counties, authorized additional members.

Government Structures Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Rich O'Connor

Agenda: HF0058 (Jaros) State government decentralization studied and money appropriated.

HF0585 (Olson, K.) Children's services task force created to study program consolidation into a new children's services department.
Presentations: Department of Labor & Industry; Department of Employee Relations, Commissioner Linda Barton.

8:30 a.m.

Human Resources Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: The governor's Department of Corrections budget proposals.

State Government Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: Budget hearing: Department of Trade and Economic Development.

10 a.m.

AGRICULTURE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Wenzel

Agenda: Public hearing and briefing for committee members on Governor Carlson's tax proposal and its effect on agricultural property. Staff briefing from the Department of Revenue, Morrie Anderson, assistant commissioner for tax policy; and Mike Wandmacher, director, local government services.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Kathleen Vellenga

Agenda: HF0071 (Morrison) Marriage dissolution petition to include name variants and aliases.

HF0345 (Vellenga) Statute of limitations extended and eliminated for sexual abuse crimes against minors.

HF0414 (Bishop) Deadly force policy adopted by local and state law enforcement agencies.

Note: Criminal Justice Division replaces Judiciary on Friday.

Subcommittee on Actuarial Services/ Legislative Commission on Pensions & Retirement

400S State Office Building
Chr. Sen. Gene Waldorf

Agenda: Further consideration of the provision of actuarial services issue.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Joel Jacobs

Agenda: HF0427 (Ogren) Telephones; resale of local exchange services regulated.
HF0683 (Jacobs) Retailers prohibited from

having an interest in a manufacturer, brewer, or wholesaler; gambling allowed under a tribal-state compact, and other provisions provided.

HF0382 (Hanson) Liquor establishments required to post a driving under the influence of alcohol penalty warning sign.

HF0383 (Hanson) Liquor establishments required to post a sign stating it is illegal to serve alcohol to a person who is obviously intoxicated.

12:30 p.m.

Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ken Nelson

Agenda: Governor's budget recommendations: Special programs (HF462, Article 3).

Banking Division/ FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wally Sparby

Agenda: HF0613 (Dawkins) Credit unions provided committee membership sizes.
HF0697 (Reding) Credit unions designated as depositories of state funds, election of supervisory committee provided, and investment authority of board clarified.

HOUSING

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

Agenda: Barbara Lukermann, Metropolitan Council.

HF0123 (Jefferson) Elderly tenants allowed to keep certain pets. (Continuation)

HF0714 (Clark) Mortgage and rental assistance pilot project established, landlord and tenant provisions modified (Article 8 only.)

James Solem, commissioner, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency. Ann Henry, legal advocacy for persons with developmental disabilities. Roger Head, Indian Affairs Council. Sue Watlov-Phillips, homeless program.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Joe Begich

Agenda: HF0352 (Clark) Dislocated worker fund eligibility extended. (Continued from March 11 meeting.)

HF0406 (Johnson, A.) Employee wage protection act adopted.

The House will meet in session at 2:30

After session

Subcommittee on Family Law/ JUDICIARY

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

Agenda: HF0317 (Wagenius) Child custody and support provisions clarified.
HF0774 (Vellenga) Child protection and placement provided for children and families of color and an office of ombudsman created.

TUESDAY, March 19

8 a.m.

Economic Development, Infrastructure, and Regulation Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

Agenda: Department of Public Safety, Ralph Church, commissioner.

Education Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: University of Minnesota budget proposal. (Continued)

Environment & Natural Resources Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

Basement Hearing Room State Office Building
Chr. Rep. David Battaglia

Agenda: Budget overview: Pollution Control Agency; Office of Waste Management.

Human Resources Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Continuation of the governor's Department of Corrections, Sentencing Guidelines; and corrections ombudsman.

Legislative Commission on Pensions & Retirement

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Leo Reding

Agenda: HF0225 (Dorn)/SF0244 (Hottinger) Mankato; survivors of deceased firefighter provided benefits.

HF0611 (Farrell) Duluth and St. Paul fire department relief associations authorized certain refunds.

HF0389 (Jefferson) State patrol retirement refunds paid to spouses and serving children.
HF0190 (Swenson)/SF0314 (Laidig) St. Paul

water utility employee authorized to purchase military and prior service credit in the public employees retirement association.

HF0272 (Ogren)/SF0010 (Chmielewski)

Carlton County employee authorized to purchase prior service credit.

HF0394 (Erhardt)/SF0279 (Storm) Minneapolis teachers retirement fund member provided leave of absence payment extension.

HF0522 (Anderson, I.)/SF0567 (Lessard)

Retirement; appointed public officers allowed to purchase prior service credit for elected service.

HF0023 (Blatz)/SF0297 (Belanger) Teachers allowed to purchase prior service credit after unrequested leave of absence.

HF0150 (Omann)/SF0293 (Bertram)

Merchant marine and coast guard veterans authorized to purchase prior service credit in the teachers retirement association related to employment in the Red Wing and Winnebago school districts.

HF0574 (Seaberg)/SF0537 (Halberg) Eagan city council member allowed purchase of prior service credit.

HF0273 (Ogren)/SF0009 (Chmielewski) McGregor; employee of independent school district No. 4 allowed to repay annuity and resume active member status.

HF0299 (Reding)/SF0377 (Waldorf) Surviving spouse benefits to continue after remarriage.

HF0401 (Reding)/SF0338 (Waldorf) Legislator surviving spouse benefits to continue after remarriage.

HF0223 (Bertram)/SF0192 (Bertram)

Retirement benefits of judges reduced by half upon receipt of social security benefits.

HF0495 (Jaros)/SF0236 (Solon) Duluth police pension association member provided extended access to the combined service annuity.

HF0870 (Murphy)/SF0646 (Solon) Duluth police relief association surviving spouse provided alternative benefit coverage.

HF0100 (Cooper)/SF0112 (Frederickson, D.J.) Health coverage surcharge imposed; emergency medical services personnel account and incentive plan for ambulance personnel established.

Subcommittee on State Taxes & Tax Laws/ TAXES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ann Rest

Agenda: HF0400 (Ostrom) Omnibus technical and administrative corrections, clarifications, and changes provided for sales, use, and special taxes.

HF0432 (Janezich) Omnibus technical and administrative changes provided to income, franchise, and mining taxes.

8:15 a.m.

State Government Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: Budget hearings: Department of Trade and Economic Development continued; Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission.

10 a.m.

COMMERCE

Basement Hearing Room State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Sarna

Agenda: HF0217 (Carruthers) Interior designers licensed and regulated and money appropriated.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: HF0602 (Begich) Pesticide application prohibited without prior written approval and other limitations provided. (Continued)
HF0694 (Long) Environmental enforcement act of 1991 adopted.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alan Welle

Agenda: HF0691 (Rodosovich) Women, infants, and children (WIC) program funding increased for expanded services.

HF0692 (Rodosovich) Home delivered meals program funding increased.

HF0529 (Orenstein) Vaccination requirements clarified for children.

HF0227 (Cooper) Physician loan forgiveness program modified and medical assistance reimbursement increased with money appropriated.

HF0429 (Cooper) Nurses; midlevel practitioner loan forgiveness program established and money appropriated.

HF0545 (Greenfield) University of Minnesota pediatrics department to administer pediatric access and training program with money appropriated.

HF0105 (Olson, K.) Nurses practicing in nursing homes eligible for loan forgiveness program.

12 noon

Legislative Commission to Review Administrative Rules

400S State Office Building

Agenda: This is the first meeting of the newly appointed LCRAR. Its purpose is to elect a chair and vice chair; review and appoint the LCRAR budget for FY 1992-93.

12:30 p.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Gloria Segal

Agenda: Kathy Novak, House Research: Presentation of Legislative Task Force on Human Resource Strategies for the 1990s. Erica Schmiel, executive director, Jobs Now: Current initiatives for transitional skills training. George Copa, chair, Department of Vocational and Technological Education: Transitional skills training models.

Elections Division/

GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & GAMING

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Linda Scheid

Agenda: HF0478 (Lasley) Absentee ballot application requirement changed for deer hunters, registered voter list use clarified, and other election provisions changed.

Veterans Affairs Division/

GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & GAMING

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Pat Beard

Agenda: HF0426 (Beard) Persian Gulf war veterans provided two-year tuition exemption. Other bills may be added.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson

Agenda: HF0661 (Anderson, I.) Canada memorialized to withdraw the remote area border crossing permit requirements.

2:30 p.m.

Subcommittee on Quality Workforce and Competitiveness/

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Becky Lourey

Agenda: Jim Buckman, Minnesota Council for Quality. Roger Hughes, Minnesota Job Skills Partnership. Dan Smith, Minnesota Vocational Association.

Subcommittee on Review of Economic Development Strategies/

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ted Winter

Agenda: Mike Brinda, Minnesota Center for Community Economic Development. Mark Lofthus, Rural Investment Board.

Subcommittee on Small Business/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Loren Thompson

Agenda: Tourism: Hank Todd, director, Office of Tourism. E. Peter Gillette, commissioner of Department of Trade and Economic Development.

Subcommittee on Civil Law/
JUDICIARY

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Pugh

Agenda: HF0526 (Pugh) Shareholder rights clarified, share combination and division provisions modified, and meeting notice requirements provided.

HF0577 (Bertram) State patrol members and criminal apprehension bureau agents reimbursed for certain legal expenses.

HF0592 (Brown) Torts; economic loss recovery modified related to the sale of goods.

HF0847 (Solberg) Eighth judicial district court financing pilot project made permanent, county aid reduced for court costs assumed by the state, and supreme court study required.

REDISTRICTING

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peter Rodosovich

Agenda: Discussion and approval of concurrent resolutions for standards. Review of task force report on Post Redistricting Activity, Tom Durand, Secretary of State's Office.

WEDNESDAY, March 20

8 a.m.

Economic Development, Infrastructure, and Regulation Division/
APPROPRIATIONS

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

Agenda: Ethical Practices Board, Jeanne Olsen.

Education Division/
APPROPRIATIONS

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: Minnesota Private College Council response to the governor's budget. Merger cost comparisons by Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Board, technical colleges, community colleges, and state universities.

Environment & Natural Resources
Division/

APPROPRIATIONS

Basement Hearing Room State Office Building

Chr. Rep. David Battaglia

Agenda: Budget overview: Department of Natural Resources.

Human Resources Division/

APPROPRIATIONS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: The governor's Jobs & Training budget proposals.

EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob McEachern

Agenda: HF0532 (Scheid) Lunch and breakfast aid increased to school districts, food preparation restricted, and money appropriated.

HF0563 (Bauerly) Adult basic education programs expanded and provided increased funding.

HF0175 (Johnson, A.) Elementary school guidance counselors authorized for elementary schools.

8:15 a.m.

State Government Division/
APPROPRIATIONS

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: Bureau of Mediation Services; Public Employment Relations Board; pensions.

8:30 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Leo Reding

Agenda: HF0167 (Segal) Mental health advisory council to select chair and money appropriated.

Report from Government Structures Division.

HF0812 (Nelson, S.) Contract awarding modified, state employee purchase of computers provided, and money appropriated.

HF0660 (Peterson) Hazardous materials incident response act created and money appropriated.

Reports from the Subcommittee on Pensions: HF0041 (Rukavina) Virginia firefighters relief association to continue widow benefits after remarriage.

HF0044 (Begich) Eveleth police officers and firefighters trust fund; benefit increase to certain police officers, firefighters, and surviving spouses authorized.

HF0161 (Solberg) Nashwauk police relief association authorized to increase benefits to surviving spouses and children.

HF0522 (Anderson, I.) Retirement; appointed public officers allowed to purchase prior service credit for elected service.

10 a.m.

**Higher Education Division/
EDUCATION**

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros

Agenda: HF0455 (Thompson) Community colleges merged into the state university system.

**FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS &
INSURANCE**

Basement Hearing Room State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: Any bills not completed from the March 14 meeting.

HF0012 (Skoglund) Life and health guaranty association created and insurance companies practices regulated.

**Criminal Justice Division/
JUDICIARY**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

Agenda: HF0647 (Solberg) Timber harvest or processing interference provided penalty.

HF0174 (Ozment) Disorderly conduct to include offensive, obscene, or abusive language.

HF0285 (Carruthers) Driving while intoxicated; chemical test refusal provided misdemeanor penalty.

HF0551 (Hanson) Limited driver's license waiting period extended after conviction of vehicular manslaughter or criminal negligence.

HF0716 (Seaberg) Crime victims notified of offender escape and final disposition of case, and temporary restraining order fees waived if petitioner is indigent.

HF0766 (McGuire) Intensive community supervision program modified.

HF0191 (Swenson) Driving while intoxicated; forfeiture of property provided.

HF0593 (Orfield) Driving while intoxicated; chemical dependency assessment charge increased for repeat offenders, county repeat offender program established, and money appropriated.

12:30 p.m.

ENERGY

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: HFXXXX (Bodahl) Requiring low income housing built to energy efficient standards.

HFXXXX (Hausman) Program to encourage energy efficient commercial buildings.

**Subcommittee on Data Privacy/
JUDICIARY**

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phil Carruthers

Agenda: Continued from March 13 meeting. HF0416 (Vellenga) Sex offenders required to register with local law enforcement agencies and money appropriated.

HF0423 (Welker) Coroners and medical examiners provided records and other information relating to deaths.

HF0693 (Carruthers) Child protection services and family court service agencies authorized to share child abuse information. HFXXXX (Orenstein).

TRANSPORTATION

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: HF0100 (Cooper) Health coverage surcharge imposed; emergency medical services personnel account and incentive plan for ambulance personnel established.

HF0106 (Dauner) Town road account money to be distributed annually by March 1.

HF0491 (Dauner) Route No. 336 added to state highway system.

HF0731 (Anderson, R.) Trunk highway route No. 297, Otter Tail County, redefined.

HF0606 (Brown) Uncollectible debts canceled, collection service authorized for transportation department, and money appropriated.

HF0705 (Hanson) License reinstatement fees increased after an alcohol-related revocation.

HF0515 (Lasley) Driver's license revocation under implied consent law review procedure clarified.

HF0466 (Bauerly) Wrecker definition modified, amber lights required, and weight exemption provided.

2 p.m.

**Subcommittee on Workers' Compensation
& Unemployment Insurance/
LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Ann Clayton, Department of Labor & Industry, overview on workers' compensation. Injured workers testifying: Randall Wellberg, Elk River; Tim Werner, Fridley; and Nancy Hanson, Little Falls.

2:30 p.m.

**Education Finance Division/
EDUCATION**

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ken Nelson

Agenda: Governor's biennial budget recommendations: Special programs (HF462, Article 3). (Continued from Monday's agenda.)

**Subcommittee on Health Care Access &
Delivery/
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Roger Cooper

Agenda: HF0002 (Ogren) Health care plan for uninsured established. (Continuation from last hearing.)

HF0005 (Welle) Health care plan for uninsured and underinsured established. (Continuation from previous hearing.)

REDISTRICTING

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peter Rodosovich

Agenda: To be announced.

7 p.m.

*****JOINT MEETING*****

House & Senate TRANSPORTATION

112 Capitol

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: Overview of toll road facilities.

THURSDAY, March 21

8 a.m.

APPROPRIATIONS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wayne Simoneau

Agenda: HF0230 (Waltman) Referendum authorized before school district consolidation.

HF0381 (Morrison) Intermediate school district No. 917, Dakota County Technical College, authorized construction.

**Education Finance Division/
EDUCATION**

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ken Nelson

Agenda: Governor's biennial budget recommendations: State residential academies; Minnesota Center for Arts Education; Access to Excellence (HF462, Article 7).

HF0651 (Rodosovich) State academies allowed to charge resident districts for additional costs related to a child's individual education plan.

**Subcommittee on Property Tax/
TAXES**

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson

Agenda: HFXXXX (Winter) Revenue Department property tax technical bill.

**Subcommittee on State Taxes &
Tax Laws/
TAXES**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ann Rest

Agenda: Continuation of Tuesday's agenda.

8:30 a.m. (after full Appropriations meeting)

**Economic Development, Infrastructure, and Regulation Division/
APPROPRIATIONS**

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

Agenda: Department of Public Service; Public Utilities Commission.

**Education Division/
APPROPRIATIONS**

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: Minnesota High Technology Council presentation. Central administration cost estimates by Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Board and the higher education systems.

**Environment & Natural Resources
Division/
APPROPRIATIONS**

Basement Hearing Room State Office Building

Chr. Rep. David Battaglia

Agenda: Budget overview: Department of Natural Resources.

**Human Resources Division/
APPROPRIATIONS**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: The governor's Housing Finance Agency budget proposals.

**State Government Division/
APPROPRIATIONS**

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: Information Policy Office to discuss information system funding recommendations.

10 a.m.

COMMERCE

Basement Hearing Room State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Sarna

Agenda: HF0415 (Sparby) Farm equipment dealerships regulated.

HF0674 (Brown) Funeral plan value excluded from medical assistance eligibility formula.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: HF0322 (Wagenius) Solid waste management certification and training program established and money appropriated. HF0783 (Bishop) Well, boring, and elevator shaft provisions modified for drilling, sealing, and construction.

HF0637 (Kahn) Environmental and natural

resources trust fund and legislative commission on resources (LCMR) provisions modified.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alan Welle

Agenda: HF0009 (Johnson, A.) Legislative commission on children, youth, and their families created.

HF0488 (Segal) Human services license not denied because of past or present mental illness and mental health evaluations prohibited.

HF0251 (Solberg) Congregate and home-delivered meals authorized supplemental funds with money appropriated.

HF0610 (Leppik) Community support services program to include housing support services, psychiatric nurse definition clarified, and professional home-based family treatment defined.

HF0458 (Clark) Early childhood care and education council created, child care sliding fee modified, and money appropriated.

12:30 p.m.

**International Trade & Technology
Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rick Krueger

Agenda: To be announced.

**GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS
AFFAIRS & GAMING**

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Continuation of last meeting, if necessary;

HF0424 (Sviggum) Athletics; assault on sports official provided penalty.

HF0471 (Ogren) Special Olympics; memorializes support for the 1991 International Special Olympics Games.

HF0408 (Bauerly) Carcass disposal options provided.

HF0348 (Osthoff) Gaming department and commissioner abolished.

Any bills from divisions.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson

Agenda: HF0349 (Vellenga) St. Paul authorized to increase its hotel-motel tax.

HF0178 (Kelso) Abstracter liability insurance minimum increased.

The House will meet in session at 2:30.

After session

**Subcommittee on Family Violence/
Criminal Justice Division/
JUDICIARY**

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Jo McGuire

Agenda: HF0695 (Rest) Battered women's advisory council; role expanded and clarified, and statutory provisions corrected.

HF0768 (Rest) Protection order violation penalty increased for subsequent violations; arrest provisions clarified, and money appropriated.

HF0442 (Carruthers) Spiritual health care exemption from child neglect and child abuse reporting repealed.

4 p.m. (or after session)

**FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS &
INSURANCE**

Basement Hearing Room State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: Any bills not completed from the March 20 meeting.

HF0004 (Skoglund) Health care plan for uninsured and underinsured established. (Public testimony invited.)

FRIDAY, March 22

8 a.m.

**Subcommittee on Dairy & Livestock/
AGRICULTURE**

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jerry Bauerly

Agenda: HF0493 (Wenzel) Dairy farm inspection fees limited.

HF0467 (Olson, K.) Animal, meat, and meat product inspection program reinstated.

HF0669 (Krueger) "Minnesota pure" category created for dairy products.

**Environment & Natural Resources
Division/
APPROPRIATIONS**

Basement Hearing Room State Office Building

Chr. Rep. David Battaglia

Agenda: Budget overview: Department of Natural Resources.

**Human Resources Division/
APPROPRIATIONS**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: The governor's Department of Human Rights budget proposals. Public testimony on the governor's recommendations: Department of Corrections, Sentencing Guidelines, corrections ombudsman, Jobs & Training, Housing; and Human Rights.

**Education Finance Division/
EDUCATION**

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ken Nelson

Agenda: Governor's biennial budget recommendations: Professional Development (HF462, Article 8).

8:30 a.m.

**Subcommittee on Community
Revitalization/HOUSING**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Carlos Mariani

Agenda: To be announced.

9 a.m.

**Subcommittee on Air, Rail and Toll Roads/
TRANSPORTATION**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

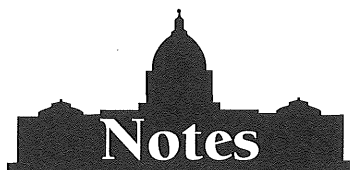
Agenda: Overview of Light Rail Transit progress.

10 a.m.

**Criminal Justice Division/
JUDICIARY**

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

Agenda: Continuation of March 20 meeting.



Looking to set up shop at the State Fair? Get in line behind 800 other people vying for the 350 concession stands given permits each year by the fair General Manager Mike Heffron. He told members of the General Legislation, Veterans Affairs, and Gaming Committee March 14 that the fair accepts between 12 and 20 new vendors each year. They look for uniqueness, he says, "a variety to better benefit the public." If you think you've designed a better something-on-a-stick that deserves fairground attention, the charge for operating is steep. There's no actual permit fee, but rental cost for those 12 days that draw 1.4 million paying customers, is 10 percent of gross sales.

When is a legislator not a legislator?

When he opens his mouth and nothing comes out, according to Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul). His tongue-in-cheek jab was directed at fellow Rep. Pat Beard (DFL-Cottage Grove) who normally chairs the Veterans Affairs Division of the General Legislation Committee. But a bad case of laryngitis on March 12 put the gavel in Milbert's hand and prevented Beard from presenting key legislation he is sponsoring. "We elected officials have amazing ways of curing these things quickly," said Milbert. Beard tried to respond, but could not.

Visitors in St. Paul would pay an extra penny per dollar on their hotel room bills under a measure that received preliminary approval March 12 from a House subcommittee on fiscal affairs. The measure (HF349) authored by Rep. Kathleen Vellenga (DFL-St. Paul) would bump the city's total lodging tax to 12 percent, raising an additional \$230,000 per year that would be used to fund the St. Paul convention bureau. Vellenga says despite the increase, St. Paul's lodging tax would remain less than many Minnesota cities, including Minneapolis and Duluth, which charge 15 percent and 14 percent, respectively. The bill now moves to the full Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee.

Inns would be out as telephone companies under a bill (HF564) now before the Regulated Industries Committee. Rep. Joel Jacobs (DFL-Coon Rapids) is sponsoring legislation that would remove Public Utilities Commission authority over hotels, motels, and other lodging establishments offering telephone service to their customers. "We are phone companies in name only," argues Al Brodie of the Minnesota Motel Association. But the state Department of Public Service opposes the measure, saying current classifications are the only way to keep innkeepers from overcharging guests for using the phone.

If a Canadian and a Minnesotan enter a liquor store in International Falls, who can buy the beer? Assuming they're both 21, they both can if a bill approved by the House March 13 becomes law. Under HF246, sponsored by Rep. Jim Tunheim

(DFL-Kennedy), the Canadian just needs to show his Canadian driver's license or ID card. Under current law, all foreign nationals need a passport to purchase liquor in the state, unless they carry a valid U.S. driver's license or a Minnesota identification card. The House approved the measure on a vote of 129-0; it now moves to the Senate.

The state's favorite lumberjack may get his own stretch of highway if a bill sponsored by Rep. Bob Johnson (DFL-Bemidji) wins lawmakers' approval. HF126, which designates U.S. Highway 371 from Little Falls to Bemidji as the Paul Bunyan Expressway, breezed through the Transportation Committee March 13. Next stop: the House floor.

First auto safety week

March 17-23 marks the first annual observance of Automobile Safety Awareness Week in Minnesota.

The 1990 Legislature designated the third week of March as the time Minnesota schoolchildren and the general public should be reminded of the importance of driving safely.

The law was sponsored by Rep. Doug Swenson (R-Forest Lake), whose son was killed in an automobile accident near Mankato.

According to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, 142 young Minnesotans died, and 12,314 were injured, as a result of traffic crashes in 1989.

Annually, 34,000 Minnesotans are arrested for DWI, amounting to one-quarter of the state's arrest total, according to the state chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

"I hope the week acts to emphasize and remind people that traffic safety is important — and I hope it saves lives," says Swenson.

Information packets with curriculum recommendations from the departments of Education and Public Safety were distributed to 400 school superintendents and 600 principals statewide.

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: Terry Dempsey

MINNESOTA INDEX

Women in Minnesota Politics

Number of women state legislators, 1991	43
Percentage of state legislators who are women, 1991	21.4
State's '91 national rank in percentage of women legislators	17
Number of women in state Legislature in 1971	1
Number of women in Minnesota history elected to U.S. House and Senate (Coya Knutson in 1954).....	1
Percentage of total elected officials who are women, 1989.....	19.8
Percentage of mayors who are women, 1989.....	8.8
Percentage of city council members who are women, 1989.....	18
Percentage of county commissioners who are women, 1991.....	12.1
Percentage of school board members who are women, 1991.....	27.7
Percentage of state judges who are women, 1991.....	14.4
Percentage of school superintendents who are women, 1991.....	3.2
Number of 23 state department commissioners who are women, 1991	7
Number of 6 state constitutional officers who are women, 1991	2

Sources: Legislative Commission on the Economic Status of Women, Minnesota Women's Consortium, Center for the American Woman and Politics (Rutgers Univ.)

For general information, call:
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