It's a bit unusual during a legislative session for the real action on hot topics to occur outside St. Paul. But that's just what happened this week and last as several committees took to the road and outstate Minnesota.

The Appropriation Committee's Human Resources Division held meetings in Faribault and Anoka. And two tax subcommittees held hearings in Alexandria, Moorhead, Mankato, and Worthington.

The response was not all that surprising when you keep in mind two key provisions in Gov. Arne Carlson's proposed budget. Calling for substantial cuts in state aid for cities and counties and a doubling of the tax rate on low-valued homes would hardly earn the governor a ticker-tape parade.

Here's what a few newspaper headlines had to say about the outstate tax subcommittee hearings: "Officials flay state budget," read the Feb. 28 Mankato Free Press, and "Local officials attack Carlson budget" said the Worthington Daily Globe on the same day.

While the committees are to be commended for holding the outstate hearings, the public testimony probably didn't alter legislators' positions on the issues — if you believe a recent survey of House and Senate members.

Of all the factors that sway how legislators vote, "public testimony at hearings" was ranked at the bottom of the heap, according to Tribune of the People, a book about the Minnesota Legislature published in 1989.

That survey showed that just 1 percent of state lawmakers considered public testimony as "much help," while 49 percent said the governor of the other party — is the most help in forming legislative opinions, according to the survey. Seventy-seven percent of those surveyed said the governor of the other party was of "much help," while 41 percent said the governor of their own party was of "much help." That may sound odd, but that's what the survey says.

It's no fun sitting or standing in hot committee meeting rooms. And it will probably be less fun knowing your impact could be minimal. So, for those of you who really want to target the shapers of legislative opinion, we've reprinted the survey on page 11.

— Grant Moos
**Health**

**Dept. of health care access**

Will creating one big health care administration really be less expensive than all the little ones we now have in Minnesota?

Supporters of a bill (HFS) to establish a Minnesota department of health care access say it will and offer some grim statistics to back their assertion.

They told members of the Health Care Access and Delivery Subcommittee March 7 that administrative costs account for between 25 and 30 percent of the total amount spent on health care in the U.S. — by far the highest level in the world.

The U.S. spends $2,700 per person a year on health care, with about $800 going for administrative costs, says Dr. Steve Miles of the Minnesota Chapter of the American College of Physicians.

In contrast, Canada, with its highly centralized system, spends only a fraction of that amount, say officials from the Health Care Access Commission.

And the total health care cost per person in those countries is much lower as well. In Western Europe, the average cost per person is $1,400 per year, and in Canada it's $1,700 per person — a figure that ranks second in the world but still nearly 40 percent below the U.S. level.

Miles says the U.S. would do well to scrap its fragmented, competitive system and follow the model of the more centrally run health care systems of Western Europe and Canada.

Even though the United States spends the most for health care, the outcomes "could be charitably characterized as the best outcomes of the third world," says Miles. "We are 22nd in neo-natal mortality, we are 12th in maternal mortality, and we are 8th in life expectancy."

Rep. Gil Gutknecht (IR-Rochester), however, says that if history is any indication, creating a new state department will probably just lead to increased bureaucracy and higher costs.

Discussion of HFS, authored by Rep. Alan Welle (DFL-Willmar), will continue in the Health Care Access and Delivery Subcommittee March 12.

**CD programs could close**

Chemical dependency treatment units at all seven of the state's regional treatment centers would be shut down if Gov. Arne Carlson's 1992-93 budget plan is adopted.

Critics of Carlson's budget told members of the Appropriations Committee's Human Resources Division March 4 that closing the units would save money in the short-run, but would lead to higher costs and more problems in the long-run.

Tom Beer of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees union says the chemical dependency programs, as well as other programs included in a 1989 law that moves most regional treatment center clients into community-based settings, can't afford budget cuts.

He says the state's regional treatment centers were ranked 44th in the nation in 1988 in terms of their patient-staff ratio, adding that further cuts would make the ratio even worse.

Carlson's plan focuses on encouraging private providers to expand and make state programs available only after all other care options have been eliminated.

A memo provided to committee members by the Minnesota Association of Professional Employees said the daily and hourly rates of chemical dependency treatment in regional treatment centers is lower now than the pre-1988 private cost.

The association predicts that when private care providers are the only ones left offering chemical dependency treatment, their costs will increase.

**No extra X-rays**

X-rays taken to confirm whether dental work has been completed — not to diagnose your dental problems — would be prohibited if a bill approved March 6 by the Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee becomes law.

The measure (HF276) proposed by...
Rep. Myron Orfield (DFL-Mpls) arises out of concern for dental patients who are subjected to undue radiation exposure when dental insurance plans ask for extra X-rays to confirm that dental work has been performed.

The bill in its original form also would have prevented such X-rays required by accident and health insurance plans. But failure to work out a compromise with industry lobbyists resulted in the measure being amended to address only dental plans.

If approved by the Legislature, the law would go into effect for dental insurance issued or renewed after Aug. 1. HF276 now goes to the House floor for consideration.

**Health care database needed**

Representatives from some of Minnesota’s largest companies told a Health and Human Services subcommittee March 5 that the data collection provision of the proposed Minnesota’s Health Care Plan doesn’t go far enough to ensure health care reform.

Employees from Dayton-Hudson, General Mills, and Honeywell spoke for a group of self-insured companies who have formed the Business Health Care Action Group.

They say that their experiences with managing health care costs have convinced them that the Minnesotan’s Health Care Plan is necessary.

But their primary concern is that the data collection provision in the plan (HF7) needs to be “more aggressive” than currently written if the health plan is to be successful.

The measure calls for extensive data collection to determine the success of various types of medical treatment, and the costs, so reimbursement rates can be set accordingly.

Alan Ritchie of General Mills says that over the last 30 years Minnesota and the nation have developed a reimbursement system that covers what is termed “usual, customary, and reasonable expenses” rather than what is “necessary and effective.”

Under this system, consumers are allowed “to purchase services which, from a medical standpoint, are not very effective and may, in fact, be unnecessary,” says Ritchie. He adds that a statewide network is necessary “to focus on outcomes and results” to produce significant reform before thousands of Minnesotans are added to the health care rolls.

But in contrast to the self-insured companies, health care providers and doctor organizations have been critical of the proposed state-run database, saying it would raise serious privacy issues and duplicate existing efforts.

The data initiatives portion of the Minnesotan’s Health Care Plan (HF7) is authored by Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls) and will be heard in the Health and Human Services Committee.

**Language translators**

Automobile accident victims who don’t speak English could benefit from legislation proposed by Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul).

The measure (HF234) heard March 6 by the Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee would require that language translators be added to the list of medical benefits included in no-fault auto insurance policies.

Dawkins proposed the bill because of concern for the large Southeast Asian population in his district. Without a translator, non-English speaking accident victims might not get proper medical care.

The bill is expected to be considered again next week, by which time a compromise should be worked out with the auto industry, Dawkins said after the meeting.

“The insurance industry is concerned that we limit [payment of the benefit] to people competent to translate,” says Dawkins.

Similar legislation for the state’s workers’ compensation laws also has been proposed by Dawkins in HF226, which has been referred to the Labor-Management Relations Committee.

Meanwhile, Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls) has proposed HF459, a bill that includes a provision for language interpreters in foreclosure proceedings.

Greenfield’s bill has been referred to the Judiciary Committee.

**Military**

**Extra pay for Gulf vets**

State employees called to active duty in the Persian Gulf would be entitled to the same salary they left behind if a bill approved March 7 by the Governmental Operations Committee becomes law.

The measure (HF59) would require the state to make up the difference between the salary the person would have received as a state employee and their military salary, if the military salary is less.

Only about 20 people qualify for the reimbursement, although some 40 state employees served in the Persian Gulf War, says chief author Rep. Edwina Garcia (DFL-Richfield).

Garcia says that 49 of the country’s largest employers and many large companies in Minnesota make up salary differences for employees who served in the war.

But Rep. LeRoy Koppendrayer (IR-Princeton) questioned why only state employees — and not private sector employees — are singled out for the extra benefits.

“I have a concern that we are only doing for a few what we, as a state, appreciate everyone [did] who went and fought for our country,” he says.

Rep. Philip Krinkie (IR-Arden Hills) agrees, saying that because of the recession, many small companies can’t offer the bonus.

The bill appropriates $50,000 to finance the reimbursement. It also places a four-year limit on the time the reimbursement window would remain in effect.

Although it is unclear how long the United States military will remain a major force in the Persian Gulf, some say it could be years.

HF59 was referred to the Appropriations Committee for further discussion.
An aging veterans' population is the major problem facing veterans health care facilities nationwide, says Tom Mullen, director of the Minneapolis Veterans Hospital.

He says that in 1980, 3.5 million veterans nationwide were over the age of 65. But by the year 2000, that number will top 10 million.

"The result of that increase will be a high demand for more institutional care facilities," Mullen told members of the Veterans Affairs Division of the General Legislation, Veterans Affairs, and Gaming Committee March 5.

Two such facilities are currently under construction in Minnesota. A veterans home in Silver Bay will provide 89 beds and another in Luverne will have 84 new beds.

But the real question becomes where will the money come from to build new veterans homes, says Mullen. Gov. Arne Carlson's current budget proposal will honor the appropriations to the Silver Bay and Luverne facilities passed by the Legislature, but says no new facilities should be approved.

Tight budgets are already forcing veterans homes across the state to tighten their belts. The Minneapolis veterans home, which can hold up to 184 "domiciliary," or nursing home, care patients, currently has 85 empty beds that can't be filled because it doesn't have the funding to bring a building up to code.

If current budgeting trends are any indication, the federal government won't be picking up the tab. Although federal dollars have been increasing slowly, they are lagging significantly behind inflation rates. Mullen says his budget has increased 3 percent for the coming year. But inflation and rising costs in the health care industry are expected to result in a 10 or 11 percent overall increase.

"In actual dollars, we're looking at less money," says Mullen.

Minnesota's life insurance industry is taking up arms against a bill that says members of the National Guard and military reservists can't be denied life insurance coverage.

HF205, proposed by Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), was approved March 6 by the Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee and sent to the House floor for consideration.

While few, if any, problems have been recorded in the state, Skoglund is concerned that life insurance companies might deny or refuse to continue policies for Guard members and reservists.

This "is an ounce of prevention type bill," Skoglund told members of the committee.

Because of the Persian Gulf War, some life insurance companies on the East Coast recently denied coverage to Guard members and reservists called to active duty, Skoglund says.

"I think people who are called into active duty should be able to buy [commercial] life insurance," Skoglund says. Military personnel do have government life insurance available.

But HF205 could cause more life insurance companies to seek the "war clause exclusion" from regulators, Robert D. Johnson, executive vice president of the Insurance Federation of Minnesota, warned the committee. The exclusion in a life insurance policy prohibits claims resulting from injury or death in war.

Skoglund's bill would not affect regular members of the armed forces.

As the economic recession grows, more corporations are adopting "cause-related marketing" for the arts, limiting their contributions to organizations that provide a direct return to their business through dining, lodging, or merchandise sales, says Grabarski.

The recession is also causing corporate donors to shy away from less-traditional art forms, Grabarski says. The drop in state funding, he adds, also makes it more difficult for the board to apply for federal grants requiring matching dollars.

Despite the grim financial picture, Patricia Beamer of the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council says state board $4.2 million in each of the next two years of the budget cycle, or about one-fifth less than what the board says is needed to maintain current programs.

Jon Gossett, the Guthrie Theater's director of development, says most organizations have already scaled back productions and delayed scheduled improvements to balance their budgets.

"More cuts will draw blood," he told the Economic Development, Infrastructure, and Regulations Division of the Appropriations Committee March 5.

Sam Grabarski, the arts board's executive director, says the possible drop in state support arrives at a time when corporate contributions for the arts are also slipping.

Funding cuts and a decline in corporate contributions are threatening to drop the curtain on the state's art community, its member organizations warn.

The Minnesota State Arts Board, which yearly helps support nearly 300 organizations and individuals through its grant offerings, could lose $1.9 million in state funding over the next two years if the Legislature approves Gov. Arne Carlson's budget plan for the upcoming biennium.

Carlson has proposed giving the arts council $4.2 million in each of the next two years, or about one-fifth less than what the board says is needed to maintain current programs.

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Sam Grabarski, the arts board's executive director, says the possible drop in state support arrives at a time when corporate contributions for the arts are also slipping.
lawmakers must also consider more than money when deciding on arts funding. "Don't undervalue the human spirit," she says, noting how arts groups improve Minnesota's already high quality of life.

The Science Museum of Minnesota's logo

Wanted: Alchemist

It might take more magic than science, but the Legislature will have to find an extra $1.6 million during the next biennium to help keep the Science Museum of Minnesota from raising admission and other fees.

That was the message museum President James L. Peterson brought to a March 4 meeting of the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the Appropriations Committee.

Peterson says the St. Paul-based museum's $10.5 million annual operating budget is being left with a big hole because the Ramsey County Board has decided to slash its annual contribution from $1.3 million to $500,000.

Without more money from the state, Peterson warned, the museum might have to raise admission fees and eliminate some popular teacher workshops and science assemblies in outstate schools. But the museum is loath to do that, he added.

"We don't want to get to the point where only the wealthy can afford to come in," says Peterson.

Because the museum has programs around the state, and because its 2 million visitors a year come from all corners of Minnesota, the museum believes the Legislature should finance a greater share. The state's contribution currently is 6 percent of the museum's annual budget; with an additional $800,000 per year, the state's share would rise to about 13 percent.

The county cut its contribution because more money was needed for criminal justice, public safety, and human service needs and programs, says Terry Lindeke, director of intergovernmental relations for Ramsey County.

The committee will be considering the museum's request again later as it continues to review Gov. Arne Carlson's proposed budget.

Education

Community experts v. teachers

The leader of the state's largest teachers' organization says he's not happy with a provision in a sweeping education reform bill that would further ease teacher licensing requirements.

"There's a theme that runs through here that doesn't respect licensure requirements for teachers, and I don't know how to sugar-coat that," says Minnesota Education Association (MEA) President Bob Astrup.

Astrup told the Education Committee March 4 that the MEA is concerned about a provision in HF350 that would allow schools to hire "community experts" for a given course without first attempting to hire a licensed teacher.

The 1990 Legislature expanded existing "community expert" law in an effort to foster classroom creativity and attract more minority teachers. The resulting legislation allows alternative, one-year licenses to teacher candidates who, among other qualifications, have five or more years' experience in their fields.

HF350 would remove the requirement that a licensed teacher have first dibs on the job before a community expert is hired. But schools would still have to seek approval from the state Board of Teaching to hire a community expert.

Rep. Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee), a co-author of the bill, says teachers shouldn't feel threatened by community experts because their use will probably continue to be limited. And she says more needs to be done to hire minority teachers.

"We're limiting the exposure our kids can have to certain types of people," says Kelso, adding that "there is no question that we have been less than successful in getting minority people [teachers] into our schools.

Teacher licensing requirements, which some have perceived as too stringent, has been a heated topic of debate in recent years. Discussion of HF350 in the Education Committee is expected to continue.

Transportation cutbacks

Gov. Arne Carlson's proposed budget does call for a slight increase in per-pupil funding for school districts in each of the next two years, but not near enough to offset deep cuts in school transportation funding, say DFLers.

The governor's proposal to remove all state funding from some areas of school transportation was sharply criticized March 6 in the Education Committee.

The proposal (HF462) would not only remove state aid for buses that accommodate after-school activities, but would also remove aid for school day transportation to joint academic programs, high school vocational centers, and other cooperative ventures.

But chief author Rep. Dennis Ozment (IR-Rosemount) says the measure will allow districts to choose their own "creative solutions" to budget problems by concentrating state aid into school districts' general funds.

Committee chair Rep. Bob McEachern (DFL-Maple Lake), however, says the proposed increases in the general fund of 1.3 percent in 1992 and 0.7 percent in 1993 will leave most districts with no choices.

"Last year, my governor wanted a 1.6 percent increase and I wouldn't even carry his bill," says McEachern.

Tom Melcher of the state Department of Education says the projected $1.2 billion deficit over the next two years dictates that transportation funding priorities had to be set.

"Given the level of funding, we felt that it was most important to get the kids to and from school, and to continue to provide transportation for handicapped programs and for desegregation programs," says Melcher, explaining why funding for other programs was eliminated.

Melcher says schools could make up some of the lost state aid by charging a fee for extra busing, but adds that no child would be denied busing because they were unable to pay.
A better idea

Have you designed a better mousetrap? You could get some help from a proposed state board of invention under a bill proposed by Rep. Wally Sparby (DFL-Thief River Falls).

The International Trade and Technology Division of the Economic Development Committee March 7 approved HF464, which would establish the board.

The measure now moves to the full Economic Development Committee for consideration.

Sparby’s bill calls for an 11-member board, appointed by the governor, that would encourage Minnesotans to pursue inventions. The board also could grant money and offer technical assistance to inventors.

Daniel A. Ferber, head of the St. Paul-based Institute for Invention & Innovation, told lawmakers that the measure would help create what he refers to as “Minnventia,” a state that fosters both commercial and social invention.

HF464 also calls for an unspecified appropriation from the state’s general fund to finance the proposed board of invention’s operation.

Consumers

Quashing quicksilver

Selling toys, games, and latex paint that contain mercury still would be banned under a bill headed to the Appropriations Committee, but the makers and retailers of thermostats and thermometers can breathe a bit easier.

Rep. Willard Munger’s (DFL-Duluth) toxic emissions bill (HF160) was recommended to pass as amended March 5 by the Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

The bill is designed to cut toxic air emissions from industrial polluters and reduce the amount of mercury entering the environment.

Originally written to ban the sale of all items containing mercury, the bill ran into opposition last week from thermostat-maker Honeywell, the Governor’s Office, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

But an amendment offered by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) softens opposition. The bill now says mercury-containing thermostats, thermometers, electronic switches and appliances can’t be sold after Jan. 1, 1992, unless they have labels warning consumers that the items contain mercury.

The mercury in those devices also must be recycled, the bill says. Consumers would not be allowed to throw mercury-containing items into the trash. And installers of those devices such as thermostats would be required to recycle old switches.

HF160 had run into opposition from Honeywell because the company, which makes 3 million mercury-switch thermostats each year, feared its residential control division would be put out of business.

The bill also would prohibit the use of mercury-containing fungicide on lawns and golf courses. An amendment by Rep. Harriet McPherson (IR-Stillwater) to drop golf courses from the ban was not adopted. That could mean golf course owners will have to find some other chemical to battle “snow mold,” which occurs in spring, on their greens.

HF160, with a price tag of $1.8 million, also calls on the MPCA to set guidelines for cutting toxic air emissions in half by 1998.

Closing agent option

Sellers of homes would have more say about who they want as their closing agent if a bill approved March 5 by the Commerce Committee becomes law.

The measure (HF146) would prohibit real estate brokers, salespersons, title companies, or any other person making a mortgage loan from specifying which real estate closing agent a seller must use.

In addition, the bill would require that all listing agreements include a notice informing sellers of this right, and would require the seller to indicate, in writing, whether a pre-arranged closing is acceptable.

Chief author Rep. Richard O’Connor (DFL-St. Paul) says some real estate companies require sellers to use closing agents that are affiliated with their companies.

O’Connor says his bill would prohibit clauses in contracts that require a specific closing agent. The bill was referred to the House floor for further debate.

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Courting workers' comp reform

The debate over workers' compensation reform is just beginning at the Capitol. And a Minneapolis lawyer who is well-versed in workers' compensation law wants lawmakers to clamp down on the insurance industry by aggressively enforcing existing laws.

"What the state needs to do is beef up enforcement efforts [of insurance laws] within the Department of Commerce," says Craig Wildfang, who successfully filed a class-action lawsuit on behalf of several businesses who sued 14 insurance sellers and a rating organization. The lawsuit was settled last January for $52 million following a nine-year legal battle. The businesses Wildfang represented alleged the industry had conspired to fix workers' compensation insurance rates between 1979 and 1983, which resulted in overcharges to the businesses of between $100 million and $600 million in premiums.

Wildfang, speaking before a March 4 meeting of the Labor-Management Relations Committee, says the industry has the upper hand in its relationship with businesses.

"These insurance companies have armies of actuaries and lawyers doing all sorts of things," says Wildfang. "It's a very substantial task for the Department of Commerce to keep up with all the things the companies are doing... I know this is a lean year, but I think the enforcement efforts ought to be enhanced."

Despite the settlement in favor of those he represents, Wildfang doesn't think the problem has been solved.

"There remains a tremendous need for competition in the insurance field," says Wildfang.

Committee Chair Rep. Joe Begich (DFL-Eveleth) invited those involved in the lawsuit to explain the case and to offer suggestions for improvement of the workers' compensation system, but only Wildfang agreed to testify.

Begich says he expects to name a workers' compensation subcommittee soon to focus on the issue.

Be true to your city

New school teachers and city employees working in Minneapolis would be required to live within city limits under a bill approved March 7 by the Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee.

The measure (HF291) authored by Rep. John Sarna (DFL-Mpls) would give city, school district, and other Minneapolis public agencies the authority to limit new hirings to people living within Minneapolis' borders.

Although the 1981 Legislature approved a law banning such residency requirements, Sarna's bill would exempt the city of Minneapolis.

The bill now moves to the House floor for consideration; a companion bill is pending in the Senate Local Government Committee.

Supporters say residency requirements will help revitalize the Minneapolis inner city and provide urban youth with appropriate role models living in their neighborhoods.

The measure is particularly important now because the Minneapolis schools are expected to soon hire about 500 teachers, say supporters of the bill.

"There comes a time when you have to fight for your city," says Minneapolis City Council member Alice Rainville.

But opponents, including teacher, firefighter, and municipal employee unions, say the measure will make them second-class citizens by restricting their right to choose where they live and work. The bill is also being opposed by some suburban legislators.

Sarna says residency rules are in place in 145 communities throughout the country and that courts have generally upheld their validity. The measure would not apply to current employees, he says, nor would it affect advancement or firing decisions.

Residency requirements have been adopted recently as a condition of employment by the Minneapolis library and park boards. The Minneapolis City Council was expected to approve a similar measure March 8, according to council President Sharon Sayles-Belton.

The Minneapolis School Board has no official residency policy in place at this time, but are in general agreement with Sarna's bill, says Len Biernat, a member of the Minneapolis School Board.
Tax credit for working poor

Families with annual incomes under $21,245 could receive a tax credit of up to $502 per year under a bill approved March 5 by a tax subcommittee.

Modeled after the federal Earned Income Credit (EIC), the bill is designed to give the working poor a bit of a state boost in addition to the one offered on the federal level.

Also, the proposal would act as a work incentive for families with children whose breadwinners have low-paying jobs. The bill (HF360) was approved by the State Taxes and Tax Law Subcommittee and sent to the full Taxes Committee for further review.

Rep. Don Ostrom (DFL-St. Peter), a co-author of the bill, says establishing a Minnesota Working Family Tax Credit will have the added benefit of educating the Minnesota working poor about the federal credit.

He says Minnesota taxpayers lost an estimated $20 million in federal tax credits in 1989 simply because about 40,000 eligible families didn’t apply.

Ostrom says this money would have a “multiplier effect” because these families will be spending “in neighborhood stores and main street stores in small towns” rather than on luxuries.

Luanne Nyberg of the Children’s Defense Fund told the subcommittee that establishing the tax credit could be vital for Minnesota’s children.

Nyberg says that from 1979-1989, the rate at which child poverty increased in Minnesota was the second highest in the nation. The state now ranks 25th nationally in terms of the percentage of children who live in poverty, she says.

Tax credits for the working poor began at the federal level with the Ford administration in 1975 and are one of the few federal programs to be expanded throughout the 1980s, says Ostrom.

Five states, including Iowa and Wisconsin, have adopted similar state tax credits.

Children and families

A bill to establish a legislative commission on children and families cleared another hurdle March 4 when the Judiciary Committee approved the measure.

The commission, consisting of eight senators and eight House members, would make recommendations to the Legislature on issues concerning children and families.

Those on the commission would include chairs or ranking members of House and Senate Education, Health and Human Services, and Judiciary committees.

Despite the many groups and agencies that address these issues, bill sponsor Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park) says a legislative commission would be more effective.

Though Johnson acknowledges the value of these groups, she says they oftentimes lack the support needed when it comes to passing legislation.

“I have found through my experience as a legislator, that we [legislators] have a lot of authority and resources available to us that many people do not.”

Johnson says a legislative commission’s increased clout presumably could achieve more interagency collaboration on issues that are important to children and families.

Lisa Venable of the United Way told committee members that the current system is not structured to look at the “whole child,” but instead hears about children after they’ve been abused and are in the child protection system.

Currently, there are 14 different legislative commissions, including the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources and the Legislative Commission on the Economic Status of Women, that focus on various legislative topics.

The measure (HF9), which was earlier approved by the Education Committee, was referred to the Governmental Operations Committee for further review.

Court-ordered releases

People who appear mentally ill or intoxicated and are in danger of harming themselves or others can be detained in a treatment facility for up to 72 hours under Minnesota law.

But one-third of the people held under this law don’t remain in the units for the full observation period, says Wayne Raske of the state Department of Human Services.
And, as in the case of Sunfish Lake
Doctor Douglas Simmons, early release
can mean tragedy, adds Raske. Simmons
was accused of murdering his wife after a
judge, by phone, ordered his release from
detox center.

No hearing was conducted on the
matter. When the killing occurred,
Simmons blood-alcohol level was
approximately 0.24 percent — more than
twice the legal threshold for intoxication.
The Judiciary Committee unanimously
approved a bill (HF98) March 1 that
would prohibit these early releases unless
a court hearing, where the person being
held, the head of the facility, and other
specified people would be allowed to
testify.

In addition, the bill would require that
people who may be threatened by the
person held be notified of his or her
release.

Raske told the committee that society,
including judges, often believe someone
like Simmons shouldn't be detained because when sober, they are intelligent,
articulate, and have professional jobs.

“The temptation of the legal and other
professional members of the community
is to evaluate [them] on that basis,” says
Raske. “This bill is intended to make sure
that evaluation also includes what their
behavior is when they are drinking.”

HF98, authored by Rep. Art Seaberg
(IR-Eagan), was referred to the House
floor for further consideration.

**Lawyer wars**

A measure that would make the State
Public Defenders Office the administrative
agency over public defense operations
statewide remains in limbo.

The Judiciary Committee's Subcommit­
tee on Civil Law on March 5 referred the
measure to the full Judiciary Committee
with no recommendation so it can debate
the issue.

Opponents of HF165 appeared before
the subcommittee and argued that placing
the district public defenders under the
office would create a conflict of interest
because the office now handles appeals of
cases tried by the public defenders.

Colia Ceisel, assistant Ramsey County
public defender, says the proposal would
“create a conflict of interest in virtually
every [appealed] case.”

Ceisel explained that the office was
specifically created to handle the appeals
of indigent defendants whose counsel on
the lower court level may have lacked the
necessary legal experience.

This built in conflict of interest in the
proposal, says Ceisel, makes her question
the true intent of the measure.

“What the bill seems to do effectively is
to terminate prematurely the terms of
some of the existing chief (district) public
defenders, and extend the term of the
person that is currently designated as the
state public defender,” she says. “I have
to wonder, since that's what it does do, if
that's what we're really here about and
we're just not talking about it.”

The legislation was drafted following
personality conflicts on the seven-person
State Board of Public Defense, the
volunteer group that currently adminis-
ters the public defense system in Minne­
nesota.

Some say the volunteer board is not
equipped to oversee the increasingly
complex issues faced by the state’s public
defenders. And the chief author of the
proposal, Rep. Dave Bishop (IR-Roches­
ter), says bringing the system under the
State Public Defenders Office would
better address those issues and make
public defenders more accountable to the
state.

But critics of the measure say it has
more to do with personality conflicts
than anything else.

“So the record need not reflect any
further discussion about why we're here,”
says Jesse Overton, a member of the State
Board of Public Defense. “This bill was
created to get rid of a chief public
defender. That chief public defender —
and I'm not afraid to say — is William
Kennedy of Hennepin County.”

Singing, yelling, and chanting
for their cause, people who support wage
increases in private human service
facilities rallied at the Capitol March 5.
The workers in private daytime activity
centers, semi-independent living pro-
grams, and residential care facilities
typically make much less than their
counterparts doing the same jobs in
public facilities. They have long argued
that the state reimbursement system for
private providers pays too little. A bill
(HF60) sponsored by Rep. Marvin
Dauner (DFL-Hawley) would increase
wages for non-state human sevices
employees in positions below top
management. Representatives from the
facilities argue that while they may get
paid the same or less than a fast-food
worker, they are responsible for patient
care.

A Canadian drivers' license would be
proof enough to buy alcohol in Minnesota
provided the buyer is 21 or older if a
bill approved by the Judiciary Committee
March 5 becomes law. Currently,
"authorized proof of age" documents
recognized in Minnesota include U.S.
state drivers' licenses, a Minnesota
identification card or, in the case of a
foreign national, a valid passport. The
measure, (HF246) sponsored by Rep. Jim
Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy), would expand
the law to include Canadian ID cards and
Canadian drivers' licenses with a photo-
graph and birthdate.

Gov. Arne Carlson and DFL legislative
leaders meet March 12 for a "summit"
designed to work out their differences
over property tax reform and other
issues. Since Carlson's Feb. 20 budget
address, DFLers have criticized large
portions of the governor's state spending
proposals — particularly the plan to slash
local government aids which DFLers
contend will boost property taxes.
Carlson says he's looking forward to the
tax summit, despite Senate Majority
Leader Roger Moe's recent observation

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**March 9, 1878**

On this day, Kittson County
was established and named in
honor of Norman Wolfred Kittson,
an early pioneer of the area.
that Carlson is retreating from his property tax plan "faster than the Iraqi Republican Guard." During a March 5 news conference, Carlson dismissed Moe's comments as "wishful thinking," adding that he will be "delighted ... to see all of the positive ideas they have to solve the tax reform problem in Minnesota."

A citizens' panel March 5 wrapped up four days of interviews to help select four new University of Minnesota regents. Forty-three candidates met with the group, chaired by Minneapolis attorney Ken Dayton, including incumbent regents Stanley Sahlstrom and former Gov. Wendell Anderson. The 24-member Regent Candidate Advisory Council was formed in 1988 as a way to reduce some of the politicking that had occurred in earlier regent selections. The council will make its recommendations to the Legislature, but the Legislature is not legally required to follow the recommendations.

University of Minnesota outstate campuses could be seeing more endowed professorships in the near future. Over the "adamant" objections of university officials, the Higher Education Division of the Education Committee March 6 approved a bill designed to move more endowed professorships to outstate campuses. Supporters say the measure (HF278) will ensure the university's four coordinate campuses in Duluth, Crookston, Waseca, and Morris get their fair share of the professorships, most of which are concentrated at the Twin Cities campuses. University officials, however, say the plan to earmark 25 percent of the interest generated by the Permanent University Fund for outstate campuses could unravel many of the financial pledges made during its $300 million fundraising campaign four years ago.

Crowds filled rooms in Anoka and Faribault to tell members of the Appropriation Committee's Human Resources Division what they thought of Gov. Arne Carlson's proposals concerning health and human services programs. About 150 people turned up at the Anoka golf course March 6 and 600 people filled Rogers Auditorium at the Faribault Regional Treatment Center March 7. The primary concerns were care for the mentally ill and developmentally disadvantaged, and cutbacks that could force the closing of chemical dependency programs at the state's regional treatment centers.

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Percentage of Minnesota Legislators Relying on Various Sources of Information in Deciding How to Vote.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Source of Information</th>
<th>Little Help</th>
<th>Some Help</th>
<th>Much Help</th>
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<td>22</td>
<td>77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Governor of own party</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Own party's caucus staff</td>
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<td>Discussion in caucus</td>
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<td>67</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Own reading of bills</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Own caucus staff</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>44</td>
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<tr>
<td>Key people in own district</td>
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<td>Another legislator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public testimony at hearings</td>
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Source: Royce Hanson, Tribune of the People

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Montezuma County, Minnesota? If history had been different, that might have been the name of what today is Winona County. The Mississippi River town of Winona was platted in 1852 and originally named for Montezuma, the Aztec emperor, according to "The History of Winona County," published in 1883. But the city's leaders decided to change the moniker to Winona.

In local lore, Winona (the Sioux, or Dakota, word for "first-born female") was a Dakota woman who, upon learning that her parents had promised her to a man she did not love, plunged to her death from "Maiden's Rock" on the east shore of Lake Pepin.

Winona County also was born of a rocky relationship. What today is Winona County was first a part of Fillmore County. When Fillmore's commissioners decided on Jan. 30, 1854, to locate the county seat at Chatfield rather than at Winona or Minnesota City, supporters of Winona pushed the territorial legislature to divide the county. It did so on Feb. 23, 1854, and Winona County was born.
Eclectic career opens vistas for Koppendrayer

St. Paul is only the latest stop for freshman Rep. LeRoy Koppendrayer. Before he set up shop at the state Capitol, he drove a truck in an Iron Range taconite mine, managed a mail-order company near his home in Princeton, and consulted dairy farmers in far-flung locales such as Ecuador, Pakistan, Thailand, and the Indonesian island of Java.

It's been an itinerary that has taken the Independent-Republican to some unique vistas and opened his eyes to many more. "I've seen the system from a lot of different sides and I think I have a broad perspective to offer the people of my district," he says.

Koppendrayer's first-term committee assignments — Commerce, Agriculture, and Governmental Operations — reflect his desire to serve the diverse interests of his district, which comprises mid-sized communities dotting the farmlands of Mille Lacs County and portions of three others in central Minnesota.

But it is education, particularly vocational education, that is his top legislative priority. He says schools have to evolve to keep pace and to prepare students so they can compete in the global economy.

"I'm starting to believe that education has to become focused," he says. "We have to get our children to begin to start thinking earlier about what they want to do when they're older. I realize it can be difficult for someone so young to decide, but it may be the only way to keep up with the rest of the world. We have to set up our schools to help them do that."

Koppendrayer says his experience working abroad as an agricultural consultant reinforced his belief that some dramatic changes are needed in Minnesota's schools. But it's also convinced him that lawmakers have to learn to put aside their more parochial interests for the broader constituency they all serve.

He says educational reform should be much broader in scope than just equity funding.

"We have to look at reform which will give the students the tools they need to compete in the job market," he says.

"It's more than the cities competing with the rural areas. The kids of Minnesota are competing with all of the working people throughout the rest of the world. We've got to start thinking that it's Minnesota versus the world."
Peterson plans to stay true to roots, ideals

There's a glass jar next to Rep. Doug Peterson's desk in the State Office Building.

"That's what I farm," he says. "When I need a reminder of where I come from and who I represent, that's what I look at."

The jar is full of topsoil.

But Peterson is tilling more than his 300 acres in southwestern Minnesota these days. He's now responsible for more than 30,000 people in District 20A, and that's a field he intends to see flourish.

He hopes a strong commitment to the people he represents and his past political experience — his father was a representative for 10 years and Peterson unsuccessfully ran for Congress in the Second District in 1988 — can bring about change.

"We need to ensure the economic viability of small towns, especially farming communities," he says.

Promoting ethanol as a fuel would "help the agriculture sector while also reducing our dependence on foreign oil," he says. Peterson also believes the country should have adopted an energy policy long ago.

"We've had the energy alternatives for a long time. It's just sad we haven't had the courage to act on them."

And although the world of politicking is not new to this DFLer, the view from the other side of the desk has produced several surprises.

"The amount of information that comes across my desk is amazing. And everybody's plan is important, everybody's needs are important. It all affects somebody," he says.

As a lawmaker, he says he wants to do everything he can to ensure his constituents get as much information as possible about state government so they understand where their plan fits in the big picture.

"Access to information is what it's all about," he says. "People need to know why things function the way that they do. They need to understand the process."

That Peterson wants to ensure people understand the process should come as no surprise to people living in his district.

He has been a teacher for 20 years, working at schools in Glencoe, Canby, Madison, Dawson, and Montevideo.

He's currently on leave of absence from his job as an art teacher at Montevideo Senior High School.

Peterson, who is an accomplished painter, intends to preserve his ideals, both in his legislative work and on canvas.

"You can't lose sight of why you came here," he says. "I won't let that happen."

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It's a fact!

Ever heard of an attorney or state representative giving up their job to manage a custodial staff? There's always a first.

Eben E. Corliss of Fergus Falls was the Otter Tail County Attorney for 10 years; before that, a state representative. In 1895, he was appointed to the Board of State Capitol Commissioners, which oversaw construction of the present-day Capitol.

He remained on the board for the entire 14 years of its existence. But when the board's work in planning and overseeing construction of the Capitol was finished, Corliss' dedication to the structure wasn't.

Corliss was so concerned about the Capitol that, in 1910, he moved to St. Paul to become head custodian of the building so he could personally see that it was cared for properly.

Corliss remained at the job for seven years until his death in 1917.

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Eben Corliss, once a lawyer and a lawmaker, became the head custodian of the Capitol from 1910-1917.

(Photo by Lee Bros., courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society)

March 8, 1991 / SESSION WEEKLY 13
A variety of job descriptions have defined Aviva Breen at different points in her career: teacher, stay-at-home mother, community activist, and practicing attorney.

For the past eight years, Breen has taken bits and pieces of her varied experiences and put them to good use as one of the Legislature's foremost sources on women's issues.

As director of the Legislative Commission on the Economic Status of Women, Breen's job is to make sure lawmakers weigh the potential impact of a bill on Minnesota women before it becomes law.

Breen says the road to her current position probably started in Duluth in the early 1970s. There, during an 11-year hiatus from the traditional workplace when she stayed at home with her four children, Breen worked to establish an open school in the city.

"When I was working with that [open school] group it became clear to me that every time we didn't know what to do we went to an attorney to ask him how to function," she recalls. "There seemed to be this knowledge of how things work and how to get things done."

This revelation, coupled with a move to Minneapolis, led to Breen's enrollment at the University of Minnesota School of Law, from which she graduated in 1977.

Breen says a law degree is "not a requirement for this job, but I think it is significant." Her position requires the ability to analyze existing laws and to determine what affect proposed legislation will have on people's lives.

Breen also says the commission's work satisfies her life-long desire to effect social change.

"The Legislature is a milieu I like being in because I have the opportunity to work on policy that touches a lot of people," she says, adding that she would enjoy working in many other policy areas as well.

"But women's issues are very close to me, obviously. It's timely, there are a lot of issues and many ways to help women."

And there seems no question that Breen has earned a reputation as the person to talk to about legislative issues that affect women.

"When I think of the commission, I think of her," says Loretta Frederick of Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services.

Frederick says Breen has been a valuable friend to social service agencies that have women's issues on their agenda. For them, Breen serves as a well-placed set of eyes on the legislative process, helping to track issues and propose new ideas to lawmakers.

Likewise, Breen says her contact with such organizations is critical to ensure she's up to date on the latest concerns of women from across the state.

"The most important thing for me is for legislators to say, 'I know the information I get from the commission on women is factual, it's correct, it's dependable,'" says Breen. "I want them to be able to cite the information with confidence and make decisions based on it."

—Joan Wadkins

March 8, 1858

On this day, Douglas County was established and named after U.S. Senator Stephen Douglas, a statesman and leader in the Democratic Party.
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.

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 since the beginning of the session — in committee, on the floor, and by the governor — are charted according to the type of legislative action that occurred.
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<td>Garcia</td>
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<td>HF575</td>
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<td>HF646</td>
<td>Jaros</td>
<td>‘U.S. manufactured”—definition</td>
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**SESSION WEEKLY / March 8, 1991**
### 1991 MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE BILL STATUS TRACKING SHEET

**COMMITTEE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>File No.</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Committee/Division/Bill Title</th>
<th>Introduction/Referral</th>
<th>Committee/Div.</th>
<th>Committee Report (date/action)</th>
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<tr>
<td>HF90</td>
<td>Welle</td>
<td>Medical examiners board—geographic representation</td>
<td>1/24 HH HH</td>
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<td>3/4 129-0</td>
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<td>HF81</td>
<td>Orfield</td>
<td>Mortgage release</td>
<td>1/24 JU JU</td>
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<td>Seaberg</td>
<td>Ex parte release orders—limitations</td>
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<td>Dawkins</td>
<td>Probate—estate limits increased</td>
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<td>Hottinger</td>
<td>Canadian Consumption Card—proof of identification</td>
<td>2/7 JU JU</td>
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<td>Stumpf</td>
<td>Civil procedure—certiorari costs</td>
<td>2/7 JU JU</td>
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<td>Mondale</td>
<td>Court fees—soldiers'; sailors' filing fee waived</td>
<td>2/14 JU JU</td>
<td>3/7 rp reAP</td>
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<td>Commission on children, families—creation</td>
<td>1/9 ED JU</td>
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*File No. Author Committee/Division/Bill Title Introduction/Referral Committee/Div. Committee Report (date/action) Re-referral Final Passage Vote 1st Reading in Other Body/Substitution Referred to Conference Cmte. Concurrence & Repassage Governor's Signature

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

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**TRANSPORTATION**

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*SF106 Con/Re 3/4 63-0

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<th>Bill Introductions</th>
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<td>HF584—Hasskamp (DFL) Local Government &amp; Metro. Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Municipalities authorized to enter into joint ventures with telecommunications organizations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HF585—Olson, K. (DFL) Governmental Operations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children's services task force created to study program consolidation into a new children's services department.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HF586—Welle (DFL) Health &amp; Human Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workers' compensation insurance and salary of risk managers not included as a fringe benefit, separate operating cost category created, and money appropriated.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HF587—Hasskamp (DFL) Commerce</td>
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<tr>
<td>Security guard, private detective, and proprietary guard registration required.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HF588—Wejcman (DFL) Judiciary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sodomy law repealed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HF589—Stanius (IR) Appropriations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reinvest in Minnesota(RIM) savings bond program established.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HF590—Stanius (IR) Ways &amp; Means</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislative budget office established, fiscal notes required, and money appropriated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HF591—Jaros (DFL) Financial Institutions &amp; Insurance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical cost control commission established and money appropriated.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HF592—Brown (DFL) Judiciary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torts; economic loss recovery modified related to the sale of goods.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HF593—Orfield (DFL) Transportation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Driving while intoxicated; chemical dependency assessment charge increased for repeat offenders, county repeat offender program established, and money appropriated.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HF594—Orfield (DFL) Judiciary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uniform foreign-money claims act adopted.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HF595—McEachern (DFL) Education</td>
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<td>Education district joinder and withdrawal provisions modified in certain cases.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HF596—Leppik (IR) Financial Institutions &amp; Insurance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health care plans established for residents not covered by other plans and minimum benefits provided, with money appropriated.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HF597—Olson, K. (DFL) Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher assessment programs appropriated money.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HF598—Pugh (DFL) Financial Institutions &amp; Insurance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fire and casualty; agent rehabilitations and cancellations regulated for agency contracts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HF599—Welker (IR) Transportation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Municipal state-aid street system authorized additional cities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HF600—Bishop (IR) Judiciary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Juvenile detention services subsidy program established and money appropriated.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HF601—Reding (DFL) Gen'l Leg., Vet's Affairs &amp; Gaming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teleracing facilities licensed and pari-mutuel wagering authorized.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HF602—Begich (DFL) Environment &amp; Natural Resources</td>
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<td>Pesticide application prohibited without prior written approval and other limitations provided.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HF603—Carruthers (DFL) Financial Institutions &amp; Insurance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consumer reporting agency not to prohibit release of consumer information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HF604—Stanius (IR) Taxes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elderly income exclusion extended to recipients of military retirement or surviving spouse benefits.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HF605—Reding (DFL) Governmental Operations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minneapolis employees retirement fund board membership increased.</td>
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<td>HF606—Brown (DFL) Transportation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uncollectible debts canceled, collection service authorized for transportation department.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HF607—Wejcman (DFL) Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior and senior high schools to establish school-based health clinics, grants authorized.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HF608—Dauner (DFL) Health &amp; Human Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nursing homes provided advance notice of changes in cost documentation, limit increased for operating costs, and money appropriated.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HF609—Boo (IR) Gen'l Leg., Vet's Affairs &amp; Gaming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veterans homes board authorized to rent out certain facilities and services and charge a fee.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HF610—Leppik (IR) Health &amp; Human Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community support services program to include housing support services, psychiatric nurse definition clarified, and professional home-based family treatment defined.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HF611—Farrell (DFL) Governmental Operations</td>
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<td>Duluth and St. Paul fire department relief associations authorized certain refunds.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HF612—Smith (IR) Transportation</td>
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<td>Landowners provided use of railroad right-of-way.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HF613—Dawkins (DFL) Financial Institutions &amp; Insurance</td>
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<td>Credit unions provided committee membership sizes.</td>
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<td>HF614—Dawkins (DFL) Governmental Operations</td>
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<td>Investment board allowed additional investment options in federal agencies.</td>
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<td>HF615—Sviggum (IR) Gen'l Leg., Vet's Affairs &amp; Gaming</td>
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<td>Persian Gulf; national guard and reserve members called to active duty issued a state ribbon, and money appropriated.</td>
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Editor's note: Last year, we invited readers to ask questions about the legislative process. Here's one of several questions we received.

Why do we need both the House and the Senate?

Some say we don't need both the House and Senate. In fact, a recent book, Tribune of the People, which was funded, in part, by the the Minnesota Legislature, concluded that switching to a one-body legislature would be in the best interest of the state.

But the theory behind two-body legislatures, which are modeled after the U.S. Congress, is deeply imbedded in the political culture of the United States.

American government is based on the system of checks and balances, and “bicameralism” extends that theory to the legislative branch. Congress and 49 states have worked under bicameral systems since their creations, and no state has chosen to change to a one-body, or unicameral, system. One state, Nebraska, chose a unicameral Legislature from the outset.

Two deliberative bodies, a house of representatives and senate, share most powers, while each body has certain unique powers. For example, bills raising revenues must originate in the House; likewise, the Senate alone confirms executive and judicial branch appointments.

Differences in the membership of the two bodies tend to lead each to view legislation in different ways. Senators are elected for twice as long, and represent twice the number of people as representatives.

It's sometimes said senators take a wider view of state issues, and are less likely to pass rash legislation. On the other hand, House members tend to introduce more legislation than senators, and are thought to be a better gauge of public opinion.

The differences in the two bodies generally lead Senate members to pursue legislation more slowly than House members, but allow House members to respond more quickly to changing public attitudes. That's the prevailing theory, at least.

Proponents of a one-body legislature, however, say such a system would eliminate the need for conference committees, which meet at the end of each legislative session to work out differences between House and Senate versions of bills. Conference committees have been sharply criticized for adding sections to bills that were not approved by either the House or Senate.

Proponents of a unicameral legislature say such a system is actually more accountable to the public because it eliminates conference committees, which have long been tainted with a smoke-filled-room aura.

If you have a question about the Legislature, address it to Session Weekly, House Public Information Office, 175 State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155-1298.

March 8, 1862

On this day, Clay County was established and named after American statesman Henry Clay, a member of both houses of Congress, speaker of the House, and a candidate for president several times.
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 11

8 a.m.
Basement Hearing Room State Office Building
Chr. Rep. David Battaglia
Agenda: Budget overviews: Department of Agriculture; and the Board of Water Resources.

EDUCATION
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bob McEachern
Agenda: HF0350 (McEachern) Education fiscal and policy reforms.

Government Structures Division/
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Rich O'Connor
Agenda: HF0058 (Jaros) State government decentralization studied and money appropriated.

Government Structures Division/
Health Resources
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Joe Begich
Agenda: HF0236 (Solberg) Survey and inspection of land authorized before eminent domain proceedings begin.

Government Structures Division/
Human Resources Division/
INSURANCE
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield
Agenda: HF0301 (Jacobs) Telephone companies having local exchange and competitive services to provide incremental cost study before lowering rates.

Government Structures Division/
Human Resources Division/
INSURANCE
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Rich O'Connor
Agenda: HF0357 (Jacobs) Local governments to receive notice of utility work and restoration of town roads required.

12 noon

Banking Division/
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE
Tour
Chr. Rep. Wally Sparby
Agenda: A tour of the Minneapolis Dayton's credit department. The bus will leave promptly at noon from the front of the State Office Building.

12:30 p.m.

Education Finance Division/
EDUCATION
300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ken Nelson
Agenda: The governor's biennial budget recommendations: Education organization/cooperation. (HF0462, Article 6)

HOUSING
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark
Agenda: Guiding principles presentation. HF0027 (Dawkins) Community land trusts for low and moderate-income persons and families established and money appropriated.

Staff briefing from the Department of Revenue.

JUDICIARY
Basement Hearing Room State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Kathleen Vellenga
Agenda: HF0120 (Jaros) Health professionals required to report wounding of victims by dangerous weapons.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Joel Jacobs
Agenda: HF0301 (Jacobs) Telephone companies having local exchange and competitive services to provide incremental cost study before lowering rates.

TUESDAY, March 12

8 a.m.

Economic Development, Infrastructure, and Regulation Division/
APPROPRIATIONS
400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Rice
Agenda: Commerce Department budget overview.

Education Division/
APPROPRIATIONS
300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson
Agenda: Continuation of the Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Board budget request overview.

Environment & Natural Resources Division/
APPROPRIATIONS
Basement Hearing Room State Office Building
Chr. Rep. David Battaglia
Agenda: Budget overview: Pollution Control Agency.

Human Resources Division/
APPROPRIATIONS
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Wenzel
Agenda: Continuation of the governor's Department of Human Services budget proposal.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Joe Begich
Agenda: HF0352 (Clark) Dislocated worker fund eligibility extended.

Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources
500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn
Agenda: This is not an official commission meeting. Status reports of 1989 projects. Recreation: Recreation grants program; statewide public recreation map; trail planning and management. Wildlife: North American waterfowl plan; biological control of pests; and Swan Lake. Fisheries: Urban fishing.

The House will meet in session at 2:30.
proposals: Health care/state operated residential services.

Education Finance Division/
EDUCATION
500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ken Nelson
Agenda: The governor's biennial budget recommendations: Community and family education. (HF0462, Article 4)

Legislative Commission on Pensions & Retirement
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Leo Reding
Agenda: Review of actuarial condition of major and statewide pension plans, Robert Perkins, commission actuary.

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State Government Division/
APPROPRIATIONS
300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn
Agenda: Budget hearings: The Department of Military Affairs and the Department of Employee Relations.

10 a.m.

COMMERCE
Basement Hearing Room State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Sarna
Agenda: HF0154 (Scheid) Uniform commercial code amendments adopted for leases and bulk sales.

HF0373 (Scheid) Corporate officer allowed a real estate license.

HF0412 (Pugh) Fuel burner equipment installation and repair personnel regulated in the metropolitan area.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger
Agenda: HF0303 (Wagenius) Waste management practices changed and emphasis placed on waste reduction and recycling. (Continued)

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.

The full committee is invited to attend. Public testimony is invited. Call Scott at 296-7185 if you wish to testify.

12:30 p.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gloria Segal
Agenda: To be announced.

Elections Division/
GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & GAMING
500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Linda Scheid
Agenda: HF0326 (Osthoff) Primary elections; employees provided time off to vote.

HF0398 (Osthoff) Judges; election judges to include high school students and time off from work provided.

Veterans Affairs Division/
GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & GAMING
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Pat Beard
Agenda: HF0379 (Wenzel) Morrison county
disabled American veterans reconveyed state land.

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

Subcommittee on Fiscal Affairs/
LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phil Carruthers
Agenda: HF0178 (Kelso) Abstractor liability insurance minimum increased.

HF0231 (Waltman) Wabasha county not to pay certain reassessment costs.

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

2:30 p.m.

Subcommittee on Civil Law/
JUDICARY
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Pugh
Agenda: HF0067 (Carruthers) Peace officers guaranteed certain rights when under investigation and in disciplinary proceedings.

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

HF0639 (Pugh) District court judgeships increased and to include additions due to trial court unification.

3 p.m.

REDISTRICTING
Pilot City Regional Center, 1315 Penn Ave. N., lower level, canteen, Minneapolis
Chr. Rep. Peter Rodosovich

6 p.m.

TAXES
Inver Grove Community College, Liberal Arts Room 210, Inver Grove Heights
Chr. Rep. Paul Anders Ogren
Agenda: Governor Carlson's budget proposal.

WEDNESDAY, March 13

8 a.m.

Economic Development, Infrastructure, and Regulation Division/
APPROPRIATIONS
400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Rice
Agenda: Budget overview of the Department of Public Safety.

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FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE
Basement Hearing Room State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: HF0012 (Skoglund) Life and health guaranty association created and insurance companies practices regulated.
HF0004 (Skoglund) Health care plan for uninsured and underinsured established.
There will be no testimony or discussion taken on HF0012. The author will offer a delete everything amendment and the bill will be laid over.

Criminal Justice Division/ JUDICIARY
3005 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

Agenda: HF0337 (Marsh) Speeding ticket reporting requirement exemption repealed.
HF0583 (Solberg) Child in need of protection or services (CHIPS) definition expanded, penalties increased for assault on a school official and weapon offenses in school or park zones, education and employment grant program created, and money appropriated.
HF0174 (Ozment) Disorderly conduct to include offensive, obscene, or abusive language.
HF0600 (Bishop) Juvenile detention services subsidy program established and money appropriated.

Legislative Commission on Employee Relations
10 State Office Building

Agenda: Election of officers. Brief review of LCER duties. Presentation of staff report: The use of the unclassified state civil service for non-managerial positions. Presentation of staff report: Arbitrated contract awards, where does the time go?

12:30 p.m.

ENERGY
500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: HF0132 (Dawkins) Incandescent lighting prohibited in internally illuminated exit signs.
HF0434 (Cooper) Ethanol plant developers provided information. Other: Individuals who have requested to comment on previous presentations. Cost of producing ethanol: Larry Johnson, Department of Agriculture. Ethanol use: John Derus, Hennepin County Commissioner. Conservation investment: John Heino, Minnesota Power.

Subcommittee on Data Privacy/ JUDICIARY
3005 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phil Carruthers

Agenda: HF0287 (Morrison) Teacher private data provided to attorney general and licensing regulations changed.
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.
HF0469 (Seaberg) Public disclosure of private facts provided penalty.

THURSDAY, March 14

8 a.m.

Economic Development, Infrastructure, and Regulation Division/ APPROPRIATIONS
400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

Agenda: Continuation of the Department of Public Safety budget overview.

Education Division/ APPROPRIATIONS
300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: Continuation of the Minnesota Technical College System budget request overview.

Environment & Natural Resources Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

26 SESSION WEEKLY / March 8, 1991
parents or custodians of available social services when a child is taken into custody for shelter
care placement and money appropriated.
HF0185 (Greenfield) Case management
alternatives authorized for persons with mental
retardation or related conditions.
HF0233 (Greenfield) Patient rights include
making advance declarations regarding mental
health treatment.
HF0638 (Kinkel) Nursing home bed moratorium
authorized an exception.

12:30 p.m.

International Trade & Technology Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Rick Krueger
Agenda: HF0658 (Krueger) Small business
innovation research (SBIR) marketing and
technical assistance program established and
money appropriated.

GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS
AFFAIRS & GAMING
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
Agenda: Mike Helfron, general manager, state
fair.
HF0137 (Scheid) Candidate withdrawal
provisions provided.
HF0307 (Osthoff) Racing commission members
to receive increased per diem and pari-mutuel
clers at county fairs licensed.
Any bills from the divisions.

2:30 p.m.

Subcommittee on Family Violence/
Criminal Justice Division/JUDICIARY
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. MaryJo McGuire
Agenda: HF0147 (Morrison) Domestic abuse
protection orders exempted from filing fee.
Rep. Kathleen Vellenga: Community response
teams. Coalition of Battered Women.
HF0442 (Caruthers) Spiritual health care
exemption from child neglect and child abuse
reporting repealed.

3:30 p.m.

Subcommittee on Soil & Water Resources/
AGRICULTURE
500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jeff Bertram
Agenda: HF0001 (Munger) Wetland enhance-
ment, preservation, and protection act of 1991.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE
Basement Hearing Room State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund
Agenda: HF0234 (Dawkins) Language translation
services included as medical expense for
workers' compensation.
HF0351 (Gruenes) Health care plans established
for residents not covered by other plans and
minimum benefits provided with money
appropriated.
Avg. ACT college entrance exam score, 1988: 19.9 ...................... 3
Per capita state appropriations for higher education, 1988-89: $200 ............... 5
State support of higher ed. per pupil (FTE), 1987-88: $4,516 .................. 7
State support of higher ed. per pupil (FTE) as percent of per capita income, 1986-87: 27 .................................................. 18
Avg. salary of prof. at “flagship” state universities, 1987-88: prof., $52,100; assoc. prof., $38,300; assist. prof., $32,700 ........................................ 17
Est. percent of adults age 18-64 considered “illiterate”, 1985: 9 ................... 39
Black enrollment as percent of total enrollment in state higher ed. institutions, fall 1986: 1.3 percent .................................................. 40
Hispanic enrollment as percent of total enrollment in state higher education institutions, fall 1986: 0.6 percent ........................................ 41
Number of higher ed. institutions and branches, 1987-88: 77 .................. 17
Number of private higher ed. institutions and branches, 1987-88: 44 ............... 44
Number of public higher ed. institutions and branches, 1987-88: 33 ............... 33

Source: State Policy Data Book ’89