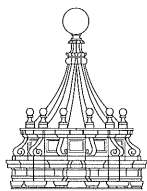


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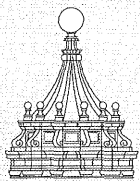
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Session Weekly

Minnesota House of Representatives • February 21, 1992 • Volume 9, Number 3





Session Weekly
is a publication of the
Minnesota House of
Representatives Public
Information Office.

During the 1992 Legislative Session, each issue reports daily House action between Thursdays of each week, lists bill introductions and upcoming committee meeting schedules, and provides other information. The publication is a service of the Minnesota House. No fee.

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Session Weekly (ISSN 1049-8176) is published weekly during the legislative session by the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office, 100 Constitution Ave., St. Paul, MN 55155-1298. Second Class postage paid at St. Paul, MN, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Session Weekly*, Public Information Office, Minnesota House of Representatives, St. Paul, MN 55155-1298.

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Flashback

State economist Tom Stinson explained forecasting revenues like this: "You're in a room and you're standing behind a screen and there's a target that is moving behind the screen. And every once in awhile you're called on to take a shot at that target."

Such is life for revenue forecasters, professional soothsayers who know in advance that a bullseye is never possible. The only certainty is that revenue forecasts will be wrong.

This week at the Capitol, the halls are filled with rumors that the budget shortfall for the rest of the 1992-93 budget cycle could approach \$600 million — nearly double the latest estimate of \$343 million.

All attention is focused on Feb. 27, the date the new forecast will be released. It seems certain that it will bear more bad news. But whatever the exact number, Stinson and his colleagues at the Minnesota Department of Finance will be in good company. A total of 30 states are facing shortfalls; their revenue forecasters missed the mark, too. (see story page 16)

"Forecasting is still an art and it is subject to a lot of judgment calls," explained Wilbur Maki, a professor of applied economics at the University of Minnesota who has studied the Minnesota forecasting model.

While Maki said that Minnesota has "some of the best modeling performance in the country," it's clear that the models sometimes had trouble hitting the barn. In the 1982-83 biennium, for example, revenues were \$1.5 billion short of what was projected, or 16.1 percent off.

Why?

Because it's virtually impossible to predict more than two years in advance what will happen to the national and world economy, and then divine how that will affect Minnesota. The state has reacted very differently to recessions, leading a 1986 State Budget Stability report to conclude "that little can be done to substantially improve forecast accuracy."

That forecasting is viewed as an imperfect science was made clear on the very first page of the State Budget Stability report.

It began with a quotation from Cicero, the Roman philosopher and statesman. He said, "The wisest saying of all was that the only true wisdom lay in not thinking that one knew what one did not know."

In other words, don't put too much faith in the forecasts.

—Grant Moos

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On the cover: Christian Whipple of the Three Rivers Dance Clan performed traditional Native American dances Feb. 20 as part of Arts and Arts Education Day 1992 in the Capitol rotunda. The event was sponsored by the Minnesota Alliance for Arts in Education.

photo by Tom Olmscheid

Highlights



Elections

Presidential primary scheduled

Minnesotans can now count on a presidential primary this year after the House failed Feb. 20 to override the governor's veto of a bill that would have delayed the primary by four years.

The vote to override the veto failed on a 77-49 vote — far short of the 90 votes needed to override. The primary is scheduled for April 7.

The main argument in favor of postponement was the cost of the primary that will be borne by local governments, which were the strongest opponents of the primary. Current estimates run from \$2.2 million by the Secretary of State's Office to \$5.5 million from local government groups.

But Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul) called the money argument "fallacious," and said that local governments "have already levied for this election. Will this money go back to the people if we cancel the primary? No."

The Senate Feb. 18 voted 56-9 to override the veto.



Higher Education

More college tuition hikes?

Tuition at all Minnesota public colleges would likely double — with the exception of the technical college system — under a plan that Rep. Mike Jaros (DFL-Duluth) presented to the Higher Education Division of the Education Committee Feb. 19.

HF1597 would essentially reverse the way the state funds higher education, requiring students to pay two-thirds of higher education costs. Currently, students pay only about one-third of the costs with the state picking up the rest.

Jaros would like to use the state money saved by the change to increase financial aid and improve programs. He said that



House Speaker Dee Long is swarmed by the press following the Feb. 17 floor session. Moments before the House adjourned, the Senate voted to override the governor's veto of a bill that would have delayed the presidential primary. The House took up the measure Feb. 20. Its override failed, meaning the primary will be held April 7.

low tuition ends up being a regressive policy if there isn't enough financial aid. Low tuition subsidizes all families regardless of ability to pay.

"Right now I have one kid in college and he's being subsidized," said Jaros. "I could pay more so that others who don't have as much money . . . could go to school."

By increasing the cost of tuition and the living allowance, families with larger incomes will qualify for financial aid. It is estimated that the break-even point — where the additional cost would equal the extra financial aid — would be at a family income of \$45,000.

David Laird, president of the Minnesota Private College Council, said the private colleges don't see this as a plan to create a windfall for themselves. The council wants to give low- and middle-income students more financial aid so higher education will become more affordable and accessible.

Students who were at the Capitol Feb. 19 for Student Lobby Day listed tuition policy as one of their three major issues.

"I can sit here and tell you that I wouldn't have been able to go to school if

the tuition had been doubled," said Brian Schoenborn, state chair of the Minnesota State University Student Association.

The committee is expected hear further testimony on the bill Feb. 26.

Strong opposition to merger

"Merger, merger, merger" was the chief topic of four hearings held around the state by a joint House/Senate higher education subcommittee, said Rep. Loren Thompson (DFL-Waubun), co-chair of the subcommittee.

And the plan to merge the technical college, community college, and state university systems doesn't appear to be popular. More than 60 people opposed the measure while only four gave their conditional support for the plan.

The subcommittee report said that people who testified before the subcommittee were concerned that the merger would result in a dissolution or loss of mission for the affected systems.

They also questioned whether the merger would result in the intended efficiency and quality improvements. Thompson noted that the technical

colleges, in particular, wanted to be kept separate.

The hearings in Detroit Lakes, Duluth, Mankato, and St. Paul focused on four issues: the merger, funding levels for post-secondary systems, state tuition policy, and cost-saving measures for the higher education system.

The subcommittee reported its findings Feb. 19 to the Higher Education Division of the Education Committee.

The 1991 Legislature approved the merger, which is to be completed by July 1995.



Education

Internship for teachers

Teacher preparation would take a year longer if the Minnesota Board of Teaching's recommendations are adopted by the Legislature. The additional year would be used for a year-long supervised internship in a professional development school.

The current licensure system can't distinguish between those who can and can't teach, said Judith Wang, supervisor of teacher education for the Department of Education.

The proposed licensing system,

presented to the Education Committee Feb. 19, would require candidates to graduate from an accredited teacher preparation institution and pass several exams before being accepted into an internship program. Internships would be selective because the number would be limited to the need for beginning teachers.

Legislators questioned whether the extra year would deter good candidates from entering the teaching field. Rep. Bob McEachern (DFL-Maple Lake), chair of the Education Committee, said that it's hard enough getting good people to go into teaching now.

"All of a sudden, I'm thinking, 'My God, I'm going to school for six years to a \$20,000 a year job to start with,'" said McEachern. Students at the University of Minnesota must obtain an undergraduate degree before entering the post-baccalaureate teaching program.

Rep. Anthony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids) asked, "What do you do with somebody who goes through college and can't get an internship? Are they not ever going to be able to teach?"

There was some grumbling that the Board of Teaching did not seek feedback from teacher education programs. Ray Nelson, chair of the Governmental Relations Committee of the Inter-Faculty Association, complained that the Minne-

sota Association of College Teacher Educators received the plan the same day it was released to the press.

Nelson said Minnesota teachers are "tired of being painted with the broad brush of national reports" that indicate the inadequacy of teacher education. He said that by most measurements, Minnesota is considered one of the top three states in terms of education.

There was also concern about how the extra year would affect the goal of increasing the diversity of the teaching force. Last year, the Legislature eased teacher licensing requirements to attract more teachers of color.



Recession

Recession committee plan

Over the sharply worded objections of Independent-Republicans, a special House panel is recommending that the Legislature boost funding for some safety net programs, accelerate construction of state building projects, and offer tax breaks as a way to counteract the current recession.

The House Select Committee on the Recession Feb. 19 issued its package that



State university students hang banners above the Capitol rotunda in response to proposed tuition hikes.

is designed to provide help for the unemployed by improving the state's economy.

The final report was sent to the House leaders, who in coming weeks will refer specific proposals to the appropriate committees for discussion.

But Independent-Republicans on the committee said they will submit their own minority report to House leaders; their proposals were not adopted by the committee.

"It [the DFL plan] just does not seem very responsible and is in fact laying out a lot of false hope to people" because the state can't afford it, said Rep. Steve Sviggum (IR-Kenyon), a member of the select committee.

The committee suggested lawmakers provide more money for the state's Emergency Jobs Program and the Conservation Corps, as well as restore funding for the Work Readiness Program.

The 1991 Legislature limited eligibility for the program to five months, but earlier this year voted to extend eligibility an extra three months. The governor then vetoed the measure calling for the extension. The program provides \$203 a month to unemployed people who are looking for new jobs.

State bonding for new, unspecified projects was proposed, as were several new tax incentives. The 21-member committee suggested the state's research and development tax credit be increased over current levels. The committee also called for the adoption of a personal tax credit for investors in smaller, Minnesota-based companies. The panel also proposed some targeted state aid for smaller companies.

The report didn't determine potential costs of its recommendations, but did suggest possible funding sources, including state lottery proceeds and increasing taxes on tobacco.

But Sviggum said the DFL recommendations could cost up to \$300 million — an amount the state can't afford given its current projected deficit of \$343 million.

Instead of focusing on social welfare programs, Sviggum said the Independent-Republican report recommends that workers' compensation rates be reduced, the governor's CORE Commission budget-cutting recommendations be adopted, and that construction on state bonding projects be speeded up.

Legislative change stirs student concerns

College administrators and students have objected to changes the 1991 Legislature made in the state grant program — changes they argue hurt students.

Although a Jan. 27 administrative hearing conducted by the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) was to address the "need and reasonableness" of the proposed HECB rules, several financial administrators echoed the students' sentiments instead.

"There is no doubt in my mind this will have an adverse effect on Minnesota college students," said Don Johnson, director of financial aid at Anoka-Ramsey Community College.

At issue is a change in the program made by the 1991 Legislature that defined a full-time student as one who carries at least 15 credits per quarter — up from the current federal 12-credit standard.

The change was a primary concern of students at North Hennepin Community College when lawmakers met there Oct. 28 during the recent House Suburban Mini-Session.

Several students complained that raising the full-time level to 15 credits makes it more difficult for non-traditional students to juggle the demands of classroom, jobs, and family.

Johnson said the change will mean that 42 percent of Anoka-Ramsey Community College students who participate in the state grant program will see a reduction in their state grant award.

Although the effect of the credit change says grants for part-time students are now to be pro-rated at 14 credits instead of the previous 11, exactly how that will be done is determined by the HECB. The pro-rating is based on the cost of attendance.

The state grant program budget for 1992-93 assumes that a student who carries 12-14 credits will receive 14/15 of a state grant, or 80 percent of a full-time grant award. Those taking 9-11 credits would receive 60 percent, and those with 6-8 credits would receive 40 percent.

Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal), chair of the Appropriations Committee's Higher Education Division, defended the change.

He explained that it will allow students to receive aid for the four years it will take to complete a degree, or 180 credits. Under the old 12-credit system, students could have their aid cut off at 144 credits. Carlson said the inflexibility of the old system was one of the key issues identified by the Minnesota Student Coalition in its 1991 legislative agenda.

Carlson also has said that the 15-credit, full-time definition was created as an incentive for students so they can graduate in four years. But administrators argue that total part-time grant dollars received over the now-extended period are still significantly less than the full-time alternative.

The change, which is scheduled to go into effect July 1, 1992, affects only the state grant programs, which are designed to augment the federal Pell grant program. The recent state change does not affect the federal program.

The change is estimated to save \$13.8 million per year. But Carlson pointed out that the Legislature increased the student living expense allowance by 8 percent in 1991-92 and 7.5 percent in 1992-93. This effectively increases grant aid to those students electing to take at least 15 credits.



Health

AIDS funding spread thin

New federal funding for AIDS-related services in Minnesota would be spread too thin under a current proposal from the Minnesota departments of Health and Human Services, said a spokeswoman for the Minnesota Aids Project.

"I believe that the proposed activities are too extensive," said Lorraine Teel, executive director of the project. "We need to fund fewer projects and fund them fully."

Teel said a \$24,000 proposal to provide information and counseling about living with HIV to community-based organizations would only cover the salary of one person and wouldn't cover office space or educational and outreach materials.

In addition, programs such as home health care, transportation, and early intervention are established but not fully funded, Teel told members of the Human Resources Division of the Appropriations Committee Feb. 19.

Many of the proposed new areas involve outreach and mental health services. Mary Alice Mowry, an AIDS policy consultant with the Department of Human Services, said that's because many people who are diagnosed as HIV-positive have difficulty taking advantage of available services.

Tom Cytron-Hyson, director of Midway Family Services, said that mental health issues such as AIDS-related dementia and depression speed the progress of the disease, leading to an earlier and longer need for critical care.

HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) damages the body's immune system and eventually cripples its ability to fight disease; AIDS refers to the syndrome (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) caused by HIV infection, which is characterized by serious diseases or conditions such as Kaposi's sarcoma, pneumocystis carinii pneumonia, or HIV dementia.

Kerry Jackson, who was diagnosed as HIV-positive about a year ago, pointed out the need for both continuing and new services. He said, "I probably would not be here today if not for some of these [existing] services." But he added that

there is a "huge gap" in AIDS education that needs to be filled in the African-American community.

The federal Ryan White CARE Act is providing Minnesota with \$415,372 in additional federal funds for 1992.

There were no bills before the division.

Health care access

"Access to health care has been wrongly subordinated to other values" in the current health care system, said Reinhard Priester of the University of Minnesota's Center for Biomedical Ethics, kicking off the legislative debate on health care reform for 1992.

The current system "does not take into account the needs of the community and is too individualistic," said Priester. Fair access should be the top "essential value," he added.

Priester presented the center's new report, which outlines a set of values that "ought to lead health care reform," to the

Health and Human Services Committee Feb. 20.

"Without a guiding value system, our health care system will remain incremental, reactive, and inconsistent," said Priester, adding that the value system produced over the last 40 to 50 years "is no longer appropriate or adequate."

Although several committee members seemed to agree with many of Priester's statements, some took issue with the center's position on personal responsibility, which maintains that each person should take part in the cost of health care and exercise greater control over their own health.

Priester said that personal responsibility should be encouraged by the value system, but that the prevailing trend of punishing those who smoke through insurance premiums, for example, is "too problematic."

Priester said that skiing could be considered risky and that co-payments at the point of service would better involve the individual who consistently engages



Testifying this week before a House panel, Jane Strauss of Minneapolis urged lawmakers to approve a lead cleanup bill. Strauss says the health of both of her daughters, Nina, left, and Natanya, has been affected by lead-based paint in their home. Lead, which is also found in automobile exhaust, has been linked to learning disabilities and behavioral disorders, particularly in children under six years old. The bill, HF 1934, authored by Rep. Karen Clark, would increase funds for a lead abatement program in homes and other areas through a \$10 per thousand-gallon capacity fee on petroleum storage tanks and a 10 cents per gallon tax on paint. The legislation, which has drawn support from a broad coalition of nearly 30 community groups, also would establish "scrub teams" to remove lead from homes and would transfer authority for most abatement programs from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to the state Department of Health. It won approval Feb. 20 from the Housing Committee, and now moves to the Health and Human Services Committee and a House appropriations division for further study.



Highlighting the need for continued funding for human resources programs, Rep. Andy Dawkins, center, and intern Doug Pihlgrin, left, worked a makeshift soup line Feb. 18 at the State Capitol.

in risky behavior.

The committee also heard from the departments of Health, Human Services and Jobs and Training, but did not act on any bills.

Insurance

Protecting insurance agents

A subtle kind of "redlining" can occur when insurance agents are pressured to avoid writing insurance policies in high crime areas, or areas subject to risk, an insurance agent told lawmakers Feb. 19.

Rick Smith, representing a coalition of insurance agents, told lawmakers that agents in high-risk areas can be pressured to avoid writing insurance policies. Agents in western Minnesota, he testified, have had their jobs threatened after hail damage resulted in claims.

Agents' jobs should not be on the line after a company approves an application for insurance, Smith said. Insurance companies are better able to determine the risk of a policy, he said.

Legislation (HF1901) that would provide more job protection to agents was approved by the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee and referred to the House floor.

Sponsored by Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda), the legislation would help ensure

that losses can't be used as a basis for firing agents.

"People in those areas pay higher rates already because of where they live," said Winter. Agents who are pulled from high-risk areas can result in neighborhoods without access to insurance, or decreased competition between companies, he said.

The legislation also provides a third party to settle disputes between insurance companies and their agents. That third party would either be a person mutually agreed upon by the company and the agent, or someone designated by the American Arbitration Association.

Willing money to charities

Charities would be more likely to receive the proceeds from life insurance policies that are willed to them if a bill approved Feb. 18 by the Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee becomes law.

The measure, sponsored by Rep. Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center), would modify a state law that theoretically prevents charities from receiving the proceeds of an insurance policy. Current law requires beneficiaries to have a financial interest in the person who is insured before they can accept proceeds from a life insurance policy.

The rationale behind the current law is to eliminate the chance of people taking

out insurance on someone with the intent to commit murder.

But because charities technically don't have an "insurable interest" in the people who may will them a policy, existing law can make it difficult for them to receive the money.

People have long contributed their life insurance policies to charities. It was never questioned in Minnesota until last year when the IRS ruled that, under New York law, such donations might not be deductible. The reason, the IRS ruled, was because charities do not have "insurable interest" in the person insured.

Although the ruling applied to New York law, and was later reversed, the ruling caused great concern among charities, people who donate to charities, tax advisers, and life insurance agents.

HF1948 permits charitable organizations to receive such life insurance benefits. It applies to both life insurance companies and fraternal benefit societies.

The bill is to be taken up on the Consent Calendar on the House floor.



Crime

Anti-crime debate begins

A spate of highly publicized murders have outraged the public and triggered a flood of crime bills in the Legislature, with both political parties promising action before the session's end.

Reps. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby) and Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls) presented the Criminal Justice Division of the Judiciary Committee Feb. 19 with the first two bills in an expected series of "get tough" proposals. No action was taken on either bill.

Division Chair Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) made clear his intentions to present the full committee with a "comprehensive package" that would incorporate parts of several crime proposals.

Hasskamp's proposal (HF1896), which is supported by Attorney General Hubert Humphrey III, calls for life imprisonment "where life means *real* life — no parole," said Hasskamp. The penalty would apply in cases of first-degree murder involving forcible or violent criminal sexual



Attorney General Hubert H. Humphrey III testified before the Criminal Justice Division Feb. 19 in support of a measure that calls for life without parole for some first-degree murderers.

conduct.

Humphrey said the measure accomplishes two goals: It would impose a swift and certain sentence, and it would ensure public safety. He called it the "Minnesota version of the death penalty."

Wenzel's bill (HF1742) covers a broad spectrum, including murder, rape, assault, prostitution, and psychopathic personalities.

The bill's three-fold purpose, said Wenzel, is to sentence proportionately given the gravity of offenses, provide a successful deterrent, and ultimately protect the public.

It calls for life without parole for those convicted of first-degree murder and first-degree criminal sexual conduct in those cases where there is a similar prior conviction. It also calls for major increases in mandatory minimum prison sentences for a variety of offenses.

Wenzel said the proposed changes are those "Minnesotans are willing to pay for," although he later conceded the state "probably cannot afford to do all the things in this bill."

Solberg assured both authors that lengthening prison sentences is a priority this session.



Law

Is 'faith' health care?

Should prayer count as "health care" to exempt parents from child neglect or endangerment charges? Since 1983, the Legislature has said yes, if a parent or guardian in "good faith" selects and depends on spiritual means or prayers for treatment of a child.

But Rep. Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) has authored a bill (HF442) to repeal the spiritual exemption. His goal, he said, is not to prosecute parents, but to save children's lives.

"This is not an issue of freedom of religion. Adults can make a decision not to have medical care . . . children do not have the power to make [this] decision," said Carruthers.

Carruthers' bill follows the high-profile *State vs. McKown* case heard by the Minnesota Supreme Court in which the court upheld the dismissal of negligence charges filed against the parents of a 12-year-old diabetic who died in 1989. The parents were members of the Christian Science religion whose major tenets include spiritual healing.

In its 1991 opinion, the court cited the explicit language in Minnesota law that permits the "good faith reliance on spiritual treatment and prayer."

The measure was referred Feb. 19 by the Judiciary Committee's Criminal Justice Division to the full committee without recommendation. It also seeks to remove all references to "faith healing" from the child abuse reporting act.

Carruthers said he is not against spiritual healing, but added, "You can't rely solely on spiritual healing" as a means of health care.

Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls) offered an amendment that he termed a "civil rather than criminal" alternative, which would create a mediator position within the state Department of Health. The goal stated in his amendment is to "protect the lives of children while ensuring maximum respect for parental and family decisions."

Under Greenfield's amendment, which was not voted on, the mediator (also a medical professional) would meet regularly with designated members of the

religious communities that practice spiritual healing.

Parents in these communities would be required to contact the mediator in case of a life-threatening condition to a child. Should they deny medical care in what the mediator has determined a high-risk situation, the mediator could then require medical treatment without parental consent, and without the court order required under current law.

Further testimony on the amendment is expected during the full committee proceedings.



Veterans

Mpls. vets' home needs help

A plan to renovate the Minneapolis Veterans Home will cost a total of \$21 million, according to a report presented Feb. 18 to the Veterans Affairs Division of the General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Gaming Committee.

The findings were part of a long-range planning study of the Hastings and Minneapolis campuses mandated by the 1991 Legislature.

Officials from Tronnes Reiling Associates Inc. told members that the Hastings facility is in good shape, but the Minneapolis site has "significant impediments." These include the existing building number 6, which was ordered closed by the Department of Health in 1991, and an overall "very poor site configuration," said John Reiling.

The comprehensive plan to restructure the site includes gutting one building, demolishing another, and dividing the site into three sections to better integrate support services.

Reiling stressed the importance of a "complete package" approach to the site, rather than piecemeal improvements which would "compromise the concept." He assured members that at no time during the proposed improvements would the quality of care be compromised.

A complete renovation would also allow the state to apply for federal dollars to cover 65 percent of the total project costs. Federal reimbursement would not be available in all cases if the renovations are done in a piecemeal fashion.

There was no bill before the committee, and it is unclear whether money for veterans home renovations will be included in the bonding bill that is expected to be approved this year.



Transportation

Transportation user fees

State lawmakers apparently want to look both ways before crossing the busy political street of funding road projects with user fees.

City officials told the House Transportation Committee Feb. 19 that user fees, which would be assessed to users based on the average volume that different properties such as homes, stores, and industrial sites use roads, are an attractive funding alternative to repair and construct city streets.

The bill's (HF1709) sponsor, Transportation Committee Chair Rep. Henry Kalis (DFL-Walters), said he intends to hold several more hearings in a transportation subcommittee before attempting to bring the measure to a vote in the House. No companion bill has yet been introduced in the state Senate.

Many city officials seem to prefer user fees to the traditional method of assessing the cost of street repairs on the property itself — a method that is often successfully challenged in court.

Monthly, or quarterly, fees would be collected in the same way residents are billed for garbage pickup or water service.

"They're going to be necessary if we're going to maintain a good, strong infrastructure," said Tom Hedges, Eagan city administrator.

But several members on the transportation panel remained skeptical of changing state law to permit cities to start charging the fees, arguing that the fee would be regressive and burden low-income people.

"This system, whether it's called a fee or a tax, will be very regressive," said Rep. Don Ostrom (DFL-St. Peter). The proposed legislation also is facing tough resistance from business owners, and construction and trucking interests.

Other committee members said city officials would have to take the lead in

pushing for the bill. "Until I get a stack of resolutions from cities on this desk endorsing this, I'm not going to want to touch this plan," said Rep. Jeff Hanson (DFL-Woodbury). "We don't want [cities] coming back here saying they were forced into this."



Environment

State parks need help

Many of Minnesota's most loved state park landmarks suffer from age, heavy use, and lack of funding, lawmakers learned this week.

Bill Morrissey, director of the Department of Natural Resources' Parks and Recreation Division, presented a capital budget proposal that would help state parks reverse that deterioration. The proposal calls for about \$63 million in capital funding for state parks over the next 12 years.

Fifty to 60-year-old park buildings, declining old growth forests, and 41 rare or endangered species are among the state's resources that need to be protected, Morrissey said. And more than 560 of the 1,600 buildings in the parks are on the National Register of Historic Places.

Some \$1 million is proposed for several log and stone buildings in Itasca State Park, the state's oldest park. Many of the structures were built during the Civilian Conservation Corps era, and their unique architecture, the department says, makes the buildings both valuable and expensive to repair.

The capital budget proposal does not include the \$18 million annual state park operating budget. About one-third of the park operating budget is derived from state park entrance and camping fees. Annual park stickers increased to \$18 this year — up from \$16. Most overnight campsites are an additional \$9 per day.

Park staffers are working with local communities to generate volunteer help, Morrissey told lawmakers. The department also is considering self-registration in certain parks, as well as other ways to reduce costs.

Nearly eight million visits are made to Minnesota's state parks annually.

The report was presented Feb. 18 to both the House Environment and Natural

Resources Committee, and the Appropriations Committee's Environment and Natural Resources Division.

Packaging bill draws crowd

Several people who both supported and opposed a comprehensive environmental bill that would limit excess waste and the toxins used in packaging crowded into a hearing Feb. 20 before the Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

The proposed legislation (HF779) includes incentives to reduce packaging waste, registration fees for the use of toxins, and the institution of a deposit program for nonrefillable beverage containers. Funds generated by the container deposit program would be directed to county recycling programs, rather than to the state.

Packaging takes up 30 to 40 percent of the total waste stream in Minnesota, bill sponsor Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth) told the committee.

The legislation sets a statewide goal of reducing solid waste by 25 percent per capita. The 25 percent reduction must be accomplished between July 1, 1992, and July 1, 1995. If it is not, there will be a one cent per package advance disposal fee placed on all "non-exempt" packages.

Packages exempt from the requirement include those which meet certain recycling requirements, those needed for health and safety purposes, and those for which there is not an environmentally superior substitute.

"We're telling industry, 'If you go ahead and do a good job, then you'll go scot-free,'" said Munger. Munger said that companies that do a good job in reducing waste can ask for an exemption, even if the state waste reduction goal is not met.

Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls), a co-author of the bill, told the committee that the state faces two major toxic wastes costs: keeping toxins from seeping out of landfills, and liability for the damage they can cause.

Cleaning up the state's closed landfills to prevent groundwater contamination will cost from \$250 million to \$400 million, Wagenius said.

The legislation targets 28 toxins which show up in at least half of the state's landfills. Industry would be required to register toxins in its packaging and products, and pay fees based on their use.

A skilled compromiser . . .

Welle leads DFL caucus with 'soft touch'



It comes as no surprise that Majority Leader Alan Welle would rank the 1987 tax bill and the 1991 health care access proposal as two of the legislative accomplishments of which he is most proud.

Both bills required careful crafting and skillful compromise to balance the diverse interests that are always at odds in the Legislature.

That the newly elected majority leader would delight in fashioning both bills, as well as orchestrating a compromise, is vintage Welle, say his supporters.

"First and foremost, his primary objective is to solve a problem," said Rep. Roger Cooper (DFL-Bird Island), one of Welle's closest friends at the Capitol. "He's very good — wonderful — at getting a grip on what the problem is and working toward a solution."

Added Sen. Dean Johnson (IR-Willmar), whose Senate district includes Welle's House district, "He's a student of politics and he likes to crunch numbers."

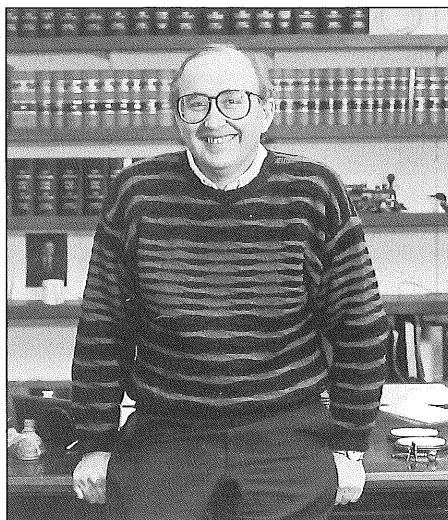
Some were surprised that the mild-mannered, low-profile Welle, chair of the Health and Human Services Committee in 1990 and 1991, emerged the victor following a 2-1/2-hour, seven-ballot battle for the majority leader post. The job has traditionally been held by those known for their aggressive spirits.

"We're all a little agog that he is majority leader," said Welle's boss, Bill Gulbrandsen, director of the Area Learning Center in Willmar, a program for handicapped and disadvantaged students. "He doesn't come across as a power person at all. He's a little laid back and seems to be a little more unassuming than the prototypical politician who fights his way all the way to the top."

But people at the Capitol weren't surprised and neither was Welle.

"Even though I haven't had a big public profile since I've been here, I've had a pretty active behind-the-scenes profile on controversial issues," said Welle. "I thought I was going to get down to the final two (candidates) all along."

Welle, 45, was born in Melrose, Minn. — about 40 miles north of Willmar. He



House Majority Leader Alan Welle

graduated from Melrose High School, got a degree in business administration from St. Cloud State University, and served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam.

After returning, he received certification from the University of Minnesota to teach business education, and in 1975 moved to Willmar, where he taught business at the local technical college. For the past three years he has worked as a work experience coordinator at the Willmar school district's Area Learning Center.

There, he helps at-risk and handicapped students develop job and living skills so they can enter the work force. "He fits in really good with the kids," said Gulbrandsen. "They love him. He's caring and compassionate and patient."

Welle said it was really an accident that he ended up at the Capitol at all. In 1980, he was serving as the Kandiyohi County DFL treasurer when the party was looking for someone to run against Independent-Republican Dean Johnson, who then served in the House.

"We couldn't find anybody so I filed myself at the last minute," said Welle. He lost by a wide margin that year. But when Johnson moved to the Senate in 1982, Welle ran again and has been elected by wide margins ever since in the political "swing" district.

In 1983, he and several other rural freshmen DFLers shook up the party by forming a group that later became known as the "wood ticks" — named for the

more conservative business views of outstate DFLers. The group joined Independent-Republicans in pushing for workers' compensation reform, an issue he has wrestled with ever since.

Welle's more conservative business stance led some to label him anti-labor during the July election for majority leader. But he said the claim is untrue, and the most recent legislative ranking from the AFL-CIO seems to back him up. The labor group gave him a 100 percent score in 1990.

Welle said his experience as the owner of a company dealing in lumber, construction, and development — which closed in 1985 during the '80s farm crisis — gave him a first-hand look at the difficulties facing small businesses on main street America.

While he is well-known at the Capitol for forming a coalition of DFLers from Greater Minnesota, Welle said he has a better understanding of the inner cities and suburbs than many people think. During his first four terms at the Legislature, his wife and two children came to St. Paul with him for each long session. And they lived everywhere from downtown high-rises to suburban homes.

"I think my kids have turned out to be very well-adjusted and self-confident because they've been exposed to a lot of different environments," he said. "And I think it's given me a broader understanding."

As for the task of keeping the various factions within the DFL happy, Welle pledged to use a sense of humor and his skills as a compromiser to lead the caucus. And Johnson said he expects partisan bickering to diminish with Welle at the helm, adding that "very seldom" do the two of them engage in party warfare at public functions in Kandiyohi County.

He described their relationship as "cordial, friendly. Having said that, I know way back in the hollows of his mind he's thinking politically. . . . He's not majority leader because he attended Sunday school four days in a row."

Added Welle, "I can be political if I have to."

— Grant Moos

1992

COMMITTEE SCOPES

The Minnesota Legislature — the House of Representatives and the Senate — is divided into many committees, divisions, and subdivisions. Since thousands of bills are introduced during each two-year legislative session, it is impossible for any one legislator to become an expert in all areas. So, each legislator serves on three to five committees and divisions, which allows him/her to focus on a just a few areas of public policy.

In a sense, the committee structure forms the heart of the Legislature. Although many people believe that most of the legislative process occurs on the House and Senate floors, it's in committee where the most substantive action occurs. It's here where each bill is pored over and dissected, where key amendments are added and sections are deleted, and where recommendations for approval are given or withheld.

In the House, the speaker names the committees, appoints members to the committees, and selects chairs to lead them. Once the committee assignments are made and the House convenes for its session, the speaker assigns bills to the appropriate committees.

The *Session Weekly* staff asked House committee chairs and administrators for brief, general descriptions of the functions of their committees and divisions. More specifically, they asked what topics were likely to be considered this session.

Here are the results of the survey — a list of all committees and divisions and their functions, and, in order of importance, the specific concerns they expect to address during the 1992 Legislative Session.

AGRICULTURE

Reviews farm policies and programs to assist farmers, promotes interstate and international trade, develops strategies for marketing commodities, and develops programs to encourage soil conservation.

Agenda '92:

- Minnesota Extension Service cuts
- Milk pricing issues (check-offs, price in stores, price for farmers)
- Corporate farming issues regarding hog farming
- Detroit Lakes turkey facility closing
- Central notification of agricultural liens

APPROPRIATIONS

Recommends objectives and goals in spending state money; reviews the governor's budget proposals; recommends funding levels for all state agencies and programs the state finances; provides estimates of appropriations to the Ways and Means Committee; reviews every bill where a state appropriation is required (even if the bill has had its first reading in another committee). The committee has five divisions which specialize in different appropriations issues.

Agenda '92:

- 1992 fiscal year budget issues
- 1993-94 budget issues
- Education
- Health care access funding
- Capital improvement program funding

Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

Reviews and recommends funding for the departments of Commerce, Labor and Industry, Transportation, and Public Safety; the Office of Secretary of State; the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board; Minnesota Technology; the State Arts Board; the Regional Transit Board, the Racing Commission and other

regulatory boards; and the Minnesota Historical Society.

Agenda '92:

- Governor's budget revisions
- Capital budget

Education Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

Reviews legislative funding for the state's four public higher education systems and the Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Agenda '92:

- Funding levels for higher education
- Governance
- Financial aid
- Bonding bill
- Tuition levels

Environment & Natural Resources Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

Oversees the budgets of state agencies related to the environment, natural resources, and agriculture.

Agenda '92:

- Omnibus Environment and Natural Resources appropriations bill

Human Resources Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

Reviews governor's budget; recommends funding for state health, human services, corrections, and housing programs; reviews funding needs for legislation that policy committees recommend to pass.

Agenda '92:

- Maintaining social service "safety net"
- Health care access
- Corrections funding to deal with fiscal impact of increased sentences

State Government Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

Reviews and recommends appropriations for state departments and agencies.

Agenda '92:

- Capital budget requests
- Selected program reviews

COMMERCE

Deals mainly with consumer affairs, professional licensing, tourism, and small-business issues.

Agenda '92:

- Consumer affairs
- Tourism
- Professional licensing
- Real estate

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Covers rural development, community development, international trade, technology development, and the application of research and technology to the marketplace; considers job development, business finance, and technical assistance issues; and reviews programs in the Department of Trade and Economic Development.

Agenda '92:

- Access to capital
- Worker training/apprenticeship
- International trade
- Restructuring of economic development delivery programs
- High technology promotion

International Trade & Technology Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Examines Minnesota's economic and job needs, emphasizing world competitiveness; makes recommendations for small- and medium-sized businesses to improve manufacturing techniques and enhance exporting opportunities; promotes technology transfer from learning institutions to industry.

Agenda '92:

- Minnesota Technology, Inc. (MTI) and state technology programs funded through MTI, e.g., Minnesota Project

Innovation, Minnesota Project Outreach

- Minnesota World Trade Center Corp. and Minnesota Trade Office
- State science and technology policy

EDUCATION

Handles educational policy, statewide funding, and structure of public education.

Agenda '92:

- School facilities
- Proposed state board rule on graduation requirement
- Reorganization of regional educational systems
- Review of the post-secondary options program

Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

Provides policy direction and funding of the state's K-12 education system, which includes all public school districts and the Department of Education.

Agenda '92:

- Education budget adjustments
- State assistance for facilities

Higher Education Division/ EDUCATION

Makes recommendations for the goals and objectives of technical colleges, state universities, community colleges, the University of Minnesota, and the Higher Education Coordinating Board; assesses the quality, availability, governance, and administration of these institutions.

Agenda '92

- Financial aid bill — dramatically increase aid to lower-income families
- Re-examine the merger legislation; follow up on enabling legislation

ENERGY

Reviews energy policies and conservation issues.

Agenda '92:

- Conservation programs
- Alternative energy
- Future energy policy

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

Examines issues relating to pollution, waste management, wildlife protection, forestry and mining, groundwater protection, solid waste reduction, and recycling; also examines hunting and fishing regulations and promotion.

Agenda '92:

- HF779 - packaging bill
- Toxins in packaging, batteries, and other products; monitoring toxins in air and depositions; prevention of use; lead abatement
- Solid waste: landfill siting and cleanup, waste tires, Waste Management Act amendments, and hazardous and radioactive waste disposal
- Water: appropriations, lakeshore management, milfoil control, Wetland Conservation Act amendments
- Hunting and fishing issues. game and fish fund

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

Reviews laws pertaining to banks, savings and loans, credit unions, etc. Examines consumer rights in insurance and availability of insurance for individuals and companies, and other aspects of the insurance industry.

Agenda '92:

- Access to quality health insurance at an affordable price

Banking Division/ FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

Examines fiscal condition of the banking industry and how best to meet the needs of financial institutions and consumers and the businesses they serve.

Agenda '92:

- Broadening investment options for trust assets
- Voluntary foreclosures
- Department of Commerce bill — banking industry clarifications
- Local area detached facilities

GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & GAMING

Reviews gambling issues and regulations, election concerns, veterans' programs, and miscellaneous legislation.

Agenda '92:

- Elections
- Gambling, e.g., off-track betting

Veterans Affairs Division/ GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & GAMING

Addresses policy matters concerning various veterans programs and issues; considers legislation concerning veterans and military affairs.

Agenda '92:

- County Veterans Service Officer Report
- Minnesota Veterans Homes Long Range Planning Study

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Reviews any bill that substantially changes or creates a new state department, agency, commission, board or bureau, although a bill may have had its first review and hearing in another committee; deals with public employee pension plans, and state workers' bargaining procedures.

Agenda '92:

- Proposed changes to the Post Fund retirement benefit formula
- Allow early retirees to purchase health insurance and remain in the same group as active employees
- Early retirement incentive for certain public employees
- Statewide pension improvement
- Creating a state board of pension investment

Government Structures Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Examines the organization of the state's executive branch agencies and departments to effectively manage the growth of state government.

Agenda '92:

- Occupational regulation
- CORE Commission recommendations

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Receives all bills relating to health issues and various social services in the state; reviews issues relating to health maintenance organizations; deals with the licensing of health care providers and social workers; reviews and recommends welfare programs, policies, goals, objectives, reform and creation.

Agenda '92:

- Health care access/State Health Plan
- Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/Hepatitis B virus (HBV) issues
- Department reorganization

HOUSING

Examines all aspects of housing programs; focuses on revitalization and rehabilitation projects, targeting housing for those with the greatest need; focuses on preserving existing affordable housing.

Agenda '92:

- Toxic lead cleanup
- Bonding for housing
- Emergency mortgage and rent assistance

JUDICIARY

Considers all areas of Minnesota criminal and civil law, data practices, and the organization of the courts.

Agenda '92:

- Sex offender sentencing and other anti-violence measures
- Child support reform
- DUI penalties
- Secure juvenile facility and treatment services
- Criminal records management

Criminal Justice Division/JUDICIARY

Examines all aspects of criminal law, including the state's sentencing guidelines, court procedures in juvenile

delinquency cases, and questions concerning child abuse.

Agenda '92:

- Violent crimes
- DUI issues
- Juvenile justice system
- Sentencing guidelines

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

Considers unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, and labor standards concerning issues about hours worked, wages paid, working conditions, and job training programs. Also deals with certain public employee labor issues, but not pensions.

Agenda '92:

- Personnel records
- Unemployment insurance
- Workers' compensation
- Collective bargaining issues
- Video display terminals

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

Examines local government and makes recommendations concerning the relationship between state and local governments. Also examines local governments' jurisdiction, control, and bonding authority; reviews metropolitan agencies' structures, goals, and programs; and considers transportation, sewers, roads, bridges, parks, and airports in the metropolitan area.

Agenda '92:

- Local government structure
- Light rail
- Metropolitan agencies
- Airports
- Land use planning issues

REDISTRICTING

Responsible for the process of redrawing the boundaries for legislative and congressional districts. Redistricting takes place once every 10 years. The re-mapping will take place to reflect the 1990 census in order to equalize the

populations of each district while also respecting natural physical boundary lines and local governmental boundaries whenever possible.

Agenda '92:

- Metropolitan Council redistricting

REGULATED INDUSTRIES

Examines controls on state-regulated industries such as liquor, telephone, utilities, and commercial soliciting.

Agenda '92:

- Redefinition of extended area service criteria for telephone exchanges
- Electric utility service area boundaries
- Revisions in competitive services for telephone companies
- Octane testing program
- Liquor license fee increases

TAXES

Reviews bills that affect state income, sales, use, and property tax policy.

Agenda '92:

- Tax fairness
- Health care access and reform — revenues need for public expenditures to be commensurate with reform-driven health care system savings
- Reinstatement of homestead and agricultural credit funding, which was eliminated in 1993 by gubernatorial veto

TRANSPORTATION

Addresses policy matters concerning highways, trucking, transit systems, and the departments of Transportation and Public Safety.

Agenda '92:

- Truck regulation
- Transportation funding (tentative)

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

ETHICS

Reviews ethical complaints concerning members of the House of Representatives; sets procedures on dealing with ethical problems.

RULES & LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

Establishes the budget for the House; approves personnel matters; determines House rules and joint rules of the House and Senate. Acts on bills and resolutions referred to the committee.

WAYS & MEANS

Sets overall spending and taxing policies and limits for the Appropriations and Taxes committees, and the Education Finance Division of the Education Committee.

Last year's bills . . .

Most return to committee

Now that we're in the second year of the state's two-year spending cycle, what becomes of the bills from last year?

Here's what happens:

Bills receiving final passage by one body and not the other remain alive for the second year of the biennium. The body that approved the bill in the first year need not repass it in the second.

Bills awaiting floor action on the General Orders, Consent and Special Orders calendars return to the last committee in which they were acted upon. There they will remain, and die at the end of the 1992 session, if not acted upon by the committee.

It used to be that General Orders carried over into the second year of the biennium. The change to the present system occurred about a decade ago.

Bills pending before the Rules Committee from either body return to the standing committee to which the bill was previously referred.

Bills remaining in standing committees can be taken up in the second year of the biennium in the committee to which they were last referred.

For appointed conference committees that have not submitted a report upon adjournment after the first year, the bill returns to its body of origin and is laid on the table. The conference committee is then disbanded.

And finally, bills vetoed by the governor are returned to the body where the bill originated and laid on the table.

During the 1991 legislative session, a total 1,725 bills were introduced in the House; 1,595 in the Senate. Of those, 356 were passed by both bodies and sent on to the governor for consideration.

It's a fact!

John Francis Wheaton came to Minnesota as a Howard University graduate in 1890. Nine years later he became the first black man elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives.

He lived in Minneapolis, but his district encompassed Richfield, Bloomington, Edina, and Eden Prairie as well.

Only three blacks have been elected to the House since the turn of the century. All represented metro districts.

Ray Pleasant (IR-Bloomington) served from 1973-81. Randy Staten (DFL-Mpls) served from 1981-86, and Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls) continues to serve. He was elected in 1987.



John Francis Wheaton

Photo courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society



A three-judge federal panel Feb. 19 issued a new map that significantly redraws the state's 201 House and Senate districts and sets up a likely challenge before the U.S. Supreme Court. The judges' plan differs sharply from one approved by the DFL-controlled Legislature in May and was, in large part, adopted last month by a similar panel from the state courts. If upheld, the new map would pit 53 House members against each other and pair 17 senators in fratricidal election contests. DFLers immediately said they would appeal the plan, although they have not yet decided whether to challenge the judges' new map for the state's eight seats in U.S. Congress. That plan generally keeps the existing configuration of four seats each in metro and outstate Minnesota.

The cause of death in 80 percent of AIDS cases is severe malnutrition, commonly referred to as Wasting Disease, according to recent findings by the National Institute of Health (NIH). Sally Lou Todd of Open Arms of Minnesota, a volunteer organization that has provided nutritional support to over 400 people with HIV and AIDS over the past six years, told the Human Resources Division of the Appropriations Committee Feb. 19 that professional nutritional services need to be standard early treatment in HIV and AIDS cases. Wasting Disease is the primary cause for the loss of energy that leads to early job loss and hospitalization, said Todd, and yet those diagnosed with HIV or AIDS do not usually receive nutritional services until they have experienced significant weight loss, she added.

"I like your new [hair] 'do,'" said Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul) to the DNR Parks and Recreation Director Bill Morrissey. The mild-mannered Morrissey had a quick response: "Staff told me that if I looked more like Al Checchi, I'd have a better chance of getting more money," he joked. Morrissey was testifying Feb. 19 before the Appropriations Committee's Environment and Natural Resources Division.

Does going to Harvard expand your vocabulary? Rep. Bob McEachern (DFL-Maple Lake) apparently thinks so. He said he thinks Rep. Ken Nelson's (DFL-Mpls) vocabulary has improved since Nelson returned from a stint this fall at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. McEachern said he heard three new words from Nelson during the Education Committee hearing Feb. 19, but he didn't identify them.

Reserving your state park campsite will probably be done locally in the future, said DNR Parks and Recreation Director Bill Morrissey. The current 1-800 system, run by a California firm, works well "technically," he said. But a poll of customers showed a 30 percent dissatisfaction rate. When the firm's contract expires in a year, the park system hopes to award the contract to a Minnesota firm. Hardware to accommodate requests is expensive, said Morrissey. Requests for one Fourth of July weekend, he said, generated 3,000 calls in one day.

You can scrap the term "Greater Minnesota" or "outstate" for that matter. The latest such jargon surfaced during a Feb. 20 meeting of the Governmental Operations Committee. At one point during testimony, a spokeswoman for the Legislative Audit Commission referred to a "Deep Rural" community. Rep. Roger Cooper (DFL-Bird Island) asked for an explanation of the term. "Deep Rural," she explained, is official Department of Human Services lingo, and can be substituted wherever outstate or Greater Minnesota would be used. Cooper also discovered the department is known to say "semi-metro" when referring to what is commonly termed "suburban."

A state cap on the Minneapolis small businesses loan program would be removed under a bill approved by the Economic Development Committee Feb. 18. HF1862 (Jefferson, DFL-Mpls) eliminates the current \$450,000 cap. Iric Nathanson, Minneapolis finance coordinator, told the committee that the loan program gives priority to businesses that have substantial job potential. No state funds are involved in the loan program.

Do you know?

Carver County, established Feb. 20, 1855, honors Captain Jonathan Carver, a Connecticut-born explorer and author whose *Travels through the Interior Parts of North America in the Years 1766-68* became a widely read and much translated text.

In June of 1766, Carver was commissioned by Major Robert Rogers to make "discoveries and surveys of ye interior parts of North America," for which he was to be allowed eight schillings a day.

Armed with only a credit authorization for goods on some French and English traders, Carver reached St. Anthony Falls in November 1766 and spent the winter with a group of Dakota Indians. His goal was to reach the Pacific Ocean.

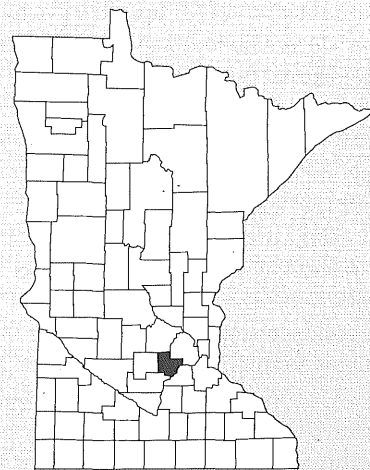
He never came close.

When his supplies, didn't arrive, a distressed Carver traveled to Prairie du Chien, another trading post, where he hoped to receive word of his goods. None came.

Carver then headed up river to Grand Portage, hoping the trading post near the mouth of the Pigeon River could equip him for his journey west. Still no luck.

Frustrated, he soon returned to the East Coast, and then sailed on to England. There, he made grand plans for a renewed attempt to find the Pacific, but the Revolutionary War made the venture impossible.

He died in poverty in 1780.



States face shortfalls . . .

Minnesota one of 30 states with budget woes

Compared with a lot of other states, Minnesota's 1992 budget shortfall — currently projected at about \$343 million — could be considered small change.

In California, where only six months ago lawmakers struggled to erase a record \$14.3 billion deficit, analysts now estimate the 1992 revenue shortfall will approach \$3 billion.

In Illinois, where legislators waited through a three-week extra session last summer to resolve a \$1.85 billion budget shortfall, the state is already \$400 million in the red after just three months into its budget period.

The New York state legislature, which last year cut spending and boosted state taxes to rectify a \$6 billion deficit, has an additional \$875 million gap to close before the fiscal year ends in July with a \$3 billion shortfall projected by 1993.

Elsewhere, budget agreements adopted last year in Florida, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Washington, are strained and threatening to rip apart as the national recession continues.

The current state budget morass could be the worst since the Great Depression, said Pennsylvania Gov. Robert Casey in August, just after lawmakers there approved the largest tax hike in state history.

"We should have been clairvoyant," Casey told the *Wall Street Journal*, "and known last year that Iraq would invade Kuwait, that oil prices would go up, that the economy would die and people would stop buying. At the same time, the demand for safety-net services is up and we're hit with a squeeze nobody can survive."

Against that backdrop, Minnesota's current money crunch — about 2.2 percent of the total \$15.3 billion two-year budget — may appear to be relatively easy to fix. State lawmakers during the 1991 Session resolved a much larger \$1.1 billion shortfall without the major tax increases, massive employee layoffs or disruptions in state services that are occurring in many other states.

"It's a credit to the governor and the legislative leadership things went as smoothly as they did last year," said John Gunyou, Minnesota finance commis-

sioner, in a recent broadcast interview.

But neither Gunyou, who will release an updated budget forecast Feb. 27, nor anyone else involved with Minnesota state balances, really expects as easy a ride this time around.

The 1991 shortfall was largely resolved by boosting sales taxes half a penny on the dollar, imposing a virtual state spending freeze, and spending \$150 million of the state's budget reserve, which now stands at \$400 million.

Similar remedies probably are not available in 1992. Lawmakers don't like tax hikes in an election year and many interest groups believe state programs already are pared to the bone. And rumors are rampant that the projected shortfall could climb as high as \$500 million, possibly more. Hard choices are in store.

It's a situation shared by most states. According to the National Governor's Association, 30 states had budget shortfalls and 29 cut spending in 1991 to get their budgets in line. At the same time, 26 of those states raised taxes and fees. Twenty-one state governments, including Minnesota, used a combination of tax hikes and budget cuts to balance

this year, cites a rapid population shift for part of its fiscal problems. The number of young people who need schooling and other expensive services has exploded, while a sizable number of more economically productive people, between the ages of 35 and 64, are moving out of state.

IOUs for increased state spending for education — a \$3.6 billion annual expense in Minnesota — and for other programs promised during the late 1980s, are also coming due.

Even the courts have contributed to the growing deficits. Rulings outlawing double-bunking of inmates are forcing several states to undertake pricey prison-building projects.

And courts have also recently overturned existing school funding formulas in about a dozen states, including Minnesota — decisions that in some cases have been costly. In Texas, for example, the state comptroller estimates the state already is \$200 million to \$300 million behind this year in paying for a court-ordered school equity funding program. In Minnesota, where a similar case is under appeal, it's estimated that full equity could push up state spending for schools by \$800 million.

"We should have been clairvoyant and known last year that Iraq would invade Kuwait, that oil prices would go up, that the economy would die and people would stop buying. At the same time, the demand for safety-net services is up and we're hit with a squeeze nobody can survive."

— Pennsylvania Gov. Robert Casey

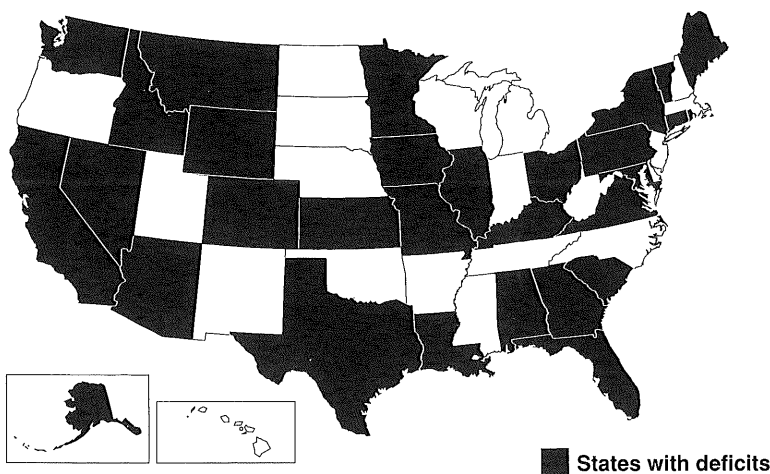
the books, according to the association.

State budget directors say the national recession is the primary reason for the fiscal bind. The economic downturn has caused tax collections to fall well short of projections while recession-related public aid and other entitlement expenditures have skyrocketed.

Other factors are contributing as well. The California Department of Finance, which projects about a 5 percent deficit

Overall, "get-tough" programs on crime are also depleting state coffers. Longer prison sentences generally translate into more state spending on prisons. Construction spending by states rose 12.7 percent across the nation in 1990 and 11.4 percent last year, according to the governors' association.

The Minnesota Department of Corrections was one of only a few state departments to receive a funding increase for



States with deficits

State	Projected 1992 Deficit (in millions)	Proportion of Yearly Budget (in percentage)
Alabama	146	4.2
Alaska	326.9	11.6
Arizona	96	2.7
California	2,000	4.6
Colorado	101	3.7
Connecticut	177	2.5
Florida	621.7	5.3
Georgia	415	5.5
Idaho	12	1.2
Illinois	350	2.9
Iowa	127.3	4
Kansas	52	2.1
Kentucky	177	3.8
Louisiana	22.3	0.5
Maine	119.9	7.7
Maryland	670	10.4
Minnesota*	120	1.8
Missouri	221.6	5.1
Montana	68.9	13.3
Nevada	40	4
New York	875	2.9
Ohio	450	4.4
Pennsylvania	143	1
Rhode Island	52	3.5
South Carolina	148.2	4.3
Texas	100	0.6
Vermont	15	2.3
Virginia	62.5	1
Washington	185	2.4
Wyoming	18.5	4.4

* total projected deficit for 1992-93 budget cycle; \$343 million, 2.2%

Source: National Association of State Budget Offices, January 1992 survey

the current biennium, climbing 32 percent to over \$331 million, including \$230 million for operating the state's prisons. And the one-third jump for the corrections department doesn't take into account proposed bonding costs for new prison construction which could be voted on as early as this year.

Changing congressional spending habits are having an effect on the states as well. The states' share for Medicaid programs, for example, has risen 300 percent during the the last decade, ballooning from \$13.3 billion in 1981 to more than \$40 billion last year.

And the news from the federal front on Medicaid doesn't improve in 1992: new rules expanding eligibility and the shifting of even more costs to states are expected to push spending up an additional \$5.5 billion through October.

Governors and state lawmakers repeatedly have blamed Congress for shifting the bill for many programs to the states. There has been a general trend during the past decade where the feds jettison financial responsibility for some programs, although perhaps not to the degree popularly believed.

In addition, ballooning federal deficits long have been cited as a co-conspirator in causing the national recession, which has led to decreased tax collections on the state level.

And like the conflicting prospects of economic recovery on a national scale, determining how soon most states will emerge from their budget crises is difficult. "I don't think anybody is really expecting a big turnaround anytime soon," said Stacy Sheffin, a senior staffer for the National Association of State Budget Officers.

If the national economy rebounds in the second half of 1992, state coffers may begin to replenish some of the lost sales, corporate and income tax revenues.

Longer-term prognoses, however, probably fall into the realm of Ouija boards and handicapping dog races. Many of the spending-side contributors in the states' budget malaise — schools, social programs and crime-fighting packages — most likely will continue to inch higher in coming years, regardless of available funds.

— Dave Price

Bill Introductions

HF1905 — HF2031

Tuesday, Feb. 18

HF1905—Omann (IR)

Education

Teacher collective bargaining agreement required before school year begins, state aid reduction penalty eliminated, and school day requirement clarified.

HF1906—Lourey (DFL)

Appropriations

Environmental residential learning center bond issuance provided for capital improvements, additional environmental learning center feasibility and planning studied, and money appropriated.

HF1907—Valento (IR)

Judiciary

Driving while intoxicated (DWI) repeat offenses and unauthorized computer access offenses subject to property forfeiture proceedings.

HF1908—Dorn (DFL)

Taxes

Farm machinery and farm auction sales provided occasional sales tax exemption.

HF1909—Farrell (DFL)

Transportation

Light rail transit property in the metropolitan area use allowed for bicycle and walking paths.

HF1910—Rest (DFL)

Judiciary

Limited liability company act adopted, and money appropriated.

HF1911—Kinkel (DFL)

Local Government & Metro. Affairs

Hubbard county authorized sale of certain land exchanged for tax forfeited land.

HF1912—Welle (DFL)

Education

Maximum effort school loan bond sale restrictions removed.

HF1913—Carruthers (DFL)

Education

Capital expenditures facilities revenue formula modified to include fund balance pupil units.

HF1914—Pugh (DFL)

Education

Special school district No. 6, South St. Paul,

capital expenditure facilities revenue not reduced due to fund balance, and levy and aid adjustments provided.

HF1915—Anderson, I. (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Nursing home bed moratorium provided an exception to allow the licensure and certification of up to 20 new nursing home beds in a community—operated hospital and attached convalescent and nursing care facility.

HF1916—Anderson, R. (IR)

Judiciary

Violence against women advisory task force established and money appropriated.

HF1917—Rest (DFL)

Education

Drug abuse resistance education (DARE) special levy authority extended for school districts.

HF1918—Sviggum (IR)

Health & Human Services

Health care efficiency, availability, and reform, today and tomorrow (HEART) program and small employer health benefit act adopted; cost containment, insurance reform, and rural health initiatives provided; and money appropriated.

HF1919—Pelowski (DFL)

Appropriations

Winona provided an extension to secure federal matching appropriations for the upper Mississippi River environmental education center.

HF1920—Runbeck (IR)

Health & Human Services

Health care efficiency, availability, and reform, today and tomorrow (HEART) program and small employer health benefit act adopted; cost containment, insurance reform, and rural health initiatives provided; and money appropriated.

HF1921—Peterson (DFL)

Judiciary

Grandparent visitation action allowed after completion of marriage dissolution or other family court proceedings.

HF1922—Hasskamp (DFL)

Labor—Management Relations

Liability exemption provided for unpaid unemployment compensation contributions after certain acquisitions made through a state

or federal agency.

HF1923—Onnen (IR)

Health & Human Services

Health care efficiency, availability, and reform, today and tomorrow (HEART) program and small employer health benefit act adopted; cost containment, insurance reform, and rural health initiatives provided; and money appropriated.

HF1924—Bauerly (DFL)

Education

Debt service equalization revenue enrollment requirements modified.

HF1925—McPherson (IR)

Taxes

Vacant platted property provided valuation and assessment.

HF1926—Valento (IR)

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

Lawful purpose expenditures to include programs for seniors 55 or more years of age.

HF1927—Stanisius (IR)

Local Government & Metro. Affairs

White Bear Lake to operate and purchase the Manitou Ridge golf course from Ramsey county.

HF1928—Valento (IR)

Health & Human Services

Health care efficiency, availability, and reform, today and tomorrow (HEART) program and small employer health benefit act adopted; cost containment, insurance reform, and rural health initiatives provided; and money appropriated.

HF1929—Dorn (DFL)

Education

Comparable public institutions defined for the purpose of tuition financial aid determination.

HF1930—Kinkel (DFL)

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

Bingo class E license established for certain small organizations, with license fees and restrictions provided; and bingo record keeping to avoid duplication and performed on a single form for certain organizations.

HF1931—Murphy (DFL)

Energy

Wind energy conversion systems and materials exempted from sales tax.

HF1932—Ostrom (DFL)**Local Government & Metro. Affairs**

Metropolitan airports commission and aircraft maintenance and engine repair facility bond proceeds not used for investment.

HF1933—Anderson, R. (IR)**Transportation**

Trunk highway route No. 297 in Fergus Falls redefined.

HF1934—Clark (DFL)**Housing**

Lead paint abatement, assessment, education, and screening modified; lead abatement training program and account established; paint tax imposed; fees and penalties provided.

HF1935—Hanson (DFL)**Judiciary**

Judicial district created in Isanti, Kanabec, Pine, Chisago, and Washington counties, 14 judgeships transferred, and permanent chambers maintained in Stillwater.

HF1936—Waltman (IR)**Environment & Natural Resources**

State nonforested marginal land and wetlands exchange for private land allowed.

HF1937—Hartle (IR)**Transportation**

Classic car registration eligibility expanded.

HF1938—Pugh (DFL)**Judiciary**

Mortgage satisfaction or release allowed by fewer than all mortgagees; foreclosure and other involuntary transfers regulated; and contract for deed termination clarified.

HF1939—Dempsey (IR)**Education**

Fund balance reduction modified, and retroactive effective date provided.

HF1940—Greenfield (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Supplemental aid payment rate cap exemption extended for certain medical assistance certified boarding care facilities and nursing homes.

HF1941—Jefferson (DFL)**Judiciary**

Relatives given preference in adoptions.

HF1942—Anderson, R. (IR)**Local Government & Metro. Affairs**

Fire fighting service charge imposed by local governments.

HF1943—O'Connor (DFL)**Regulated Industries**

Telephone company nonpublic data disclo-

sure restricted, and telephone rates and charges regulated.

HF1944—Seaberg (IR)**Judiciary**

Speed measuring device obsolete language corrected.

HF1945—Seaberg (IR)**Judiciary**

Probation or pretrial release conditions limited for persons accused or convicted of certain crimes, and home detention and electronic monitoring use restricted.

HF1946—Kinkel (DFL)**Education**

Learning readiness programs use of school bus transportation authorized.

HF1947—Kinkel (DFL)**Local Government & Metro. Affairs**

Hubbard county authorized sale of certain land exchanged for tax forfeited land.

HF1948—Carruthers (DFL)**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Charity or fraternal benefit society allowed as life insurance beneficiary or policy holder.

HF1949—McEachern (DFL)**Taxes**

Otsego exempted from levy limits.

HF1950—McEachern (DFL)**Taxes**

Otsego not imposed a penalty for an excess levy.

HF1951—Begich (DFL)**Labor—Management Relations**

Workers' compensation insurance regulations modified, insurers rating association created, truck driver classification evaluated, hearing procedures provided, rule adoption permitted, and money appropriated.

HF1952—Rukavina (DFL)**Labor—Management Relations**

Workers' compensation benefits and insurance regulated, permanent commission established, health and safety fund created, penalties provided, and money appropriated.

HF1953—Valento (IR)**Judiciary**

Mechanics' lien reattachment provided if certain transfers are avoided under federal bankruptcy code.

HF1954—O'Connor (DFL)**Housing**

Landlords not to charge prospective tenants for a tenant report, and to provide a copy of the report if rental is denied or security deposit increased.

HF1955—Segal (DFL)**Transportation**

Handicapped parking eligibility extended to all persons having lost a leg or arm.

HF1956—Anderson, R. (IR)**Taxes**

Local government trust fund payments provided for fiscal years 1994 and 1995.

HF1957—Battaglia (DFL)**Local Government & Metro. Affairs**

Cook county hospital district board member terms modified.

HF1958—Vellenga (DFL)**Education**

Youth employment and education pilot program established; family—based services special incentive bonus payments and family—based crisis service grants provided; and money appropriated.

HF1959—Rest (DFL)**Judiciary**

Life imprisonment and mandatory sentences provided for certain violent and repeat sex offenders; good time reductions and conditional releases modified; psychopathic personality determinations expanded; and treatment programs modified.

HF1960—Reding (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Postretirement adjustment formula modified for certain public pension plans.

HF1961—Skoglund (DFL)**Judiciary**

Debtors to provide financial disclosure information to creditors if judgment remains unsatisfied.

HF1962—Anderson, R. (IR)**Gen'l Leg., Vet's Affairs & Gaming**

Lawful purpose expenditures to include repair and maintenance of property for certain organizations conducting only bingo.

HF1963—Segal (DFL)**Education**

Referendum authority conversion authorized from market value to an amount per actual pupil unit.

HF1964—Segal (DFL)**Education**

Early childhood family education (ECFE) programs to include home visits to prevent child abuse and neglect; ECFE grants authorized for programs serving at-risk families and communities of color; and money appropriated.

HF1965—Skoglund (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Ecologically harmful exotic species management provided; zebra mussel and other identified water-transmitted harmful exotic species transportation restricted; rulemaking and penalties provided; and money appropriated.

HF1966—Welle (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Public pension plans; minimum size increased for plans required to prepare investment performance reports.

Thursday, Feb. 20

HF1967—Carruthers (DFL)

Taxes

Arts nonprofit organizations provided support through increased taxation; sales, use, and income tax rates changed; and state arts account created.

HF1968—Blatz (IR)

Judiciary

Sex offender probation conditions to include treatment; stay of imposition or execution of sentence not allowed and contact restricted when offender is complainant's parent or sibling.

HF1969—Blatz (IR)

Education

Liquor sales not prohibited due to location of school within retail and entertainment complex.

HF1970—Trimble (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Pesticide application prior notice required.

HF1971—Johnson, V. (IR)

Local Government & Metro. Affairs

Tax levy by county boards for certain purposes allowed.

HF1972—Winter (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Packing materials made of renewable materials purchased by state required.

HF1973—Winter (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Petroleum-based sweeping compound sale prohibited; penalty provided.

HF1974—Olson, K. (DFL)

Education

General education revenue to include equity guarantee revenue; formula and terms defined; money appropriated.

HF1975—Vellenga (DFL)

Judiciary

Community-based sex offender treatment

fund established and program certification provided.

HF1976—Bishop (IR)

Local Government & Metro. Affairs

Olmsted county courthouse and adjacent parking lot conveyance authorized.

HF1977—Trimble (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Water deficiency declaration criteria provided; groundwater use prohibited for lake level maintenance; water appropriation permit review and requirements provided; water shortage contingency planning required; and money appropriated.

HF1978—Cooper (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Ionizing radiation quality assurance program established.

HF1979—Jefferson (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Prior service credit purchase allowed for certain construction equipment operators in a city of the first class.

HF1980—Pugh (DFL)

Financial Institutions & Insurance

Automobile insurance state plan structure and functions regulated.

HF1981—Garcia (DFL)

Local Government & Metro. Affairs

Minneapolis—St. Paul international airport construction or extension of certain facilities prohibited.

HF1982—Greenfield (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Children's health care mediator established; reporting provided for parents relying on religious or philosophical healing practices; investigation and intervention provided.

HF1983—Jennings (DFL)

Local Government & Metro. Affairs

Land use controls administration provided; authority of local government units defined; recording procedures and penalties provided.

HF1984—Johnson, A. (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Children's health plan eligibility expanded to include pregnant women; money appropriated.

HF1985—Wagenius (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Liability protection provided for persons who undertake and complete cleanup actions under an approved plan; money appropriated.

HF1986—Garcia (DFL)

Education

Independent school district No. 280, Richfield, authorized to change certain parts of its health and safety plan.

HF1987—Dempsey (IR)

Ways & Means

Department of Finance; financial management reform provided; working papers defined.

HF1988—Tunheim (DFL)

Regulated Industries

Lake township in Roseau county authorized to own and operate an exclusive liquor store.

HF1989—Brown (DFL)

Local Government & Metro. Affairs

Traverse county excused from certain fee obligation assessed by attorney general.

HF1990—Vanasek (DFL)

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

Political contribution refund.

HF1991—Begich (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Changing environmental provisions relating to tires and money appropriated.

HF1992—Tompkins (IR)

Health & Human Services

Child care centers to offer a choice of cloth or disposable diapers.

HF1993—Tompkins (IR)

Health & Human Services

Rules relating to health established.

HF1994—Cooper (DFL)

Agriculture

Maximum annual ethanol producer payments established.

HF1995—Solberg (DFL)

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

Voter certification and balloting provisions changed.

HF1996—Reding (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Transfer of funds from the teachers retirement association to IRA plans.

HF1997—Reding (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Higher education IRA plan amended.

HF1998—Reding (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Transfer of funds from the teachers retirement association to IRA plans.

HF1999—Greenfield (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Nursing home projects financed and money appropriated.

HF2000—Macklin (IR)**Judiciary**

Trust mergers and certificates, trustee affidavits, and powers of attorney modified for probate proceedings.

HF2001—Jefferson (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Metropolitan airports commission required to apply for fire and police state aid; Minneapolis employee retirement fund licensed peace officer or firefighter retirees provided benefit eligibility for airports commission employment.

HF2002—Orenstein (DFL)**Education**

Volunteer services office to prepare federal grant proposal for implementing the national and community service act of 1990.

HF2003—Dawkins (DFL)**Taxes**

Qualified residence interest income tax deduction limited, and additional revenue transferred to the housing assistance account.

HF2004—Dawkins (DFL)**Housing**

Neighborhood land trust program bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2005—Dawkins (DFL)**Housing**

Housing development fund and housing trust fund account appropriated money for federal HOME program matching funds.

HF2006—Swenson (IR)**Health & Human Services**

Montessori prekindergarten accredited programs exempted from human services licensing.

HF2007—Rest (DFL)**Education**

Freedom of expression provided to public school student publications.

HF2008—Cooper (DFL)**Education**

Health care summer intern program grants authorized, criteria provided, and money appropriated.

HF2009—Ostrom (DFL)**Appropriations**

St. Peter, independent school district No. 508, Hoffman Center construction bond issuance authorized for meeting the educational needs of court—placed adolescent sex offenders.

HF2010—Winter (DFL)**Appropriations**

Worthington community college authorized to use prior appropriation to construct a learning resource center.

HF2011—Runbeck (IR)**Taxes**

Property tax late payment penalties modified for nonhomestead property.

HF2012—Weaver (IR)**Rules & Legislative Administration**

Legislature to meet in regular session in odd-numbered years, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF2013—Sparby (DFL)**Education**

Technical colleges board authorized to contract for student housing management services.

HF2014—Reding (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Actuarial assumption option for interest and salary increases provided to local police and salaried firefighter relief associations.

HF2015—Jaros (DFL)**Education**

International volunteer corps eligible donations expanded.

HF2016—Olsen, S. (IR)**Judiciary**

Sex offender registration requirements expanded to include crimes committed against adults and offenders from other states.

HF2017—Brown (DFL)**Education**

Business, trade, and correspondence school licensing authority transferred to the higher education coordinating board, and money appropriated.

HF2018—Farrell (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

St. Paul fire department relief association disability benefit formula modified, pre—1973 retirees provided increased pension benefits, longevity benefit option authorized, and postretirement benefit reductions limited.

HF2019—Reding (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Hospital and medical insurance benefits authorized for local police and salaried firefighters' relief associations, and actuarial valuations and municipal funding requirements adjusted.

HF2020—Johnson, R. (DFL)**Education**

Transportation aid authorized for late transportation of pupils involved in after school activities and for summer program transportation, and money appropriated.

HF2021—McEachern (DFL)**Education**

Community education licensed instructors considered teachers for employment and tenure protection.

HF2022—Jaros (DFL)**Education**

Technical and occupational education foundation act adopted, and money appropriated.

HF2023—Lasley (DFL)**Transportation**

Building mover vehicles provided inspection standards.

HF2024—Cooper (DFL)**Labor—Management Relations**

Ambulance services allowed to divide payroll by rating classifications for determining workers' compensation insurance rates.

HF2025—Reding (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Interest rates increased for repayments and refunds for public pension plans.

HF2026—Reding (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Investment board authorized certain additional investments.

HF2027—Bishop (IR)**Transportation**

Motorcycle helmet use required by persons under 21 years of age.

HF2028—Jefferson (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Minneapolis employees retirement fund surviving spouse benefits to continue after remarriage, disability benefit and retirement allowance applications required, and death benefit payment eligibility modified.

HF2029—Dempsey (IR)**Transportation**

Traffic safety; Congress not to impose upon the states' constitutional authority to regulate traffic and motor vehicle safety or to mandate state laws requiring use of motorcycle helmets, safety belts, and child restraint systems.

HF2030—Rice (DFL)**Transportation**

Commercial motor carriers transporting passengers in intrastate commerce to comply with rules on maximum hours of service for drivers.

HF2031—Olson, E. (DFL)**Taxes**

Vacant platted property provided valuation and assessment.

Coming Up Next Week . . . Feb. 24-28, 1992

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, Feb. 24

8 a.m.

Education Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: Staff overview - higher education issues.

State Government Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: MN Film Board and Department of Revenue.

Subcommittee on Curriculum/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

Agenda: MN Department of Education, delivery of results of Minnesota student survey.

HF370 (Segal) Comprehensive school and community health and wellness program established and money appropriated.

HF607 (Wejcman) Junior and senior high schools to establish school-based health clinics, grants authorized.

8:30 a.m.

Environment & Natural Resources Division/APPROPRIATIONS

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

Agenda: Office of Waste Management, internalizing waste management costs report. Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources, update on six year strategic plan.

10 a.m.

The House will meet in Session.

12 noon

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Joe Begich

Agenda: HF1889 (Rukavina) Employee personnel record provided to employee upon request.

HF756 (Rukavina) Unfair labor practice to include failing to allow labor unions access to employees. .

CANCELLED

Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ken Nelson

Agenda: Department of Education responses to budget reductions; Department of Education reorganization. HF2017 (Brown) Transfer private post-secondary institution licensure from Department of Education to Higher Education Coordinating Board.

12:30 p.m.

HOUSING

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

Agenda: HF1934 (Clark) Lead paint abatement, assessment, education, and screening modified, lead abatement training program and account established, paint tax imposed, fees and penalties provided.

HF1954 (O'Connor) HF1954 Landlords not to charge prospective tenants for a tenant report, and to provide a copy of the report if rental is denied or security deposit increased.

HF2004 (Dawkins) Neighborhood land trust program bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2005 (Dawkins) Housing development fund and housing trust fund account appropriated money for federal HOME program matching funds.

Subcommittee on Family Law/ JUDICIARY

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

Agenda: HF1702 (Rest) Birth information released to adopted persons.

HF1738 (Vellenga) Child custody or visitation rights for a person other than a parent modified.

HF1921 (Peterson) Grandparent visitation action allowed after completion of marriage dissolution or other family court proceedings.

NO MEETING

EDUCATION

Chr. Rep. Bob McEachern

NO MEETING

Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

TIME CHANGE

3 p.m.

Criminal Justice Division/JUDICIARY

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

Agenda: HF1720 (Vellenga) Victim-offender mediation programs authorized and money appropriated.

HF1803 (Bishop) Pistol permits not issued to persons convicted of fifth degree assault that is also domestic abuse; crime of violence definition.

HF1829 (Solberg) Sentencing guidelines commission appointments to have gender balance.

HF1849 (Vellenga) Life imprisonment and mandatory sentences provided for certain violent and repeat sex offenders; good time reductions and conditional release modified; psychopathic personality determinations expanded; and treatment programs modified.

TUESDAY, Feb. 25

8 a.m.

Human Resources Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Minnesota veterans home, Minneapolis, and Hastings building study.

Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

Agenda: Funding - testimony by State Highway Patrol.

TAXES

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Paul Anders Ogren

Agenda: HFXXX (Olson) Vacant platted property assessments.

JOINT MEETING/Education Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

Finance Division/EDUCATION

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson
Chr. Rep. Ken Nelson

Agenda: Post-secondary enrollment options.

State Government Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: Reports.

8:30 a.m.

Environment & Natural Resources Division/APPROPRIATIONS

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. David Battaglia

Agenda: Pollution Control Agency, analysis and recommendations for regionalization of MPCA report. Alternatives to Superfund for landfill cleanup report.

10 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: HF779 (Munger) Packaging and toxic materials in packaging and products regulated, packaging advisory council established, and money appropriated.

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

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Roger Cooper

Agenda: HF443 (Murphy) Chemical dependency counselors board created, licensing provided.

Subcommittee on Standards & Regulations/HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Howard Orenstein

Agenda: HF295 (Cooper) Counselors licensed and professional counseling licensing board created, and money appropriated.

HF364 (Pelowski) Health and human services departments rule adoption notices to include certain information.

Subcommittee on Social & Family Services/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson

Agenda: HF653 (Lourey) Child care income eligibility provided for families of children with disabilities.

12:30 p.m.

Legislative Commission on Children, Youth, and their Families

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Sen. Judy Traub

Agenda: Discussion and adoption of the commission's vision and policy statements, the commission's progress report to the legislature, as mandated by laws 1991, chapter 265, article 8, subdivision 6. Discussion of bill to amend commission enabling legislation to reflect new vision and policy statements, and of any other legislation brought by members.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Gloria Segal

Agenda: To be announced.

Subcommittee on Fiscal Affairs/ LOCAL & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phil Carruthers

Agenda: Discussion of the role of the Metropolitan Council.

1 p.m.

GENERAL LEGISLATION

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Harry Baltzar, director, Gambling Control Board.

2:30 p.m.

Subcommittee on Civil Law/ JUDICIARY

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Pugh

Agenda: HF396 (Simoneau) Negligence provided joint and several liability apportionment modifications. HF1910 (Rest) Limited liability company act adopted, and money appropriated.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 26

8 a.m.

Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulations Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

Agenda: Minnesota Council for Quality, Office of Drug Policy.

Human Resources Division/ APPROPRIATIONS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Quality of life in nursing homes: The incidence of urinary incontinence in nursing homes and the effect its management has on costs and quality of life.

**Education Division/
APPROPRIATIONS**

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson
Agenda: Financial aid. Community college student issues.

**State Government Division/
APPROPRIATIONS**

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn
Agenda: Reports

EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bob McEachern
Agenda: To be announced.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Leo Reding
Agenda: HFXXXX State Board of Investment (administrative bill). Other bills to be announced.

10 a.m.

**Higher Education Division/
EDUCATION**

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros
Agenda: MN Community College Student Association student day. Brief presentation of legislative goals. HF1597 (Jaros) Student financial aid and post-secondary funding modified - testimony from the U of M, the state university system, the community college system, and the technical college system. Testimony from student groups.

Criminal Justice Division/JUDICIARY

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg
Agenda: HF1842 (Morrison) Child witnesses provided expanded special arrangements for providing testimony. HF1856 (Hanson) Driving while intoxicated (DWI) repeat offender intensive probation program start-up grants for counties appropriated money. HF1880 (Ostrom) Patients absent from treatment facilities or confined under the psychopathic personality law or a court-ordered hold reported to local law enforcement agencies. HF1886 (Cooper) Charter bus carriers exempted from open bottle law.

12:30 p.m.

ENERGY

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy
Agenda: Update on conservation improvement programs and cold weather rule from cooperatives and municipal. Residential energy code.

**Subcommittee on Data Privacy/
JUDICIARY**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phil Carruthers
Agenda: HF1816 (Carruthers) Credit reporting agency reports provided to consumers upon request without a charge. Discussion of omnibus data practices bill.

TRANSPORTATION

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis
Agenda: HF1736 (Lieder) Bridges; state transportation bonds issued for bridge construction and reconstruction by political subdivisions. HF1701 (Steensma) Rail service improvement account expenditures authorized for maintenance and rights-of-way acquisitions, eminent domain use authorized, and requirement repealed to offer rail bank property to adjacent land owners. HF1833 (Wejcman) Handicapped parking enforcement by volunteers authorized in cities of the first class. HFXXXX (Lasley) Household movers vehicle inspection. HFXXXX (Kalis) Changes to lane-mile distribution of county highway funds.

2:30 p.m.

**Education Finance Division/
EDUCATION**

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ken Nelson
Agenda: To be announced.

**Subcommittee on Rural Development,
Marketing & International Trade/
AGRICULTURE**

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ted Winter
Agenda: HF769 (Krueger) Central filing system established for purchasers of farm products, and money appropriated.

THURSDAY, Feb. 27

8 a.m.

**Education Division/
APPROPRIATIONS**

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson
Agenda: Continuation of financial aid discussion.

**State Government Division/
APPROPRIATIONS**

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn
Agenda: Reports.

**Human Resources Division/
APPROPRIATIONS**

200S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield
Agenda: Review of Commission on Reform and Efficiency recommendations. Organization of Jobs and Training Department. Dislocated worker program summary.

**Economic Development, Infrastructure
& Regulations Division/
APPROPRIATIONS**

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Rice
Agenda: Capitol budget for the Historical Society. Public service: general fund spending, proposed office move, and conservation program implementation.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Leo Reding
Agenda: To be announced.

8:30 a.m.

**Assessment Practices & Policies Task
Force/TAXES**

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Andy Dawkins
Agenda: Continuation of February 10 Assessment Task Force meeting.

10 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES**

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger
Agenda: HFXXXX (Wagenius) Alternatives to Superfund for landfill cleanup.

HF827 (Jaros) Wild rice industry regulated, wild rice marketing program established, and money appropriated. Resolution: nuclear waste storage in Minnesota.

COMMERCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Sarna
Agenda: HF1573 (Rest) Certified public accountant (CPA) education and licensure requirements modified.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Peter Rodosovich
Agenda: To be announced.

10:30 a.m.

Legislative Audit Commission

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ann Rest
Agenda: Release of the evaluation report on the public defender system.

12:30 p.m.

International Trade & Technology Division/

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Rick Krueger
Agenda: Reports by state technology programs: Minnesota Technology, Inc.; Minnesota Project Innovation; Minnesota Project Outreach Corporation.

GENERAL LEGISLATION

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
Agenda: Ethical Practices Board legislative program.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson
Agenda: HF1778 (Orfield) Metropolitan council and public facilities authority not to issue bonds, incur other debt, or provide loans for sewer facility interceptors that would increase sewer system capacity outside the council-defined fully developed area.

Subcommittee on Safety/TRANSPORTATION

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jeff Hanson
Agenda: Update on Mn/DOT and Department of Public Safety's progress on implementing legislative auditor's report on truck safety enforcement.
HF787 (Jennings) Motor carrier inspections transferred to the public safety commissioner.

2:30 p.m.

The House will meet in Session.

AFTER SESSION

HOUSING

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark
Agenda: Continuation, if necessary: HF2004 (Dawkins) Neighborhood land trust program bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.
HF2005 (Dawkins) Housing development fund and housing trust fund account appropriated money for federal HOME program matching funds.

FRIDAY, February 28

8 a.m.

State Government Division/APPROPRIATIONS

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn
Agenda: Reports.

Subcommittee on Dairy & Livestock/AGRICULTURE

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jerry Bauerly
Agenda: To be announced.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

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

12:30 p.m.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Kathleen Vellenga
Agenda: HF442 (Carruthers) Child neglect and child abuse reporting expanded to include neglect due to reliance on spiritual health care.

After full Judiciary Committee meeting

Subcommittee on Family Law/JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius
Agenda: Child support.

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With the 1992 Legislative Session soon to be in full swing, you may wonder just how the legislative process works at the state Capitol in St. Paul.

Many people do — even those who work there full time. Although it's somewhat impossible for someone to really describe the ins and outs of the system, the House Public Information Office has made an attempt.

Last spring, the office released *People and the Process: A Legislative Study Guide*, a book designed for use in social studies classes in grades 7 through 12, but also useful for anyone who wants to know more about state government.

The book takes readers through each step of the law process from a bill's original idea to the governor's approval or veto. Along with the background material, each section defines new terms, suggests classroom activities ranging from

simple to complex, and provides annotated references to six appendices offering an abundance of resource material suitable for duplication.

The 142-page guide comes in loose-leaf form and punched to fit in a standard three-ring binder. It sells for \$11.25 plus tax at Minnesota's Bookstore in St. Paul. A three-ring binder is also available at \$5.95.

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Jan. 7, 1992

Speaker of the House: Dee Long
Majority Leader: Alan Welle
Minority Leader: Terry Dempsey

MINNESOTA INDEX

African-Americans in Minnesota, America

Number of African-Americans in Minnesota, 1980	53,344
Number of African-Americans in Minnesota, 1990	94,944
Percent of state population that is African-American, 1990	2.2
National state average, as percent of total population	12.2
Percent of African-Americans in institutions of higher education as a total of all students, Minnesota, 1986	1.3
Number of Minnesota's nine 4-year public institutions whose African-American population is less than 1 percent of total student body, 1991	6
Percent of all African-Americans over 25 who have completed four or more years of college	8.4
Percent of African-American families living below the poverty line, 1987	29.9
All races	10.8
Percent of surveyed African-American eighth graders who say they "look forward to" English class	72.8
White eighth graders	52.2
Percent of surveyed African-American teens responding teen pregnancy is "the biggest problem facing people our age."	25
Whites	9
Total number of death row inmates, July 1989	2,210
Number who are African-American	877
Percent of juveniles held in public detention facilities who are African-American	34
Percent of all African-American households owning housing units in 1980	48.6
in 1988	42.4

Sources: *Black Americans: A Statistical Sourcebook*, 1990; *Statistical Record of Black America*: 1990;
Population Notes, Sept. 1991;

For more information . . .

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