Flashback

Minnesota has long been a model for the quality of its chemical dependency treatment programs and the various spin-offs that have been created — from Overeaters Anonymous to Spenders Anonymous. You could argue that one more addiction should be added to the growing list: Politics Anonymous.

While labeling such an obsession an “addiction” is certainly a stretch, there are people at the Capitol who do place the annual pilgrimage to St. Paul on a par with more accepted forms of addictive behavior.

Simply put, the reality that can sometimes be created here is unlike anywhere else. There is that little sugar rush of excitement during any floor session, no matter what is being debated. There can be those long, focused hours devoted to a single task to the exclusion of everything else. Add to that the din created by the pacing lobbyists waiting outside the chamber doors in the Capitol Rotunda, and you can get the feeling that the spirit of Abraham Lincoln himself has resurfaced to cut loose with Gettysburg Address II.

Of course, that’s absurd. But that’s the point. Veteran members are all too quick to point out that the secret to success at the Capitol is to not get sucked in too far. They offer varying versions of former U.S. Sen. Eugene McCarthy’s famous line to help keep things in perspective.

“Being in politics is like being a football coach,” McCarthy once said. “You have to be smart enough to understand the game and dumb enough to think it’s important.” McCarthy, known for his wit and scholarly writings, probably doesn’t believe that. But his point is clear.

Although it’s too early in this year’s legislative season for people to become consumed by the process, the inauguration of President Bill Clinton this week did offer a glimpse of the degree to which some people are obsessed with government and politics. As the countdown to the Wednesday swearing-in approached, several people frantically called the House Public Information Office in search of television sets (we don’t have any).

The inauguration was no doubt an historic event — one watched by millions of Americans. But it was the tone of voice from the callers that was unmistakable, and seemed a harbinger of things to come as the session escalates.

They needed a TV and they needed it now. That moment, and nothing else, was the most important thing in the world.

—Grant Moos

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On the cover: Members of the Prairie Island Environmental Protection Committee set up a tepee Jan. 19 outside the Capitol to protest and draw attention to Northern States Power Company’s proposed high level nuclear storage facility by tribal land near Red Wing.

—photo by Tom Olmscheid
Bonding

Building reform

Elected officials will have a better view of "the big picture" when it comes to capital bonding projects, the Department of Finance told the Capital Investment Committee Jan. 19.

The state has begun a major reform of its capital budget process, now requiring departments to come up with six-year capital budget plans and to link all requests to the "goals and mission" of their agencies. Additionally, the Department of Administration will provide a technical analysis of state buildings.

The result will be "more systematic and uniform information available to elected officials when they're making decisions on capital projects," said Dale Nelson, environment and economic development team leader for the state Department of Finance.

The Finance and Administration departments are directing the change, which was requested by the governor and the 1990 and 1991 Legislatures.

Capital Investment is a new committee for the House this session. Previously, capital expenditures were approved by divisions of the former Appropriations Committee, and subsequently referred to the Appropriations Committee before reaching the House floor.

Nelson told legislators that Gov. Arne Carlson's proposal for capital improvements will focus on "a few projects" this session, with the major bonding bill to be considered by the 1994 Legislature.

The proposed "strategic capital budget" plan will be ready by Oct. 1 of this year, said Nelson. It will represent a six-year capital plan for 1994 through 1999.

Crime

Addressing juvenile justice

Juvenile justice issues will likely be a large part of the Judiciary Committee's agenda this session, said committee Chair Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls).

During a Jan. 20 meeting, the committee reviewed a schedule of forthcoming reports requested by the Legislature, several of which concentrate on crimes committed by or against Minnesota's children.

Rep. Kathleen Blatz (IR-Bloomington) expressed an interest in a report that will study the removal of judges in certain cases involving alleged child abuse or neglect. It will also examine the possibility of training judges for such cases.

Blatz told members of a case where a judge allegedly "pulled out a bullwhip" during proceedings in a child abuse hearing, and another instance where allegedly biased counsel was used by a judge in reviewing child abuse cases.

Committee members also toured the Minnesota Judicial Center, where they met with Sandra Gardebring, associate justice of the state Supreme Court. Gardebring also serves on the task force on juvenile justice which is due to issue a report in December 1993.

Skoglund said the task force will be involved in juvenile issues during the 1993 session, and noted that he and Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls), chair of the Senate Crime Prevention Committee, have discussed expanding the task force in order to diversify its membership.

In addition, Skoglund announced the formation of three Judiciary subcommittees for this session.

Rep. Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) will chair the subcommittee on Criminal Justice and Family Law, while Rep. Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) will chair the subcommittee on Civil Law. A chair has not yet been designated for the subcommittee on Data Privacy.

From BCA to MHS

The Minnesota History Center doesn't have a blood spatter exhibit. But members of a House committee got to see information about that discipline — in addition to the "Minnesota A to Z" exhibit — during a week filled with tours.

The Economic Development, Infrastructure and Regulation Finance Committee took two field trips this week to view

Members, staff, and lobbyists watched Jan. 20 as William Jefferson Clinton was sworn in as the 42nd president of the United States.
operations it will soon be called upon to fund.

Eight committee members toured the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) Jan. 19. The 191-member BCA staff provides forensic, research, and investigative services to local law enforcement officials. The agency operates the state's centralized criminal history database, maintains an automatic fingerprint identification system with search capabilities, and remains on-call 24 hours a day to assist local police at the site of serious "crimes against people."

The BCA also manages one of the country's few "DNA fingerprinting" laboratories, maintains an identifying DNA profile for each of the state's convicted sex offenders, and has experts on staff that can analyze blood spatters from a crime scene to glean evidence that could be used in a court trial.

Legislators were told that growing federal funds have not solved the bureau's need for funds.

"Crime is on the increase and that has definitely stretched our resources," said Acting BCA Superintendent Michael Campbell. The BCA's annual budget is about $15 million, $600,000 of which comes from the federal government.

Committee members also visited the new, $32 million Minnesota History Center Jan. 21. The Center, completed last year, is now the home of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Aside from preparing public exhibits and providing educational programs, the history center houses the state's official archives and most of its collection of artifacts. Prior to the center's construction, the Historical Society's collection was held at scattered locations without proper climate control.

The History Center's current major exhibit is entitled "Minnesota A to Z" and depicts aspects of the state's diverse cultural past.

**State prison tours**

House Judiciary Committee members and legislative staff got a firsthand look at prison life by touring two of the state's correctional facilities Jan. 15.

The two facilities — at Stillwater and Oak Park Heights — serve different purposes and operate on different philosophies.

Inmates are segregated into eight blocks of 52 prisoners, and then divided again into "defensible living units" of about five cells each. Inmates are not allowed to move between units, but may visit with others in their block in common areas.

The 14-year-old circular structure was prompted, in part, by legislators' concern with the growing proportion of violent criminals entering the state's prison system. More than 90 percent of Oak Park's inmates were convicted of "personal crimes" such as rape or murder. At Stillwater, about 60 percent fit that category, while 40 percent are property offenders.

The state pays a large price for Oak Park's level of surveillance and control: it costs about twice as much money per day to hold a prisoner at Oak Park Heights as it does at Stillwater.

The tab for the state's correctional system continues to rise. Commissioner Orville Pung said that unlike most departments and agencies, the Department of Corrections was not asked by Gov. Arne Carlson for a 5 percent reduction in its budget for the coming fiscal year. "For us, it's a question of how large the increase is," said Pung.

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**Education**

**Teaming for education**

When Commissioner Gene Mammenga says the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) has been reorganized, he means it.

"One of out of five staff that were here two years ago are gone now," Mammenga told the Education Committee's K-12 Finance Division Jan. 20. He outlined his department's restructuring efforts following a 21 percent cut in funding for 1991 and 1992. With some 60 to 70 staff cuts, and shrinking state funding on the horizon, the department decided to change the way it was serving students and schools.

"We chose to wipe the paper clean and start all over again," said Mary Lillesve, an MDE team leader. MDE staff members were involved in transforming the department from distinct "sections" into a "team" and regionally-oriented organization. There are now 22 such teams in the MDE, including seven regional "service teams" which
will work closely with communities and
schools throughout the state. Other teams
will provide education resources and sup-
port services to region staff.
Mammenga said the changes reflect a
departmental shift in focus "from regula-
tion to service."
MDE traditionally has been the state's
monitoring agency, as well as the promoter of
"best practice" educational methods. While the department has been viewed as
having good staff and programs, inter-
views with educators, parents and legisla-
tors revealed that its services were per-
cieved to be fragmented, Lillesve said.
Change hasn't been easy, Mammenga
told the committee. The department is
establishing career tracks for staff no longer
in manager positions, and not all staff are
yet convinced the reorganization will work.
Federal mandates for federally-funded staff
also hamper department flexibility, he said.
Mammenga added that Gov. Arne
Carlson's recent proposal to coordinate
children's programs in a new single depart-
ment will not dismantle MDE's efforts.
"We're certainly not [going] to throw
overboard what we've done," Mammenga
told the committee. "Some [children's
program's] aren't going to fit as naturally,
but he said, that makes "teaming" all the
more necessary.

Courting education reform

The final outcome of a lawsuit against
the state could have a significant impact on
the Legislature's ability to make decisions
regarding school financing, legislative ana-
lyst Lisa Larson told members of the Edu-
cation Committee Jan. 21.
Three elements of the state's K-12 school
finance system were found unconstitu-
tional by a Wright County District Court
judge in December 1991. The state ap-
pealed that decision. On Feb. 4, oral argu-
ments will be presented before the Minne-
sota Supreme Court, which will rule some-
time this year.
Fifty-two outer-ring suburban and rural
school districts — representing 25 percent
of the state's K-12 enrollment — were plaintiffs in the lawsuit, known as Skeen v.
State of Minnesota.
The school districts argue that
Minnesota's school finance formula results
in unequal educational opportunity. The
state is arguing that the issues raised in the
lawsuit present political questions that the
Minnesota Legislature ought to decide.
If the court rules on the matter before the
end of this session, the Legislature may
have to respond to any court directives
during the current two-year budget cycle,
Larson said.

Environment

Walleye priorities

The moral of the story is that the state
intends to be a lot more careful about
where it puts its walleye.
The old ways of "dumping millions of
walleye into lakes without careful plan-
ing" don't work, said Jack Skrypek, the
head of the state Department of Natural
Resources (DNR) fisheries division.
The DNR currently stocks some 600
Minnesota lakes with about 3.5 million
walleye fingerlings and 375 million fry
annually. Anglers catch only about 5 per-
cent of these fish because many of the
stocked fish die.
Skrypek told lawmakers that current
walleye stocking practices work about one-
third of the time, fail about one-third of the
time, and have mixed results the rest of the
time.
Fish stocking isn't a substitute for good
regulations and habitat protection, Skrypek
said. Despite pressure from constituents to
stock certain lakes, he said the DNR wants
to limit stocking in lakes with features that
make them more successful in supporting
walleye.
Those features include large lakes with
shallow waters and plenty of perch — or
walleye "fish food," said Dennis Schupp,
DNR senior fisheries biologist. He cited the
DNR's stocking of Lake Osakis as one
successful example.
But many lakes with strong walleye popu-
lations do fine without DNR help, Schupp
said.
"Eighty percent of the state's walleye
population is in lakes we don't stock," he
said, adding that it's critical to protect
habitat, which will be cheaper and more
productive than stocking in the long run.
Skrypek emphasized that walleye stock-
ing continues to be an important fishing
management activity, but that the DNR
wants to use stocking "more scientifically
and efficiently."
The fisheries division will continue to
work with lake associations and sports
groups which propose stocking programs
for lakes, Skrypek said. Any proposals must
fit management plans for the lakes in ques-
tion, and DNR managers "want to work
with constituents" in developing those
plans.
The DNR held a "fish stocking" briefing
for legislators Jan. 19, which several mem-
bers of the House and Senate Environment
and Natural Resources committees at-
tended.

An often visible opponent of air pollutants, Rep. Willard Munger was shrouded in smoke from his 82
birthday candles Jan. 20. Rep. Munger is the Legislature's elder statesman and only octogenarian.
Breathing quality air

Our air is getting easier to breathe, but it will be 1995 before we reach federal air quality standards.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has completed specific plans with 20 state industries that are keeping Minnesota from compliance with federal air regulations, the agency told lawmakers Jan. 21.

The industries, which now have MPCA "orders" and deadlines to meet, include refineries, power utilities, asphalt plants, and grain handling operations.

With the deadlines now in place, the state will be in compliance with federal standards by 1995, Lisa Thorvig, MPCA air quality manager told the Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

Currently, the state is in violation of federal standards for emissions of sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, and particulate matter (a fine dust harmful to lungs) in the Twin Cities and Rochester.

Sulfur dioxide emissions result primarily from refineries and coal-fired boilers, while carbon monoxide stems from vehicle emissions. Particulate matter is associated with coal piles, asphalt plants, piles of gravel, and grain facilities.

While industry emissions are being worked on, air pollution has been reduced in other areas.

The state's vehicle testing program reduced carbon monoxide emissions by 27,000 tons during the 12 months preceding July 1992, Thorvig told legislators. Emissions also will fall because of a federal program requiring winter use of oxygen-enriched gasoline, such as ethanol-blended fuel. MPCA began that program last November.

Thorvig reported that Minnesota's air quality during the past year was "very good," although she said the improvement could reflect lower carbon monoxide that resulted from cooler summer weather.

Petrofund needs cleanup

Minnesota's petroleum tank cleanup program is overburdened, under funded, and driving many small business owners into bankruptcy, say some state officials and lawmakers.

"We're digging, excavating, and raising hell with these people and the money isn't there for them," said Rep. Marc Asch (DFL-North Oaks).

The petrofund, administered jointly by the state Department of Commerce and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), was created to help pay cleanup and repair costs caused by leaking underground gasoline and oil storage tanks.

Under the program, the state pays up to 90 percent of the costs to remove the tanks and surrounding contaminated soil, while property owners pay the remaining 10 percent. Funding for the program is generated by a 1-cent per gallon charge to petroleum distributors throughout the state.

But the state's payment of the cleanup cost functions on a reimbursement system, and payment delays of months — even years — are not uncommon, said several members of the Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee Jan. 20. Some business owners have had to shut their doors permanently waiting for their money to arrive.

"The station [owners] are having to dig up tanks and replace them regardless of whether the money comes or not," said Rep. Becky Lourey (DFL-Kerrick). "These people are really hurting."

The owners' problems are then aggravated by difficulties in securing temporary bank loans because the collateral property is "damaged," Lourey added.

One reason for the payment delays, said Commerce Commissioner Bert McKasy, is that the MPCA is approving reimbursements faster than his department can dole out the money. Last year the petrofund board approved $44 million in cleanup financing, far surpassing incoming revenue of $30 million.

"We definitely have a problem," said McKasy. "We're going to have to come with a way of raising more revenue or come up with some new rules on how the reimbursements are made."

A report by the Office of the Legislative Auditor on the administration of the petrofund and possible remedies is due within a few weeks, said McKasy, adding that the Department of Commerce likely will include many of those recommendations in its upcoming legislative requests.

Gaming

Final day at the races?

Chances for the continuation of horse racing in Minnesota — both live and simulcast — are slim, according to Richard Krueger, executive director of the Minnesota Racing Commission (MRC).

During testimony before the Governmental Operations and Gaming Committee Jan. 19, Krueger presented a litany of grim statistics outlining the industry's decline.
Between 1990 and 1992, attendance at Canterbury Downs declined by more than 50 percent, and the “handle” (total amount wagered) fell by more than 40 percent to $57 million in 1992. By comparison, the 1986 handle — a record high for the track — was $133.6 million.

Total licenses issued by the MRC for employees of pari-mutuel betting dropped 37 percent during the same period and by more than half over the past six years.

Off-season simulcast betting pulled in more money than live racing for the first time. However, with no guarantee that live racing will take place in the state during 1993, MRC’s negotiations with private contractors to deliver simulcast racing dissolved on Dec. 31, 1992, Krueger said.

Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul) wondered if the stalled negotiations were “putting another nail in the coffin of Canterbury Downs.” Simulcasting is the track’s only source of off-season revenue.

Osthoff said that the commission should pay attention to the well-being of the entire industry, not just “what’s good for prize money.”

Race horse owners are guaranteed purses as high as 8.4 percent of all money wagered on a live race, but only about one percent of the handle if the race is simulcast.

Krueger responded that “it is the strong feeling of the racing commission that simulcasting ought to augment and enhance live racing,” but not replace it.

**Housing**

**Help needed for housing**

A Jan. 20 tour of two Minneapolis agencies that aid the poor and homeless was intended to portray the human side of the issue, and to persuade members of the Housing Committee that more state funding is needed for transitional housing.

At Simpson Emergency Shelter in south Minneapolis, Director Joanne Champion told legislators that on the last day of each month, names are drawn out of a hat to determine who will be able to sleep at the shelter during the next month. Last month, 65 homeless people vied for 40 “beds,” which are actually mats lined up on the floor.

Champion was straightforward in describing the shelter’s clients, 99 percent of whom are men.

“The drug of choice in this shelter is alcohol,” she said. Because of their drinking and mental health problems, many of the shelter users “will never be self-sufficient but, we try to make them independent.” When possible, Simpson Shelter helps the men get into affordable permanent housing — but most then need continued mentoring to help them organize their lives.

Another program, Simpson Transitional Housing, provides rent-subsidized housing for single women and women with children. The apartments, which are scattered in parts of Minneapolis, Richfield, and Hopkins, help the women avoid the stigma of being in a shelter as they look for jobs and work on improving their lives.

Committee members also visited Sharing & Caring Hands, which relies on donations to feed and clothe the poor, and to rent motel and hotel rooms for those in need of emergency housing.

The guide for the housing tour was Steve Frenkel, the legislative advocate for the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless. The coalition is proposing an $880,000 increase in state funding over the biennium to pay for transitional housing. That amount would replace $528,000 in lost federal dollars and provide an additional $352,000 for new programs and program expansion.

A homeless person or family that is provided with transitional housing pays at least 25 percent of family income for rent, with the remainder of the cost subsidized by the state. The individual or family can remain in the housing for up to two years.

**Taxes**

**Taxing reform**

A fiscal watchdog group’s plan to drastically revamp Minnesota’s property tax and state aid systems was unveiled this week before members of the Taxes Committee.

The Minnesota Taxpayer Association’s 14-point plan would bring short-term pain, but long-term benefits, said Dan Salomone, the group’s chief lobbyist. “It puts the system on a more rational footing.”

The plan’s focal point is reducing the number of property classifications from 14 to three. With this simplification, the system would make better use of money used for property tax relief, provide greater local accountability, and, most importantly, eliminate the unfairness of the classification system, Salomone said.

“Tinkering has resulted in property taxes, while businesses and owners of rental property pay more. Reform efforts have faltered because of politics, Salomone said.
Middle- and high-income people in lower-valued homes, and upper-income people in expensive homes, would see the greatest property tax increases under the plan. Most other homeowners would either see no change or increases of less than $120 a year.

Several committee members were concerned with the plan's estimated impact on homeowners and the proposed shifting of dollars to aid schools and local governments.

Though the proposal hasn't been put into bill form, portions of it are likely to play a role in this session's tax discussions.

Fixing state aid

Groups representing urban, suburban, and rural cities are backing a bill that would completely redesign how state aid is channeled to those communities.

The bill (HF48) would eliminate three aid programs now in place — disparity reduction aid, local government aid, and equalization aid — and replace them with a single program using a simple formula reflecting their true need, Rep. Don Ostrom (DFL-St. Peter) told members of the Taxes Committee's Property Tax Subcommittee Jan. 21.

Ostrom is the chief author of the bill, which was developed by the League of Minnesota Cities and supported by the Association of Metro Municipalities, North Metro Mayors Association, and Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities. Leaders of those groups also testified in favor of the bill.

“T've been disturbed by the increases in property taxes for various reasons that we've had in recent years, to the point where we now, in the state of Minnesota, are collecting more revenue through the property tax than we are through the income tax,” Ostrom said.

Making up for disparities in wealth between cities as they try to fund services is still the basis for the proposal, Ostrom said. But the current formulas used to determine the amount of aid received are arbitrary, complex, and hard to defend, he added.

The new formula would use four factors: housing built before 1940 in each city, population, population decline, and percentage of commercial/industrial property. It is designed to keep city revenues stable while preventing property tax hikes caused by the state, Ostrom said.

The subcommittee did not take action on the proposal. No revenue amount was requested, but it would be based on the state's commitment to earmarking a 2 percent share of sales tax funds for property tax relief.

Tourism

More options for tourists

The state’s top tourism official said his agency doesn't yet know how the Mall of America or casino gambling is affecting Minnesota’s hospitality industry.

Responding to questions from legislators whose districts include popular vacation destinations, Hank Todd, director of the state Office of Tourism, said no statistical data yet exists to show if the megamall or casinos could be siphoning tourist dollars away from resorts and other tourism-related businesses.

He said anecdotal evidence is inconclusive as well, but noted, “There are just so many disposable dollars [to go] around.”

Todd testified Jan. 20 before the Tourism and Small Business division of the House Commerce Committee.

Several committee members had anecdotal evidence of their own, including Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby), who said resort and restaurant owners in her region have experienced a notable income drop since an American Indian-owned casino opened near Lake Mille Lacs last year.

“They're telling me that [vacationers] are spending all of their discretionary dollars down along Highway 169 before they get farther north,” Hasskamp said.

Todd said although casino gambling may have played some role in the loss of income for other nearby businesses, it's impossible to determine if it was a significant reason.

He later added that all forms of lawful gaming could be causing the perceived declines — not just the casinos. “It's a very complex issue,” Todd said.

The Mall of America, however, ultimately could bolster nearly all hospitality businesses in the state, Todd said.

In the five months since the Bloomington shopping complex opened, the state tourism office has received countless inquiries from travel agents seeking mall information. Many of the tour groups are planning extended trips, and are traveling elsewhere in the state once their shopping bags are full, Todd said.

“It's planting a seed for all of Minnesota. ... In the long run, it should be a benefit for the state as a whole,” he added.

Todd said a tourism study now being conducted by the University of Minnesota (to be released this spring) could provide a better view on the overall health and interplay between the various components of the state’s $4.9 billion per year tourism and hospitality industry.
**Transportation**

### Taxing for transit

An extension of the 6.5 percent general sales tax to gasoline would provide funds dedicated specifically for public transit if the Legislature adopts a proposal being pushed by the Regional Transit Board (RTB).

But the barrage of tough questions asked Jan. 19 by members of the Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee suggests the RTB will face more rough going this year. Late last session the committee narrowly defeated a proposal to abolish the agency, which was created by the Legislature in 1984 to do transit planning and to contract for transit services.

Committee Chair Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls) reminded RTB board members that a 1992 report by the Office of the Legislative Auditor was very critical of the RTB. The report recommended that the Legislature retain control of transit funding derived from any new source.

Other committee members raised doubts about RTB's direction. Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) wanted assurance that the RTB's focus will remain on mass public transit that can be used by everybody rather than individualized solutions such as car pools.

The RTB presented the committee with its "Vision '97." Its goals for improving public transit by 1997 include a 20 percent increase in regular route bus service, the addition of 28 express routes, and the construction of nine large park-and-ride lots.

Many of the improvements are intended to meet the needs of the suburban commuter. To accomplish these goals by 1997, the RTB needs to build up its annual state funding from a current $27 million to $62.7 million by 1997.

More than half of RTB funding comes from property taxes levied in the metro area. About one-third is from fares, and the remainder comes from federal and state funds. The RTB contracts with 46 providers that offer public transportation services in the metropolitan area, including the Metropolitan Transit Commission.

The current state gas tax is 20 cents per gallon — a level that has remained constant since 1988, when a 3-cent per gallon increase was approved.

The state constitution specifies that for each dollar raised by the gas tax, 62 cents goes to the state trunk highway fund, 29 cents to the county-state aid highway fund, and 9 cents to the municipal state aid fund.

### Driver's license revocation

A House resolution opposing revocation of drivers' licenses for drug-related crimes was approved Jan. 20 by a House Committee.

The bill (HF6) was introduced in response to a 1991 federal highway law that reduces funding to states that don't do one of two things: adopt a license revocation policy for drug-related crimes, or pass a formal resolution stating opposition to that policy.

The measure approved by the Transportation and Transit Committee meets that second requirement.

Unless action is taken by April 1, 1993, the state will lose about 5 percent of its federal funds, said Dick Borson of the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Rep. Tom Osthoff, (DFL-St. Paul) chief sponsor of the bill, said that the issue was partly one of "state's rights, which the federal government is infringing on, as usual."

Katherine Burke Moore of the Department of Public Safety said that the state's current policy is to avoid taking away drivers' licenses for crimes unless the offense is "motor-vehicle related." Twenty-two other states have filed opposition legislation with the federal government, she said.

Reps. Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee) and Connie Morrison (IR-Burnsville) noted that the Legislature has allowed Minnesota judges the discretion to suspend the licenses of minors convicted of drug-related offenses.

The bill was approved by voice vote without opposition, and now proceeds to the House floor for consideration.

A similar bill has been approved by the Senate Transportation and Public Transit Committee and has been referred to the floor for consideration.

### Tagging salvaged autos

Used car buyers would have access to better information about vehicles they want to purchase under a bill presented Jan. 21 to the House Commerce and Economic Development Committee.

The measure (HF51) seeks to clarify motor vehicle title classifications used to track automobiles — particularly cars, vans, and light trucks severely damaged in accidents and later repaired for resale — to create a permanent record on the vehicle title indicating the car had been wrecked and then rebuilt.

A 1989 law said that damaged vehicles whose repairs would cost more than 70 percent of the car's market value must carry a "rebuilt" brand on its title. But according to Doug Blanke, director of consumer policy for the Minnesota Attorney General's office, the current law has a loophole allowing disreputable auto rebuilders to obtain "unbranded" titles for cars imported from other states by submitting inaccurate or misleading documentation to Minnesota officials.

"What we have been getting is the rebuilders setting the [classifications] themselves," Blanke told the committee. "The bill you have before you will be a much stronger and more meaningful consumer protection than the current statute."

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Geri Evans (DFL-New Brighton), has broad support from trade associations representing new car dealers, law enforcement officials, and auto mechanics, as well as several individual consumers testifying before the commerce panel.

Mike Giefer of Woodbury said he unknowingly bought an out-of-state, accident-salvaged car from a dealership in Bloomington and didn't discover its true history until after he closed the deal. After two weeks of research and threats of legal action, Giefer said he finally was able to convince the dealer to give him a refund.

"It was a lot of work," Giefer said. "If the title had shown what it was supposed to show when the car entered Minnesota, I wouldn't have had to do all that."

Continued discussion on HF51 is expected next week.
For House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum, this is no time to put away his striped shirt nor his whistle.

In his decade-plus of refereeing high school football and basketball games, Sviggum has had to make thousands of quick decisions and break up more than a few disputes between overheated opponents.

Those weren't necessarily attributes he accented during his successful bid to lead the House Independent-Republican caucus, but they are skills that should serve him well as he grows into his new job.

"It might be a part of my personality," he said. "You get into the position of making judgment calls. Those are the calls I enjoy making on the basketball court and they are the ones I certainly enjoy making in the Legislature."

Shortly after the close of the 1992 session, Sviggum, 40, was chosen by House Republicans to serve as minority leader. After first gaining a House seat during the Independent-Republican surge of 1978, Sviggum quickly established himself inside and outside the IR caucus with his knowledge of state government.

During his 12-year tenure, the Kenyon farmer and teacher has been at the forefront of battles to hold down the growth in state spending, while championing alternative solutions to workers' compensation and property tax reform.

"Government in Minnesota shouldn't be different from any business or any job that's out there in the private sector right now," he said. "Every business and every job has to get more efficient and has to produce a better product for less cost. And if they don't do that, they're not meeting their competition.

"I think Minnesota government has to change its philosophy around from just increasing the price of the product, to making it better and less costly and more efficient," he said.

But Sviggum's caucus lacks the voting strength to pass laws to reflect these ideals. With just 48 members, working with the House DFL leadership is necessary.

"I think it's our job to cooperate and to work together on various issues — which was done during the last session," Sviggum said. "But there are going to be certain times when we don't agree and that's when it's the role of the minority to present alternatives and options and be a bit confrontational. That's part of the process as well."

He calls the task "keeping the majority honest" and it's a role he said fits him well, despite the frustration and difficulties being minority leader can entail.

"People don't last long in minority leadership spots," he said, noting that he is the third person in four years to hold the post.

"There is a certain amount of burnout and it's a position that can be frustrating, simply because you never have the votes to do what you want to do."

House Independent-Republicans, however, do have a valuable ally in fellow IR Gov. Arne Carlson. The governor can wield considerable influence on legislation through vetoes and threats of vetoes, giving both Carlson and the minority caucus leverage.

"We intend to bring forth a unified message even though we recognize, at times, we may have differing opinions," he said.

Although they are certainly supportive of the direction Carlson is moving, Sviggum said House IRs should not be considered a rubber stamp for the governor's proposals.

"He is going to feel one way about something and our caucus is going to feel another. That's going to happen in any relationship. But as long as we feel ownership with what the governor is doing and we feel an input into decisions he makes, we can empower one another to be real players in the legislative process."

— Dave Price
Assistant minority leaders

While the Independent-Republican minority leader certainly listens to the opinions of caucus members, obtaining the input of all 48 is a difficult task. That’s why several assistant minority leaders are elected — to serve as liaisons to funnel the concerns of members to their caucus leader. This session, seven members were elected by their IR peers to serve as assistant minority leaders. With three lawyers, an auctioneer, a farmer, a sign-language interpreter, and a businessperson in the group, they reflect the occupational and geographic diversity of the IR caucus.

They are:

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<td>Kathleen Blatz</td>
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<td>Charlie Weaver</td>
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LCMR funding proposals total $40.8 million

Environmental projects totaling $40.8 million have been recommended to state lawmakers by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR).

“There was no lack of interest in submitting proposals,” LCMR director John Velin told members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee Jan. 20. A total of 810 funding requests totaling $378 million were submitted to the commission.

Of those, the 16-member panel targeted 96 priority projects for funding over the next biennium. They include biologically-safe pest control research, wetlands protection and reforestation programs, and an “ecology bus” that would provide inter-disciplinary environmental education to K-12 students in the southwest portion of the state.

The LCMR is made up of eight members of the House and eight from the Senate who study environmental funding issues, and then make recommendations to the Legislature as a whole.

LCMR projects are largely funded through a two-cent per pack tax on cigarettes, and earnings from lottery revenues dedicated to the environmental and natural resources trust fund. Approximately 6 cents of every lottery dollar spent helps to fund LCMR projects.

New projects comprise slightly more than half — $21.2 million — of the 1993-95 proposals, with the remainder aimed at continuing programs and projects begun in previous sessions.

The largest single item among all LCMR recommendations is nearly $6.4 million for new and continuing grants for the Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) program.

New funds totaling $2.6 million are proposed to accelerate RIM land match programs to protect and improve fish, wildlife and native plant habitats, with an additional $1 million proposed to acquire land for scientific and natural areas.

The state’s fisheries also figure prominently in 1993-95 RIM funding with $687,000 suggested for trout, walleye and smallmouth bass habitat development, including installation of aeration systems on winterkill-prone lakes.

Reflecting an increase in visitors, $3 million is specified for improvement in Minnesota state parks and to prevent deterioration of historically significant structures. In all, 25 improvement projects are slated for state and regional parks and trails, carrying a $17.2 million price tag.

Slightly more than $2.3 million is targeted to continue development of the Paul Bunyan Trail in the central lakes region, a second trail connecting the city of Har-
How to get here

Location

The Capitol complex is north of I-94 just minutes from downtown St. Paul. It is accessible from the east and west on I-94, and from the north and south on I-35E.

I-94 eastbound: Exit at Marion Street. Turn left. Go to Aurora Avenue and turn right. Go one block, cross Rice Street, and enter Parking Lot D.

I-94 westbound: Exit at Marion Street. Turn right. Go to Aurora Avenue and turn right. Go one block, cross Rice Street, and enter Parking Lot D.

I-35E northbound: Exit at Kellogg Boulevard. Turn left. Go to John Ireland Boulevard and turn right. Metered parking spaces line both sides of the boulevard.

I-35E southbound: Exit at University Avenue. Turn right. Go to Rice Street and turn left. Go one block and enter Parking Lot D.

Parking

Public metered parking is available at Lot Q, north of the Capitol at Cedar Street and Sherburne Avenue; Lot D, next to the State Office Building at Aurora Avenue and Rice Street; and the orange level of the Centennial Building Ramp at Cedar Street and Constitution Avenue. All-day parking is available in Lot Q and the Centennial ramp. St. Paul meter patrols will issue tickets for expired parking.

Handicapped parking is available in the Centennial Building Ramp on all levels (the blue level is the most easily accessible to the building). Additional handicapped parking is located directly behind the Capitol (Lot N), west of the State Office Building (between Lots D and E).

Since parking is limited during legislative sessions, busing may be easier. Freeway express bus service is available. Call the Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC), (612) 827-7733, for your specific route information.

What to do

Tours

Tours of the Capitol are offered through the Capitol Historic Site Program of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Tour guides lead the free, 45-minute tours from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays; from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays; and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays. The tours begin at the Capitol's information desk at the end of the corridor to the right of the main entrance. Brochures in several languages, including Japanese, German, and Spanish, are also available here.

Tour participants may request customized tours that emphasize either the building's art and architecture or state government. Also, tours can be customized for senior citizens or grade school students.

The society gives a "History and Government Lesson," offering half-day educational sessions for students in grades 7-12.

Historical society officials ask that groups of 10 or more call in advance to reserve a tour time.

For more information about the tours or to reserve a time, call the Capitol Historic Site Program, (612) 296-2881.

Legislative sessions

All members of the House of Representatives and the Senate can debate bills when the Legislature is in session.

At the beginning of a legislative session, the pace of floor sessions is generally slow while new bills are assigned to committees.
and non-controversial items are debated. At about the session's midpoint, however, the legislative pace quickens.

During the first few weeks the House meets at 2:30 p.m. and the Senate meets at 9:30 a.m. Mondays and 11 a.m. Thursdays. House floor sessions are scheduled for the afternoon because committees meet in the morning and early afternoon. As the session nears its end, however, both bodies may meet several times a day, and often into the night.

All House and Senate floor sessions are open to the public. Visitors interested in observing these sessions may call the Chief Clerk's Office, (612) 296-2314, or Senate Information, (612) 296-0504, with any questions. Spectators may sit in the galleries of either chamber.

Committee meetings

Committees continue to consider bills several weeks after the session starts. Visitors wanting to attend a committee meeting may call the committee hotlines for prerecorded messages with the meeting times and agendas for each day: House, (612) 296-9283, Senate, (612) 296-8088.

Printed agendas for the week also appear in each issue of the Session Weekly and the Senate Briefly.

Committee meetings are open to the public. When a public hearing is scheduled the committee may listen to comments from the audience (when time permits) in addition to the scheduled speakers. Committees have different policies on hearing testimony depending upon their size and workload. Some committees hear general testimony at the subcommittee level, while others allow general testimony during meetings of the full committee. Informational handouts that committee members receive during meetings or hearings are considered public information and are available to the audience on a first-come, first-served basis.

Major proposals on issues such as open enrollment or groundwater legislation often have several public hearings so committee members may listen to all arguments for and against a bill.

Each committee has a chair, vice chair, legislative assistant, and administrator. A list of committees and members is available in the House Public Information Office in Room 175 of the State Office Building or the Senate Information Office in Room 231 of the State Capitol.

Groups and individuals wishing to testify before a committee should call the appropriate committee's legislative assistant well in advance of the meeting and ask to be placed on the agenda. Committees prefer requests one week in advance but will accept later notification when unexpected issues appear on the committee schedule.

Legislators

Most representatives and senators are willing to visit with constituents if they have prearranged meeting times. You should contact your legislator's office to set up an appointment.

Dining

All buildings in the Capitol complex have their own cafeterias. The Capitol and State Office Building cafeterias are in the basement. The Transportation and Centennial Building cafeterias are on the ground floor of each building. The Veterans Service Building cafeteria is on the fifth floor, and the Capitol Square Building's dining area is on the lower level. The Capitol also has a snack bar on the second floor (where the House and Senate chambers are located) during the session. The Cafe Minnesota, located on the first level of the new Minnesota History Center, is now open as well. All cafeterias serve breakfast and lunch.

Group visits

Sometimes groups plan a "legislative day" at the Capitol in order to express a particular viewpoint to legislators.

Rooms for special conferences or speakers can be reserved by calling Betty Langenberger, room scheduler for the State Office Building, (612) 296-5974; or Marritta Gould, room scheduler for the State Capitol, (612) 296-0866.

If group members would like to meet with their individual legislators or testify before a committee (see "Committee meetings"), arrangements should be made at least a week in advance.

Often, such groups have members wear a distinctive name tag or badge to indicate their concern about an issue.

Groups planning a trip to the Capitol should remember that seating is fairly limited in some committee rooms — particularly when the topic on the agenda is controversial.
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*All rooms are in the State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155
As of 1/22/93
Small town vitality top concern for Vickerman

As a small business owner and Independent-Republican Party activist involved in community affairs, Rep. Barb Vickerman (IR-Redwood Falls) has always been concerned about economic development in small town Minnesota.

Two years ago, she sold the card and gift shop she owned for nearly 18 years in Redwood Falls. With that responsibility gone, it seemed like a good time to make a move she had been considering for several years—a run for the state Legislature.

"Everything I've done, I've always had a lot of people contact," she said, explaining why she is known to so many people throughout her district. "I always made a point to get back and see people. It was just a good opportunity to come home and run unopposed in the general election after people contact," she said, explaining why she launched a campaign remarkable for its use of mail and calls she has received.

Some of the principal concerns of her constituents in District 23A, a mainly agricultural district that includes the cities of New Ulm and Redwood Falls, are the availability of child care for working mothers, high property tax rates, and school funding.

"We're becoming an aging population. So to offer everything you need [academically] is more than a small population can support, in some cases," said Vickerman.

The high cost of workers' compensation is also a top issue in the district for both businesses and non-profit organizations such as nursing homes. Although unemployment is low, the district needs to attract more businesses that offer well-paying jobs to lure young people back to the area after they complete college, Vickerman said. She hates to see companies that could provide such jobs move to nearby South Dakota where the cost of doing business is lower.

Vickerman is married to Gerry Vickerman, a land surveyor. They have four grown children. Since taking office, the freshman legislator has been pleasantly surprised by the volume of mail and calls she has received.

"All these years I always said, 'Write to your legislators,' and I didn't realize how many actually did," she said.

— Ruth Hammond

Elk River DFLer offers 'Cleansing Thoughts'

As a journalist-turned-legislator, Rep. Stephanie Klinzing (DFL-Elk River) realizes she has a different attitude toward protecting the public's right to know than some of her new colleagues.

"What I turn out to be — maybe to some people's dismay — is more public than those in power may want me to be," she said. Nevertheless, she holds her tongue when she hears some of her new colleagues bashing the media.

"If they don't have an appreciation of freedom of the press, I'm not the one who's going to convince them of that."

Before she got into politics, Klinzing worked as a journalist for 20 years, the last 11 with the Elk River Star News. Having covered government issues for so long, "I thought I had as much knowledge as anybody," she said. So, four years ago, she decided to switch from affecting public policy by writing editorials to being a decision maker. She ran for the Sherburne County Board and won.

After a tough nomination fight, Klinzing launched a campaign remarkable for its use of two donkey-like pets to symbolize the Democratic Party. In the interests of full disclosure, Klinzing admits the donkeys are actually mules, now meeting another household need by grazing on the 80 acres she and her family own in Elk River.

Her four years as a county commissioner made Klinzing aware that if change is going to occur, it must take place at the state level. She is especially concerned about state mandates placed on counties that are not accompanied by funding, resulting in a higher property tax burden on county residents.

Klinzing's District 19B is "property-poor," she said. Relatively few businesses and industries share the tax burden with an ever-growing number of residents who commute to the Twin Cities to work.

A clear message Klinzing got from her constituents is that they want no tax increases of any kind. Klinzing said she will do her best to abide by that wish. Among her early priorities are reforming county ditch laws to alleviate drainage problems in new residential areas, and seeking forgiveness of a $500,000 penalty against Sherburne County for exceeding the state levy limit.

Klinzing has the perfect avenue to keep her constituents well informed. Her observations from the Capitol will appear in her resurrected column, "Klinzing (pronounced 'Cleansing') Thoughts," in the Elk River Star News.

— Ruth Hammond
Native Texan Lindner wants to shrink government

Rep. Arlon Lindner (IR-Corcoran) knows the state's workers' compensation system from more angles than most. So when he says the system needs to be fixed, he hopes people listen.

Although he missed only five weeks of work, Lindner said he "could have been out much longer." The system, he said, doesn't favor a quick return to work, which contributes to Minnesota's high workers' compensation costs.

He said workers' compensation reform is of top concern among members of his district, which takes in the northwestern corner of the metro area.

If something isn't done to repair the system, Lindner said he fears businesses will flee to neighboring states where rates are cheaper and the overall cost of doing business is less.

A native Texan schooled in economics and math at North Texas State University, Lindner worked in the oil and gas business until 1969, when he turned to the retail business. With his wife, Shirlee, Lindner has lived in Corcoran for the past six years.

Since 1960, Corcoran has more than quadrupled in size. While population growth across the district has meant new residential and commercial development, it's a double-edged sword, said Lindner.

In a district he describes as two-thirds urban and one-third rural, "it's harder to maintain a farm as the world becomes closer," he said. Newcomers "find the whiff of the manure on the fields" disagreeable. Balancing the interests of both parties is something Lindner hopes to accomplish.

But that doesn't mean passing new laws.

Lindner's campaign slogan was "bringing government back to reason," reflecting his belief that government - and the body of laws the Legislature continues to pass - has grown too big to be effective.

"It should be, 'We the people', not 'We the government,'" he said.

Lindner argues that the latter is now the case, with "the tail wagging the dog." A self-defined conservative, Lindner said he favors limiting the role of government to its essential functions.

But Lindner said he realizes that making those types of decisions won't be easy. Aware that there are two sides to every issue, Lindner said the task will be challenging.

"I'm just excited to have the opportunity."

— John Tschida

Sekhon stresses education, environmental concerns

As a third- through eighth-grade teacher in Anoka County schools, educational equity is one of Rep. Kathleen Sekhon's (DFL-Burnsville) main concerns.

Sekhon said all four of the school districts she represents suffer from inadequate funding, and two of them are among the lowest statewide in per pupil spending. Sekhon became convinced that talking about equity just wasn't enough.

"I decided that if we were going to have the money we needed to work with, it was important for me to run for the Legislature and help get that done."

Sekhon (pronounced "SEE-kahn") grew up in Pipestone, the oldest of seven children, and now has three children of her own (two in college; one in high school). Her political life began in 1980, when she attended her first precinct caucus. She "spoke up" and eventually found herself a delegate to the state DFL convention. She then became involved in several feminist, environmental, and other "social change" organizations, all of which helped to define her agenda for this legislative session.

But it was during her tenure as chair of the DFL Platform and Issues Commission (1984 to 1990) that she was introduced to a broad range of statewide policy issues, she said. As commission chair she also honed her skills of working with others toward a productive end.

"That was the experience that convinced me that I had the skills that I needed to work effectively in committees, and that's how you get things done."

During her campaign in District 50A just north of Minneapolis in Anoka County, Sekhon managed to knock on 10,000 doors. She plans to return to the houses she missed this summer.

Residents told her they were concerned about environmental issues, specifically two sites within the district that are on the federal government's Superfund cleanup list — the Oak Grove and East Bethel landfills. Citizens are frustrated with delays in the cleanup schedule, Sekhon said, and the resulting increased threat of groundwater contamination due to the area's relatively high water table.

Many are also troubled by development issues arising from population growth, and are concerned that area wetlands remain protected.

From her positions on both the Environment and Natural Resource Committee and the separate environmental finance panel, Sekhon will be a voice for her district on these issues.

Although not a member of the Education Committee, Sekhon said she hopes to persuade her colleagues of the need for school funding equity. She also will bring her educational expertise to issues before the Labor-Management Relations Committee, including workplace safety.

Helping small businesses that have limited resources should be a legislative priority, she said.

"We can do a lot as a government to help small employers come up with better ways of doing things."

— Adam Samaha

District 33A

Population: 32,967
Counties: Hennepin, Wright
Largest city: Maple Grove, (portion)
Largest employer: SCIMED Medical Supplies, 1,300 employees
Topography: A highly urbanized district, with 86.2 percent living inside an incorporated city.
1992 presidential election results:
Bush/Quayle: 38 percent
Clinton/Gore: 33 percent
Perot/Stockdale: 8 percent
Other: 0.4 percent

District 50A

Population: 32,806
Counties: Anoka
Largest city: Andover
Largest employer: Mate Punch & Die, 205 employees
Topography: all 32,806 residents live within an incorporated city.
1992 presidential election results:
Bush/Quayle: 29.7 percent
Clinton/Gore: 38.3 percent
Perot/Stockdale: 31.3 percent
Other: 0.7 percent
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January 22, 1993 / SESSION WEEKLY 17
William Seeger was the state treasurer during the winter of 1872, when Minnesota's treasury vault was found to be missing $180,000. While he admitted the funds were absent from the treasury, he insisted they could be "faithfully accounted for." Seeger also denied that any state dollars had been "perverted to his own use."

The Legislature didn't believe him, and the House immediately passed a resolution calling for Seeger's resignation. Seeger refused.

It turned out that Seeger's predecessor, Emil Munch, was the pilfering party. Munch, who was Seeger's father-in-law, had "borrowed" the missing state funds, and Seeger was hiding this fact on the books, "in the hope that [Munch] would retrieve certain personal losses and restore the missing funds," wrote James Baker in Lives of the Governors of Minnesota.

The Legislature showed no sympathy for Seeger, and immediately called for his impeachment. Only then, on the advice of his attorneys, did Seeger resign.

Impeachment proceedings continued anyway, and Seeger was officially removed from office.

To prevent the reoccurrence of such an event, a constitutional amendment "to provide more effectively for the safekeeping of public funds" was submitted to voters in the fall of 1873. It passed overwhelmingly by a 5-to-1 margin.
Tuesday Jan. 19

HF53—Betttermann (IR)
Labor-Management Relations
Workers' compensation court of appeals eliminated; workers' compensation appeals heard by court of appeals, suitable work defined, and permanent total disability modified.

HF54—Asch (DFL)
Judiciary
Harassment and stalking crimes clarified and expanded; harassers assessed for mental health treatment needs; civil harassment restraining order enforcement mechanism improved; and enhanced penalties clarified for repeat domestic assaults.

HF55—Rukavina (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Gaming
Eveleth authorized to increase pension and retirement benefits for retired police officers, fire fighters, and surviving spouses.

HF56—Bertram (DFL)
Education
Persian Gulf war veterans eligible for tuition-free technical college program.

HF57—Murphy (DFL)
Transportation & Public Transit
School bus signaling and presumption of evidence clarified; class B drivers' license holder gross vehicle weight restricted; school bus endorsement revoked upon conviction of a misdemeanor.

HF58—Pugh (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Gaming
Lawful gambling profits can be used for recreational, community, and athletic facilities for persons over the age of 54.

HF59—McGuire (DFL)
Judiciary
Harassment and stalking crimes, restraining orders, mental health assessments, and enhanced penalties clarified and provided; and drivers' license and motor vehicle registration applicant home address data classified as private data.

HF60—Opatz (DFL)
Education
Semesters; common semester system feasibility studied by higher education coordinating board.

HF61—Steensma (DFL)
Education
General education revenue reduction formula modified for large fund balances.

HF62—Bauerly (DFL)
Judiciary
Firearm permissive possession inference and administrative forfeiture provided; pistols prohibited for controlled substance offenders; pistol transfers provided to peace officers; and state patrol traffic enforcement powers clarified.

HF63—Holsten (IR)
Taxes
Stillwater allowed to exempt certain property from transient lodging taxes.

HF64—Jacobs (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations
High school student labor curfew to include not working after 11 p.m. on an evening before a school day or before 5 a.m. on a school day.

HF65—Munger (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Packaging and products provided recycled content requirements; discardable packaging imposed a waste management fee; beverages required reusable packaging or refundable recycling deposits; penalties provided; and money appropriated.

Thursday Jan. 21

HF66—Weaver (IR)
Governmental Operations & Gaming
Lottery board authority abolished to authorize additional compensation for the state lottery director.

HF67—Weaver (IR)
Governmental Operations & Gaming
Salaries frozen at 1992 levels for legislators, justices, judges, constitutional officers, and executive department heads.

HF68—Morrison (IR)
Judiciary
Licensing authority to remove an individual's name from a licensing data list that is for sale.

HF69—Asch (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Smoking prohibited in a family or group family licensed day care center.

HF70—Opatz (DFL)
Local Government & Metro Affairs
St. Cloud conveyed certain St. Cloud State University state land.

HF71—Brown, C. (DFL)
Education
Independent School District Nos. 209, Kensington; 262, Barrett; 263, Elbow Lake-Wendell; and 265, Hoffman, comprising the Grant County project, authorized a cooperative secondary education facility grant, and money appropriated.

HF72—Jefferson (DFL)
Local Government & Metro Affairs
Prostitution; motor vehicle forfeiture and impoundment provided through city ordinances for certain prostitution offenses.

HF73—Jefferson (DFL)
Local Government & Metro Affairs
Peace officer legal fees paid by local governments for unsustained civilian review authority complaint investigations.

HF74—Jefferson (DFL)
Local Government & Metro Affairs
Minneapolis, special school district No. 1, and the city library and park and recreation boards authorized to require residency as condition of employment.

HF75—Sviggum (IR)
Gen. Leg., Veterans Affairs & Elections
Caucus fundraisers restricted; campaign committee fund transfers prohibited to other campaign funds; unopposed candidates not to receive public subsidy; and matching private contribution requirements expanded for public subsidy recipients.
HF76—Johnson, R. (DFL)  
Taxes  
Homemaking and chore services sold to political subdivisions for elderly or disabled individuals exempt from sales tax.

HF77—Peterson (DFL)  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Elks and red deer not considered ecologically harmful exotic species.

HF78—Blatz (IR)  
Judiciary  
Adults criminally liable for having a mentally impaired person commit an offense.

HF79—Peterson (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Grandparent visitation action allowed after completion of marriage dissolution or other family court proceedings.

HF80—Peterson (DFL)  
Governmental Operations & Gaming  
Salaries frozen at 1992 levels for legislators and constitutional officers.

HF81—Olson, K. (DFL)  
Education  
Kindergarten pupil aid weight units increased and provided on class size, and instructional class hours extended.

HF82—Olson, K. (DFL)  
Transportation & Public Transit  
Title branding regulated for damaged vehicle and junking certificates of title required.

HF83—Erhardt (IR)  
Transportation & Public Transit  
Title branding regulated for damaged vehicles and junking certificates of title required.

HF84—Delmont (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Radio amateur operator exemption removed that allowed police radio signal reception in a motor vehicle.

HF85—Bishop (IR)  
Judiciary  
Trespassing on a construction site provided misdemeanor penalty.

HF86—Vellenga (DFL)  
Governmental Operations and Gaming  
Governor's residence council expiration date extended to 1998.

HF87—Perl (DFL)  
Transportation & Public Transit  
Telephone caller identification service available to commercial transportation services.

Committee agendas are jammed with presentations from state funded agencies and organizations at the beginning of the biennium. When the manager of a state agency asked the chair of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee how long he would be allowed to speak, Rep. Willard Munger, with no malice whatsoever, answered, "It all depends on how interesting your talk is."

Students in “general curriculum” are most at risk, and need a broad array of school programs, said Dr. Carole Johnson, chancellor of the State Board of Technical Colleges. The high school youth apprentice program proposed by the governor could help young people attain competence in both theory and application, she told the House Education Committee. Seventy percent of German manufacturing firm CEOs were youth apprentices, she said.

Fishing can be hard work, admits Department of Natural Resources (DNR) fisheries supervisor Dean Beck. He said it takes an average of 10 hours to catch one walleye in the Glenwood fishing region he supervises. Beck spoke to legislators about DNR fish stocking practices.

Minnesota state agencies have reinvented the budget process based on initiatives developed by Minnesota Milestones and the Commission on Reform and Efficiency (CORE). Aimed at making agencies more accountable, the system leaves more budget decisions to agency administrators. But critics, like some on the Judiciary Committee's Finance Division, fear the new system will hinder the Legislature's ability to get sound information on which to base decisions. Rep. Howard Orenstein (DFL-St. Paul) said some programs could be cut without the intent — or input — of lawmakers.

"It seems to me we ought to just abolish the legislative branch and rewrite the state constitution," Orenstein said Jan. 19.

Just how the cards are cut between the state of Minnesota and Native American tribes when negotiating gaming compacts is something members of the Governmental Operations and Gaming Committee want to review. Members have asked staff and Minnesota Planning Agency officials to compare Minnesota's compacts with those of other states. The documents regulate legalized gambling on reservation land. Some committee members said that the state might not be getting a fair deal on tribal gaming revenues and income taxes owed by casino employees who live outside the reservations. Minnesota's tribal gaming industry is the largest in the country and in 1991 surpassed the state lottery in gross revenues (about $180 million).

There's only one place to call if you've got spattered blood and a crime on your hands: the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) at the state's Department of Public Safety. The BCA is home to world-renowned blood spatter experts, two of whom conduct semi-annual seminars on forensic techniques for those working with blood at the scene of a crime. The seminars are attended by aspiring forensics spatter experts from around the globe, said Lowell Van Berkom, laboratory director at the BCA. Just remember to avoid using that most unscientific term, "splatter," if you ever have to call upon the BCA to examine a crime scene — you might just get their modern art division.

Corrections

In the Jan. 15, 1993, issue of Session Weekly, the timeline on page 20, should have listed the Legislature's scheduled recess dates as Feb. 4-8.

In the Minnesota Index on page 24, the legislative salary should have been listed as $27,979.

Last week's cover photo was taken by Laura Phillips, House photographer.
# 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, Jan. 25

**8 a.m.**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE**
300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rice  
**Agenda:** Continuation of an overview of the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

**ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**
Science Museum  
Chr. Rep. David Battaglia  
**Agenda:** Tour of Science Museum.

**K-12 Education Finance Division/EDUCATION**
200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Kathleen Vellenga  

**8:30 a.m.**

**Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION**
400S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Peter Rodosovich  
**Agenda:** Organizational meeting.

**Legislative Commission on Health Care Access**
10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield, Chr. Sen. Linda Berglin  
**Agenda:** Presentation of the cost containment plan of the Minnesota Health Care Commission.

**10 a.m.**

**AGRICULTURE**
5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Steve Wenzel  
**Agenda:** HF0020 (Kalis) Grain prices; agriculture secretary to establish higher contract prices for grain commodities.

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

**REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY**
10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Joel Jacobs  
**Agenda:** Overview of public utilities - regulation, structure, and legislative issues, Linda Taylor, House Research. Overview of the Department of Public Services, Kris Sanda, commissioner.

**State Government Finance Division/GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & GAMING**
300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Rick Krueger  
**Agenda:** Strategic planning presentations by the Information Policy Office (IPO) and Intertech.

**12 Noon**

**Legislative Commission on Waste Management**
10 State Office Building  
Dir. Kim Austrian  
**Agenda:** Automobile waste report, Katie DeBoer, LCWM. Overview of 1993 Waste Management Act amendments.

**12:30 p.m.**

**GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, & ELECTIONS**
300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Wally Sparby  
**Agenda:** Presentations: Joan Grove, Secretary of State; Mary Ann McCoy, executive director, Ethical Practices Board; Jeanne Olson, assistant executive director, Ethical Practices Board.

### TUESDAY, Jan. 26

**8 a.m.**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE**
300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rice  
**Agenda:** Presentations by David Olson, president, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mike Hickey, National Federation of Independent Business; Employers' Association; Bernard Brommer, president, Minnesota AFL-CIO; Minnesota Teamsters; Tom Triplett, Minnesota Business Partnership.

**HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION**

**3 p.m./After Session**

**K-12 Education Tutorial**
5 State Office Building  
**Agenda:** Tutorial presented by Tim Strom, House Research, and Bill Marx, K-12 fiscal analyst. Open to all House members.

**10 a.m.**

**ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**
Department of Agriculture  
Chr. Rep. David Battaglia  
**Agenda:** Tour of the Department of Agriculture. (Meet in front of the State Office Building for a ride.)
TAXES
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ann Rest

7 p.m.
Governor's Budget Address

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 27

8 a.m.
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE
300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Rice
Agenda: To be announced.

Human Resources Finance Division/HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Kathleen Vellenga
Agenda: To be announced.

8:30 a.m.
ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE
Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. David Battaglia
Agenda: Budget presentations by the Minnesota/Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission; Voyageurs National Park; the Academy of Science.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION
400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Peter Rodosovich
Agenda: Presentations by the University of Minnesota and the State University System.

10 a.m.
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Leo Reding
Agenda: HF0030 (Morrison) No-fault automobile insurance wage loss reimbursement coverage to consider insured's employment status.

JUDICIARY
Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund
Agenda: Overview of the juvenile justice system.
THURSDAY, Jan. 28

8 a.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE
300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Rice
Agenda: To be announced.

EDUCATION
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson
Agenda: Report by the Minnesota State Board of Teaching on implementing the restructured teacher preparation and licensure system.

TAXES
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ann Rest
Agenda: Governor's budget.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE
Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. David Battaglia
Agenda: Budget presentation by the Office of Waste Management.

10 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger
Agenda: Environmental Quality Board. Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources. Minnesota Environmental Initiative report on findings regarding Superfund, EIS process, merging state agencies and other concerns.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & GAMING
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn
Agenda: Overview of administrative rulemaking. Presentations by House Research, the Legislative Commission to Review Administrative Rules, the Office of Administrative Hearings, and the Attorney General's Office.

Judiciary Finance Division/JUDICIARY
300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy
Agenda: Overviews: Tax Court, Workers' Compensation Court, the Bureau of Mediation Services.

12:30 p.m.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson
Agenda: Presentation on the decline of the core cities by Rep. Myron Orfield (continuation of Tuesday's agenda).

2:30 p.m.

House meets in Session

6 p.m.

Legislative Commission on Waste Management
Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Dir. Kim Austrian
Agenda: Public comments on Draft 1993 Waste Management Act amendments (Individuals wishing to comment should contact the LCWM in advance). Overview of the Executive Branch's initiatives for funding traditional Superfund sites and an alternative to Superfund for landfill cleanup by the Pollution Control Agency.

FRIDAY, Jan. 29

8 a.m.

Human Resources Finance Division/HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield
Agenda: Presentation of the governor's recommendation for programs administered by the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION
Front steps of State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Peter Rodosovich
Agenda: Tour schedule: 8:30 a.m. - 12 Noon, University of Minnesota; 12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m., Minneapolis Technical College; 2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m., Minneapolis Community College; 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., Metro State University, Minneapolis campus.

10 a.m.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
Agenda: Reports on the Highway Users Federation, the Minnesota Transportation Alliance, and the Department of Public Safety.

It's a fact!

While Minnesota lay too far inland to play a major role in naval affairs during the Civil War, there was a naval warship that carried the state's name.

The frigate Minnesota, 264 feet long and 51 feet wide, was built in the navy yard at Washington D.C. and launched in 1855.

Newspapers at the time called it a "noble vessel, a very leviathan upon the waters."

Shortly after Fort Sumter was captured by the South, the Minnesota was named flagship of a 16-vessel squadron, charged with blockading the coasts of the southern states. The Minnesota set out for Hampton Roads, Va.

Stationed at nearby Norfolk was the famed Merrimac, now in Confederate hands and "refitted with sloping sides plated with iron four inches thick, and equipped with a cast iron beak, or ram," wrote Mary Carney in Minnesota, The Star of the North. The ship was believed invincible.

The Merrimac attacked the Union squadron in the spring of 1862, destroying one ship and capturing another. In its attempt to aid the sinking ship, the Minnesota ran aground. During the night the Monitor, mocked by the Confederates as a "cheese-box on a raft," came to the Minnesota's defense. The following day the smaller Monitor engaged the Merrimac, and saved the Minnesota.

At the close of the war, the Minnesota was used for decades as a training ship, until 1901, when it was condemned by the Navy Department.

The steering wheel survives as part of the Minnesota A to Z display at the Minnesota History Center.
Minnesota motor vehicle accidents

Ratio of motor vehicles to number of people, nationwide .................. 4:5
Rank of traffic accidents among all causes of accidental death .......... 1
Number of crashes, 1975, highest in Minnesota history .................. 123,106
in 1991 .................................. 101,419
Chances that a teenage Minnesota driver will be involved
in a traffic accident this year .................................. 1 in 10
Chances a Minnesotan in their 40s will .................................. 1 in 25
Number of 1991 crashes resulting from a collision with a deer ......... 5,882
Collisions with all other animals .................................. 767
Percent of all crashes resulting in only property damage — no injuries .... 71
Number of motor vehicle fatalities, 1991 .................................. 531
in 1971 .................................. 1,024
Number of fatalities occurring on dry roads, 1991 .................. 394
On snow, slush, or ice .................................. 79
Percent of fatalities occurring on rural roadways .......................... 72
Percent of those who were not on an interstate .................. 94.7
Statewide fatalities occurring on an interstate .......................... 34
Number of Minnesota's 87 counties without a fatal crash, 1991 ........ 6
Number of fatal crashes in January, lowest occurrence .......... 12
in July, highest occurrence .................................. 63
Ratio of people killed over the Fourth of July
holiday to those over the New Year's holiday, 1991 .......... 7.5:1
Fewest number of total crashes, Traverse County .......... 36
Ratio of 15-24 year olds who die in car crashes to those who drown ... 14:1
Ratio of men killed in car crashes to women killed .................. 2:1
Pedestrians killed by motorized vehicles, 1991 .................. 61
Bicyclists killed, 1991 .................................. 8
injured .................................. 1,157
Motorcyclists killed, 1990 .................................. 50
Those with a helmet .................................. 2
Those without .................................. 42
Total number of traffic injuries, 1990 .................................. 42,748
Number of those where "following too closely" was listed as a
factor contributing to the accident .................................. 4,001
Number of accidents involving a school bus .................. 837