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# SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ February 19, 1993 ♦ Volume 10, Number 7

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# SESSION WEEKLY

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## Flashback

They may look like mere laws to the average person, but not to Stanley E. Bourassa of Edina. Wearing a camouflaged hunting jacket, his face bright red from this week's subzero temperatures, the 86-year-old Bourassa popped in to the House Public Information Office to set the record straight.

Although former Sen. Don Frank got all the attention for passing a mandatory seat belt law, Bourassa said he was actually the first to get such a law on the books in Minnesota. That was 30 years ago, and what a fight it was, he recalled. "I was a lone wolf in the woods. They [legislators] sat there and fought me all the way through."

To the high priests of *Minnesota Statutes*, the subject in question is M.S.169.685, subdivision 1. But to Bourassa and many others like him, the passage is evidence that there is a very human and oftentimes colorful story behind virtually every paragraph in those exceedingly dry texts. It started back more than 60 years ago with the formation of the Minnesota Safety Council and the 1930 election of Gov. Floyd B. Olson, "a friend of mine." Bourassa said he, with the help of every governor but one between 1930 and 1963, campaigned to promote public safety. And seat belts weren't the only safety device he was pushing back then.

"Mud/fender flaps" were high on his agenda as well. "They call me 'fender flap Charlie' around here," said Bourassa, a former auto parts salesman who once struck a deal with lawmakers. A former committee chair put it to him like this, he said: "You promise me that you won't carry a line of fender flaps and we'll pass the bill. . . . The result was we got fender flaps."

Like Sen. Frank, Bourassa wanted a mandatory seat belt law. And like most people who have an idea for a law, Bourassa had to compromise. What he got was the statute still on the books that requires most motor vehicles registered in the state to have front seat belts. But back then there was no requirement to wear them. He would have to wait until 1986 for that to happen and another two years before a \$10 fine was imposed (in 1991, it was raised to \$25).

"You never always get what you want," said Bourassa. "Some of the boys who never heard of anything like that weren't about to jump on [in support of the bill]." Although former Rep. Roy Schulz, chair of what was then called the Motor Vehicle Committee, was listed as the House sponsor of the bill, let the record reflect that it was really Stanley E. Bourassa's idea. In those days, the Legislature operated a lot differently, recalled Bourassa. "If I had a bill, I'd just walk in there and find a chairman of a committee and he'd say, 'What do you got?'"

—Grant Moos

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On the cover: Former Rep. Gloria Segal is shown speaking during a session prior to her retirement last December. The House of Representatives held a ceremony at the Capitol on Feb. 18 to commemorate her 10 years of service. The governor proclaimed the day "Gloria Segal Day." (See story, page 4.)

—photo by Tom Olmscheid

# Highlights

Campaign finance reform. . .

## Proposal restricts contributions, limits spending

Watergate was still in the headlines in 1974 when fallout from that historic scandal led Minnesota lawmakers to pass the state's first major campaign reform law.

Nineteen years later, the chief architect of that landmark legislation, former House member and U.S. Attorney Tom Berg is back at the Capitol, again pushing for changes in how election campaigns are financed and run.

Several campaign reform proposals are now on the table in both the House and the Senate. The one advocated by Berg, crafted by the nonpartisan political watchdog group

The Common Cause proposal, carried by Rep. Wally Sparby (DFL-Thief River Falls), is the most comprehensive. The bill (HF163) drastically overhauls the 1974 statute, putting new curbs on political action committees, lobbyists, and individual campaign contributions.

There will be action on campaign reform this session, Sparby told members of the General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee Feb. 15. The panel, which Sparby chairs, is expected to hold several hearings on the Common Cause bill.

political process. The decline in grassroots participation in the process is easily gauged, he added. Caucus attendance has dwindled, individual campaign contributions are down, and fewer people use the campaign checkoffs on tax returns which provide public funding to candidates.

"I think right now that you have voters in a mood not dissimilar to what it was after Watergate," Berg said. And, as last fall's election showed, they are demanding change.

"The purpose of this bill is really simple—it's to make our democracy work better," he said. "That's really what it all boils down to."

It does that by restoring public confidence in the process, added Joan Higinbotham, also of Common Cause. Specifically, the bill closes some loopholes in campaign finance law, creates a more level playing field for challengers who take on incumbents, and removes financial barriers to challengers, she said.

"This bill decreases the influence of money, and increases the influence of merit in election campaigns," she said.

The proposal would allow first-time challengers to spend 10 percent more on their election campaigns than incumbents. It would also reduce contribution limits. Candidates for governor, for example, can now accept up to \$20,000 in an election year (\$3,000 in other years), but would only be allowed \$6,000 in an entire two-year election cycle under the proposal.

Individual donations to House members would be trimmed from the \$750 now allowed in election years (\$250 in other years) to \$500 in an election cycle.

Political parties, however, would be able to contribute 10 times those amounts to candidates—the current limit is five times.

New limits would be placed on contributions from political action committees, political funds and lobbyists, along with contributors from outside Minnesota.



Tom Berg and Joan Higinbotham of Common Cause testified before the General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee Feb. 15.

Common Cause after months of statewide meetings, has, to date, attracted the most attention.

The original 1974 law ended the age of the casually-managed, secretly-funded political campaigns in Minnesota. It required campaigns to set up central organizations, limit and disclose spending, and follow precise accounting procedures. It also established the State Ethics Commission, precursor to today's Ethical Practices Board. (see related story, p. 16)

While Watergate was the original impetus for campaign reform in Minnesota, Berg told the committee, widespread disillusionment with the political process among voters is spurring this latest effort. The state's reputation for squeaky-clean politics is well-deserved, but its political system has been caught up in a more general image problem.

Accurate or not, he said, there is a widespread perception that well-heeled special interests have assumed ownership of the



The bill also would also:

- allow candidates to form and control only one political committee, eliminating the numerous "friends of" committees, effectively ending the transfer of political contributions from one candidate to another;
- make unopposed candidates ineligible for public campaign subsidies; and
- add new public campaign subsidies for candidates who raise specified amounts of money and who agree to spending limits.

Other campaign reform bills have been introduced, but have not yet been heard in committee. A bill authored by House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (HF75) contains some provisions of the Common Cause proposal, but also bans caucus fund-raisers during legislative sessions.

"When we get done with this [reform], it's going to be near perfection," Sparby said, noting that parts of his bill do need refining.

"I just hope you won't have to be here another 17 or 18 years from now [lobbying for campaign reform]," Berg added wryly.

"I will not be here," Sparby deadpanned. "That I can assure you."

—Jim Anderson



## AGRICULTURE

### Buying time for farmers

Farmer suicides, rural family violence, and assaults on bankers were some of the grim by-products of a battered farm economy in the mid-1980s.

A state program that sprang from that upheaval, farmer-lender mediation, is due to expire this summer. But members of the Agriculture Committee were told Feb. 15 there is a clear need to keep it going.

"The stress out in rural Minnesota is as great, or greater, than ever before," said Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls), chair of the Agriculture Committee.

The bill (HF210), sponsored by Rep. Syd Nelson (DFL-Sebekka), seeks \$400,000 to fund the program through July 1, 1995, and Gov. Arne Carlson has included that amount in his proposed budget.

Farmer-lender mediation, managed by the Minnesota Extension Service and run by a network of trained rural volunteers, brings together farmers imperiled by fi-



Sen. Ted Mondale gave tribute to his friend, former Rep. Gloria Segal, during a ceremony in her honor at the State Capitol.

### Gloria Segal honored for service in House

A champion of human rights and social justice was honored at the State Capitol Feb. 18 as Gov. Arne Carlson proclaimed "Gloria Segal Day" in Minnesota.

Legislators of both political parties testified on the House floor about how the former DFL representative from St. Louis Park had touched their lives and the lives of her constituents.

Segal could "play with the big boys on business and economic development," Speaker of the House Dee Long said. A woman "with a great heart," Segal personally visited her constituents to console them in troubled times and exhibited an indomitable spirit when she fought for what she believed in, members said.

Segal, a businesswoman and real estate developer, was first elected to represent District 44B in 1982. Last November, she won election to a sixth term by a two-to-one margin, but poor health compelled her to resign Dec. 14. She underwent surgery to remove a cancerous brain tumor last September.

During her decade of service in the House, Segal acted on her "dedication to social justice and a desire to give voice to those less advantaged and often powerless," the governor's proclamation states. She was particularly noted for her advocacy of the rights of the mentally ill, a concern borne in part from the illness of one of her own four children.

Segal was a co-author of the hate crimes bill. She also sponsored a bill in 1987 that launched a statewide cancer surveillance system that would monitor cancer "hot spots," a matter of special concern in St. Louis Park where possible carcinogens were discovered in the groundwater.

Women's issues — from equality in girls' sports to pay equity — also got Segal's special attention. Recently, she has been in the forefront of a national fundraising drive to endow an Anita Hill chair at the University of Oklahoma Law School.

"I miss her very much, but I don't miss the work she did," said Rep. Becky Lourey (DFL-Kerrick), who described herself as an early "Gloria groupie." From health care access to new economic development, the evidence of Segal's work is visible throughout the state, Lourey said.

"Long after she's gone, that work will live on in the lives of Minnesotans."

financial problems and the creditors to whom they owe money. By facilitating negotiations, the program aims to avert some of the more destructive results of financial stress on the farm.

Kathy Mangum, who directs the program, told the panel that 321 farmers have asked for mediation in the past four months, most of them in the northwest corner of the state. That brings the total mediation requests from farmers to more than 9,400 since the program began in 1986.

Both Mangum and mediators told the panel that requests are expected to escalate in the wake of poor commodity prices that are preventing farmers from covering their costs of production.

The committee is expected to vote on HF210 Feb. 22.



## BANKING

### Merger restrictions lifted

Banks and other financial institutions throughout the state would be able to purchase and operate an unlimited number of branch facilities under a bill approved Feb. 17 by a House committee.

The measure (HF146) would lift the five-branch ownership cap for banking facilities outside the Twin Cities metropolitan area, placing the entire state under the same regulations. Five years ago, lawmakers removed limits on operating detached facilities for metropolitan area banks.

In the past, similar legislation has generated opposition from rural interests and advocates for low-income people. They

argued that smaller, local banks were more apt to make small business, agricultural, and housing loans to community members than would a larger bank with satellite offices.

But supporters say the current bill reflects the population shifts now under way in outstate Minnesota and would work to keep banks operating in smaller towns.

"Some of those areas are getting pretty small," said Rep. Leo Reding (DFL-Austin), the bill's chief author. "This may help them keep their banks."

Federal regulations under the Community Reinvestment Act monitor whether banks are putting investor assets back into their service areas.

Jim Miller, deputy commissioner of the state Department of Commerce, said those guidelines track lending practices for each bank location — not for the bank holding company and its affiliate branches as a whole.

HF146 was approved by unanimous voice vote by the Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee and now moves to the House floor for consideration.



## BONDING

### Bonding for prison beds

Burgeoning state prisons will soon burst unless \$25.8 million in new bonding authority is approved by the Legislature, Department of Corrections officials told the Judiciary Committee Feb. 15.

"Currently, we are plumb full," said Commissioner Orville Pung.

The funding authority would be used to convert the Moose Lake Regional Treatment Center into a medium security prison.

Pung said that Moose Lake is already being used as a minimum security facility, but the state will need 455 additional prison beds this biennium.

Frank Wood, deputy commissioner for the department, said the bonding authority could bring the capacity of the Moose Lake facility to 620. There are now 55 women and 125 men housed there.

"There are other things we can do than just build more beds," Pung said. He listed community-based corrections, sentences of public service instead of prison time, and placing probation violators in county jails as potential space-saving alternatives. Those policies, however, will not meet the state's immediate needs.

Wood said that an additional corrections facility must be the centerpiece of a solution to increasing inmate populations that, in part, is due to increased mandatory minimum sentences imposed by the 1992 Legislature.

"There really is no backup plan," Wood said.

Rep. Chuck Brown (DFL-Appleton) said that a more cost-effective option would be to contract with the privately owned and locally funded Prairie Correctional Facility in Appleton. The prison could hold up to 472 inmates.

Pung replied that it was an option, since the facility has not been able to attract inmates from other states as the city of Appleton had planned.

But, he added, state policy has been to link the closing of institutions for the men-



On a tour of the U.S. West facility in St. Paul Feb. 15, members of the Regulated Industries and Energy Committee look at cables running through a tunnel beneath Wabasha Street.

tally ill to the expansion of correctional facilities in the same community, thereby easing the economic impact of "deinstitutionalization."



## CHILDREN

### Children's department reviewed

Legislators from both the House and Senate are trying to gain a better understanding of Gov. Arne Carlson's proposed department of children and education services.

Members of the Legislative Commission on Planning and Fiscal Policy reviewed the logistics, logic, and budget of the Carlson administration's plan to integrate the state's K-12 and postsecondary education bureaucracy with certain child and family services programs.

The idea is to clear away the "bureaucratic thicket" that now exists in the structure of state policy, explained Linda Kohl, director of Minnesota Planning, at a Feb. 16 commission hearing.

Currently, receiving child-related services is "stigmatizing," Kohl said, and those services "are scattered in a variety of departments with no one to hold accountable."

But the consolidation plan was questioned for both the programs that it does include, and others believed to be missing.

For example, state policy affecting a 45-year-old Ph.D. candidate would be covered by the new department, noted Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls).

"It just doesn't seem to fit," added Rep. Ann Rest (DFL-Mpls).

At the same time, one of the largest child welfare programs — Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) — would not be administered by the proposed department. Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) said she couldn't understand why AFDC would not be targeted for consolidation, since its recipients often use many other state services.

"These are the people with the most places to go, with the most difficulty," Kahn said.

Kohl replied that higher education programs were included in the proposed consolidation to emphasize a "lifelong learning" philosophy. She said AFDC was not included because the governor did not want to create a "mega-agency" and be-



The editorial board of *New Moon Magazine*, a Duluth-based publication especially for girls between 7 and 14 years old, ate lunch on one of the Capitol benches during Women Come to the Capitol Day Feb. 15. The group came to St. Paul to learn about the legislative process and meet with their legislators. Board members are, left to right: Mavis Gruver, 12, Margaret Sproat, 9, Nia Kelly, 9, Molly McKinnon, 9, and Brianna Miller, 8.

cause the proposed children's department should not have an image of being an agency "just for poor people."

Also, Long questioned the administration's estimate that the project would not cost any money. Officials responded that any costs could be covered by "base" agency budgets.



## CRIME

### Drive-by shootings

The first pieces of the House's 1993 omnibus crime bill were approved by a House subcommittee Feb. 17.

Bills expanding penalties for "drive-by shootings" (HF178) and for reckless gunfire in residential neighborhoods (HF143) won approval by unanimous voice vote from the Judiciary Committee's Criminal Justice Subcommittee.

"Drive-by shooting is nothing less than terrorism," said Rep. Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center), author of HF178. He emphasized that shootings were a menace for everyone in a community, regardless of whether or not they are the intended target.

"All who live in the neighborhood [of such a shooting] are infected with the fear that they might be next," Carruthers said.

The bill would make it a felony to fire a gun from a vehicle at another vehicle or dwelling, with increased penalties if the home or car fired upon were occupied at the time.

While the words "drive-by shooting" don't appear in current statutes, randomly shooting at an empty car or home is a misdemeanor offense.

The bill also "provides an immediate sanction" by allowing confiscation of a suspect's weapon or car by police prior to a formal conviction, Carruthers explained.

Rep. Howard Orenstein (DFL-St. Paul) also sought to address what he called "the fear and terror that have been instilled in people's hearts."

Orenstein's bill would make it a felony to "recklessly" fire a gun near a residentially zoned area in a municipality. Maximum penalties would increase from two years in prison to five years if a gun is fired near a school, park, or public housing "zone."

Several members of the St. Paul and Minneapolis police departments testified in support of both bills, calling them "another tool" for law enforcement.

Both HF178 and HF143 now move to the full Judiciary Committee.



## EDUCATION

### Feeding students

Some children won't get anything to eat if they don't receive lunch or breakfast at school, school food program representatives told legislators Feb. 15.

"One in six children comes to school hungry in our state," Mary Begalle of the Minnesota School Food Service Association said. She referred to studies showing that children don't do well in school if they're hungry.

And schools need more financial help because more than half of Minnesota's school districts spend more money on school lunch programs than they are reimbursed for, said Begalle.

Federal spending cuts slashed school food programs by one-third in 1981, and they have been struggling ever since, Begalle told legislators. She said that federal funding is not enough to cover the cost of school meals unless the district qualifies under the federal "severe need" formula.

Mary Berger, head cook for Minneapolis South High School, said that school lunches have become a primary meal for many children. And many parents who never have needed assistance before now are applying for free and reduced lunches.

Polly Podpeskar, food service director of the Grand Rapids School District, said that

her region "has come upon hard times. . . We have exhausted all revenues, short of increasing [meal] prices."

She spoke of a fifth grader in her district who came to school crying on Monday morning because he had not had anything to eat since leaving school the previous Friday.

Two measures to provide increased funding for school meals were briefly introduced at the Education Committee's K-12 Education Finance Division meeting Feb. 15.

One proposal (HF351), sponsored by Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park), would increase state funding for school lunches from 6.5 cents per meal to 15 cents. The measure would allocate \$1.4 million for school breakfasts, as currently proposed in the governor's budget.

Currently, school districts spend an average of \$1.71 for each meal they serve, with the federal government picking up about 62 cents of that cost, on average, and the state, 6.5 cents.

A proposal (HF379), by Rep. Jerry Bauerly (DFL-Sauk Rapids) would expand the number of school districts required to offer school breakfast to students.

The measures will be discussed at future committee meetings.

### Youth apprenticeships

While Minnesota prides itself on having a highly skilled work force, the state is losing ground in international competition, leaders in business, education, and employment told the Education Committee Feb. 16.

The panel is considering a bill intended to elevate the work skills of Minnesota youth. The bill (HF10), authored by Rep. Jerry Bauerly (DFL-Sauk Rapids), would create youth apprenticeships starting with students in the 11th grade and continuing up to three years.

The youth apprenticeships would include both technical course work in schools and work experience at participating Minnesota businesses. Curriculum would be developed with input from the state's technical colleges, business, labor, and secondary education.

Initially, youth apprenticeships would be offered in metal working, printing, electronics, certain health care occupations, and possibly financial services. To date, some 50 Minnesota firms have indicated they would consider offering youth apprenticeships.

Carole Johnson, chancellor of the State Board of Technical Colleges, told members that while skill development would be added to the current curriculum, traditional academics would continue to be emphasized. Youth apprenticeship skills, she said, are "higher and more demanding" than traditional vocational technical classes now offered to students. Students also would have the benefit of blending theory with specific technical skills, she said.

But it will take bold leadership on the part of the Legislature and Minnesota businesses to get the project off the ground, said Bobbie Henrie, director of special projects at Minnesota Technology Inc., which has led efforts to create apprenticeships.

While 70 percent of Minnesota's high school students already have jobs, very few are the kind that will help either their future or Minnesota's future, Henrie said. The apprenticeships would help state businesses secure the highly skilled workers they say they have difficulty finding, she added.

And while high schools have emphasized academics for college-bound students, one-half of the state's young people do not



Mary Begalle, legislative chair of Minnesota School Food Service Association, responded to a question during a meeting of the K-12 Education Finance Division on Feb. 15. Polly Podpeskar, food service director for the Grand Rapids School District, left, also testified.



go on to college, said R. Jane Brown, commissioner of the state Department of Jobs and Training.

With only 30 percent of the nation's occupations requiring college degrees, college-educated Minnesotans now make up the fastest-growing segment of Minnesota's unemployed population, she said. Between 1984 and 1992, the number of unemployed Minnesota managers, professional and technical employees increased from 14,446 to 33,638.

Supporters of **HF10** point to the success of youth apprenticeship programs in European countries, which they say are edging out the U.S. in producing highly technical products in fields such as printing and metalworking. The U.S. is the only industrialized nation which does not offer youth apprenticeships.

Committee discussion is expected to continue on **HF10** and other apprenticeship proposals this session.

## Isolated schools need money

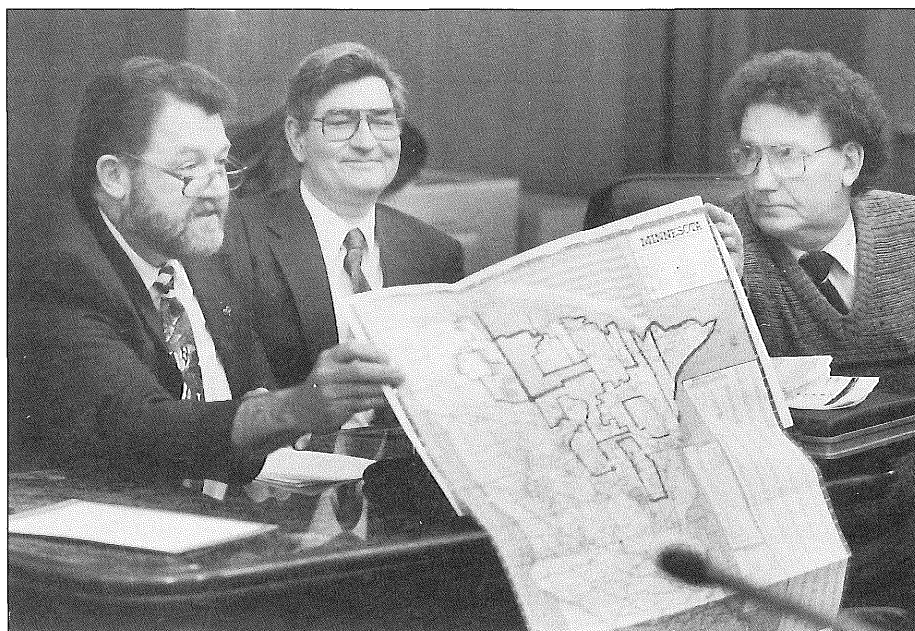
Rural school superintendents from some of the largest geographic districts in the state came to the Legislature this week seeking more state funds. Specifically, they advocated an increase in the state's "sparsity revenue" — an allowance for districts with tiny student bodies that are too isolated to save money by consolidating with other districts.

Superintendent Sal Hoffert, whose Grygla-Gatzke School District covers an area of 880 square miles, told legislators that his district cannot continue to provide programs given the present level of state assistance. Hoffert, who is also the Goodridge School District superintendent, said that a recent doubling in property taxes prevents either district from turning to their communities for help.

With 116 students and some classes of just one to three students, the Grygla district is so large that students who get on the bus at 6:45 a.m. don't arrive at school until 8:20 a.m., Hoffert told legislators.

The St. Louis County district — the state's largest district geographically at 2,700 square miles — has only 2,600 students, Superintendent Dan Mobilia told the committee. Driving distance between schools is 110 miles, he said.

Under the state's sparsity formula, the



Superintendents Ron Schuster, left, South Koochiching Schools, Dan Mobilia, center, St. Louis County Schools, and Sal Hoffert, right, Grygla and Goodridge Schools, testified during a K-12 Education Finance Division hearing on a bill dealing with secondary sparsity revenue increases.

smaller the enrollment and the greater the distance between schools, the more revenue an individual district receives. A high school must have fewer than 400 students in grades 7-12 to qualify. This year, 58 schools qualify for sparsity revenue.

The state directed \$10.3 million in sparsity revenues to schools in the last biennium; the governor's proposed budget does not change the current sparsity formula, but slightly increasing enrollment in sparse districts would reduce that amount by \$387,000 for 1994-95.

Two measures to increase sparsity aid were heard by the Education Committee's K-12 Education Finance Division during its Feb. 15 meeting.

One measure, **HF180**, sponsored by Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls), would change the formula to allow the 13 most sparse districts to qualify for additional sparsity aid. Assistance would increase by \$1.5 million annually, under the plan.

Another measure, proposed by Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy), would guarantee that districts that consolidate would not lose sparsity revenues. Since sparsity revenue decreases as the number of secondary students increases, two "sparsity-receiving" districts that consolidate almost always receive less funding.

The Tunheim measure has not yet been assigned a House file number.



## ENVIRONMENT

### From milk jugs to bumpers

As businesses and government look into new ways to recycle and reuse products, Minnesota's oldest dairy business has been using returnable containers for 109 years.

"If you do something long enough, it becomes popular again," Ernie Schroeder Sr. said of his company's century-long practice of refilling milk containers. Consumers are increasingly demanding returnables, he told legislators who toured his company's facility on St. Paul's Rice Street Feb. 16.

The Schroeder Milk Co., which started delivering glass milk bottles by wagon in 1884, has now begun using a new returnable bottle made of polycarbonate.

The containers are the newest in returnable container technology, according to Schroeder, president of the company. He said his company is one of three dairy companies in the state that uses refillable containers for milk.

The polycarbonate containers are refilled about 60 times before they are "retired," according to Schroeder. When they can no longer be used, they are combined with other resins to make such things as car bumpers and the dashboards of cars.

Schroeder said the company moved to polycarbonate bottles because of their clearness, and because they are in higher de-





Members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee got a first hand look at a machine that cleans returnable plastic milk containers during a tour of the Schroeder Milk Co. Feb. 16.

mand in the recycling market than the heavy white polyethylene containers the company formerly used.

The bottles also are impermeable, which allows the company to use them for other juices and flavored products once they are returned. Schroeder Milk began using the new bottles six months ago and is exploring their possible use in schools.

The Environment and Natural Resources Committee toured the facility to learn how the company runs its refillable container program. Later this month, the committee will hear proposed legislation which, among other things, would require increased use of refillable containers. The intent is to slow the growth of Minnesota's burgeoning landfills.

"Refillable containers are good business," Schroeder told legislators. "They bring the customer back to the store."

Schroeder said he believes refillable containers are less expensive for his company. His family-owned business has 12 employees who work with returned containers. Money that otherwise would be used to buy "throw-away" milk cartons, he said, instead goes to create jobs.

## Recycling pesticide containers

More pesticide containers are being retrieved and recycled, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture told the Environment and Natural Resources Committee Feb. 18.

Through the department's container collection program, farmers, commercial applicators, businesses, and governmental agencies return empty pesticide containers once they are used.

Collection sites are generally held in a central location within participating counties. The idea behind the program, which

grew out of the 1989 Groundwater Act, was to prevent the containers from being tossed out where they could pollute water.

Larry Palmer of the Department of Agriculture said that the program initially collected 10,000 containers from 100 participants when the program began in 1990.

That number grew to 100,000 containers and has expanded to 25 counties in the state, Palmer said. This year, 40 counties have said they are interested in setting up a collection system, he said. Next year, he added, the program will be available to any county that would like to participate.

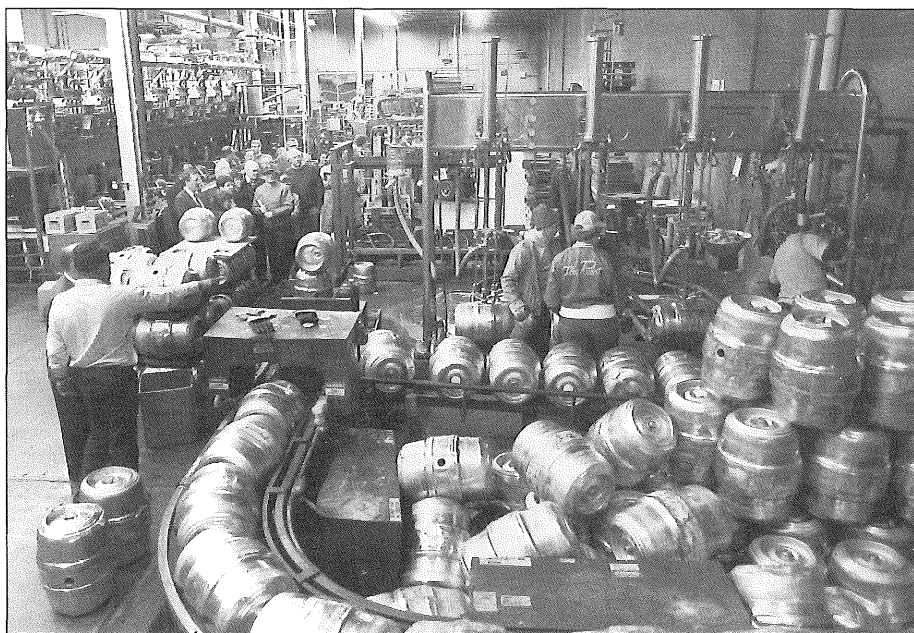
Containers that hold agriculture pesticides are designed to be "one way" containers, and are not to be used for anything other than holding pesticides.

The Department of Agriculture has arranged with a national manufacturers association to accept the plastic at no cost. The recovered plastic is then used in the production of new pesticide containers.

## Making polluters pay

The financial cost of protecting the state's air, water, and soil resources is shifting away from the general public and being placed squarely on polluters, according to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

Taxpayer support of the MPCA continues to slide as a proportion of the agency's overall budget. Of the \$231.4 million in spending requested by the agency for the



Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee toured Stroh Brewery Co. Feb. 16.

upcoming two-year budget cycle, just under \$16 million, or about 7 percent, would come from the state's general fund.

"This reflects our decision that the polluters are going to pay for the activities we [the MPCA] create, that the taxpayer shouldn't have to pay if it's one particular business or industry that's benefiting from it," MPCA Deputy Commissioner Ann Glumac told the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee Feb. 18.

In comparison, taxpayers paid for 24 percent of the agency's total spending as recently as 1991, Glumac said. Her testimony came as the committee began examining the MPCA budget.

The largest sources of MPCA revenue are U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grants, and fees collected from firms and individuals producing waste and other pollutants. That money is then funneled through the MPCA's six internal divisions for specific environmental cleanup and monitoring programs.

The agency's recommended budget specifically protects its water quality division, proposing a cut of \$534,000, or less than 2 percent from its current budget. That's well below Gov. Arne Carlson's requested 5 percent cut for all governmental units, with the difference offset by larger proportional cuts within the agency's hazardous waste control and general support divisions.

Glumac said the MPCA remains committed to controlling traditional sources of pollutants — smokestacks, drainpipes, and automobile emissions — while moving to bolster its efforts to reduce "non-point" sources of water contamination such as septic tanks, animal waste, and runoff from storm water and melting snow.

MPCA testimony before the committee continues next week.

## Hacker heaven

Minnesota residents with questions about the water quality of many Minnesota lakes can now get answers with a simple telephone call through their personal computers.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) recently created an electronic bulletin board system, "MN-Lakes," to better dispense information on its water quality

programs. Private groups and individuals with access to the system can exchange information on their activities as well as leave messages or questions for MPCA staff or other users through the system.

"It's a hacker's dream," MPCA Commissioner Chuck Williams told members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee during a Feb. 16 tour of the agency's St. Paul offices.

MN-Lakes contains monitoring data from about 1,600 lakes, citizen pollution control activities, summaries of local soil, shoreline and wetlands protection ordinances, and current information on Zebra mussels and Eurasian water milfoil control projects. The system also is connected to similar databases established by Wisconsin natural resource officials and the North American Lake Management Society.

It is available free to any computer user equipped with a telephone modem and communications software by calling 612-296-8811. Users living outside the Twin Cities metropolitan calling area, however, must pay long-distance charges. Plans are underway to add a toll-free, in-state number later this year.

Patty Burke, MPCA Water Quality division manager, said since the bulletin board went on line in December, it has put four staff members back to work in the field. Previously, they were tied up in the office fielding inquiries from local government officials and the public.

"There's so much information available [on the system], people can generally find their answers or whatever they're looking for by themselves," she said.



## GOVERNMENT

### Retrieving money

Recovering money isn't glamorous work, but it pays off for state agencies, a Finance Department administrator told legislators Feb. 17.

David Doth, deputy commissioner of the Department of Finance, said that millions of dollars have been recovered by the state since it started three projects last year.

Nearly \$500,000 has been recouped by better monitoring state administrative costs that should have been reimbursed by federal grants.

In a second program, the Department of

Revenue intercepts professional license applications — an effort which will bring in \$2 million, Doth told the State Government Finance Division. When people owe the state for unpaid income taxes, for example, those debts are now captured before professional license applications are approved by the state.

And in a "warrant write-off project," the Department of Finance has identified 10,000 state checks that after several years have not been cashed. After the payees' names are published by the Department of Commerce in March, Doth said, the state will be able to close out any unclaimed checks and recover an anticipated \$1.9 million. The rightful owners of the checks, however, can reclaim the money at any time in the future.

The Department of Revenue also is getting in line faster when bankruptcies are filed, Doth said. The sooner the state moves after a private or corporate bankruptcy, he said, the better the chance of capturing any available funds.

The recovery efforts, which drew praise from division chair Rep. Rick Krueger (DFL-Staples), were outlined during a budget presentation to the Governmental Operations and Gaming Committee's State Government Finance Division.

## CORE proposals on hold

Don't expect the recommendations of the Commission on Reform and Efficiency (CORE) to be acted on immediately.

Because of the timing of the commission's report — two weeks after the governor's budget was released — and because legislation has not been drafted to implement the bulk of CORE's agenda, it is unlikely that this session will see much action on the proposals, officials said Feb. 16.

Furthermore, CORE has yet to complete its review of the state's local government aid system. CORE members hope to finish their work sometime this summer, according to testimony given before the Governmental Operations and Gambling Committee.

"Perhaps we were a bit naive," said Katie Sasseville, CORE member and counsel for Ottertail Power.

She explained that the commission expected individual legislators to read the CORE recommendations and forge legislation on their own, without specific legal

guidance from the commission.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) told members that CORE proposals would go through the Governmental Operations and Gambling Committee and that some delays might allow the Legislature to "actually have a thoughtful process."

Much of the discussion revolved around costs and potential savings in restructuring portions of state government. "The fact is, in the short run, this stuff may cost more," said Rep. Rick Krueger (DFL-Staples).

Former Sen. Glen Taylor said that with minimal investment, the state could trim executive branch costs by 10 percent (\$289 million) over five years by eliminating inefficiencies and duplication of service.

Kahn said she would hold hearings on the potential impact of some of the CORE recommendations later in the session.



## HEALTH

### Managing health costs

Health care providers would serve more high-risk people who now have difficulty getting insurance; but at the same time, medical costs would be held down, according to the vision of the Minnesota Health Care Commission.

The commission presented more details of its cost containment plan to the Human Services Finance Division of the Health and Human Services Committee Feb. 15.

Four or five years from now, 90 percent of Minnesotans would be receiving their care through Integrated Service Networks, or ISNs, said Commission Chair Tom Swain. ISNs would be similar to health maintenance organizations, such as Group Health Inc., except more flexibility would be allowed in how ISNs are formed and how they operate.

Presently, some insurance providers financially reward doctors for seeing patients frequently and treating them excessively, said Swain. ISNs would discourage such inefficiency and over-utilization.

"Think of this as another type of health insurance plan," Michael Scandrett, the commission's executive director, said of ISNs.

Data on outcomes for all ISNs would be compiled by the state so consumers could choose the highest quality care for their dollar. If an ISN had marginal outcomes or



An apple a day keeps the doctor away, but the apples placed on the desks of House members by Minnesota Medical Association Auxiliary members Ellen Lillemoen, left, and Judy Jacott also carried a message encouraging legislators to come to the Capitol on Feb. 17 to take advantage of various health screenings and to meet with physicians.

its costs were out of line, "its future would be pretty bleak," Swain said.

The state health commissioner would also gather information to guide both consumers and providers on which treatments for certain illnesses are most effective. "The purpose is not to bar new technology but to give information to decide whether that technology is effective," Scandrett said. The ISN could then choose not to cover unproven technology-based treatments.

Rep. Pamela Neary (DFL-Afton) wondered how well the proposed ISNs would serve high-risk patients whose health care needs "become enmeshed with non-health care needs."

Scandrett said the new system would encourage ISNs to enroll such patients and cover their special needs, such as transportation or interpreting services.

A major bill on health care access that implements the commission's recommendations will be introduced soon. It is likely to generate "some of the most extensive hearings that occur in the House" this session, predicted Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls), finance division chair.



## HOUSING

### Emergency housing aid

Families on the verge of losing their homes could receive emergency mortgage or rental assistance through the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA) under a bill heard by the Housing Committee Feb. 10 and Feb. 15.

Authored by Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls), the bill (HF183) would provide up to \$3,000 for mortgage or rental assistance to eligible Minnesotans. The bill originally called for a cap of \$1,500 on rental aid, but the cap was raised after testimony from various housing experts indicated that 90 to 100 percent of the state's homeless were renters just prior to becoming homeless.

Recipients would be eligible for such help only once, after falling one or two months behind on their payments. In Greater Minnesota, those earning 60 percent or less than the county median income, adjusted for family size, would be eligible. In the seven-county metro area, the metrowide median income would be used instead of county figures.

In order to include people who may have been financially secure until a sudden job loss, only the last three months of the family's or individual's income would be considered as representative of annual in-



come. The MHFA emergency assistance dollars would be administered through qualifying nonprofit organizations.

Gov. Arne Carlson also has proposed two housing programs similar to HF183. One would devote \$4 million for homelessness prevention and the second would mark \$442,000 for mortgage foreclosure prevention in 1994-95.

Mike Anderson, executive director of the Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing, told the Housing Committee Feb. 15 that the homelessness problem must be addressed so the Twin Cities can avoid the chaos that has engulfed other communities in the United States.

MHFA Commissioner Jim Solem said there was no way to assure that such an emergency housing assistance program would reduce the number of homeless, since other factors such as employment and income levels can't be predicted. But he said the program would at least mean that counties wouldn't have to add shelter space "beyond what we have now."



## HUMAN SERVICES

### Indian aid cost shifted

Gov. Arne Carlson has proposed eliminating the Red Lake Chippewa Indians Program in 1994-95, which would save the state an estimated \$496,000 per year.

But that expense would be shifted to two counties.

Because the Red Lake Reservation in northern Minnesota is a "closed" reservation, the two counties in which it is located have no power to levy property taxes on reservation residents. But Beltrami and Clearwater counties are nevertheless obliged to provide financial assistance and services to needy reservation residents.

Doing so has created extra expenses for two of the poorest counties in the state. The Legislature recognized that nearly 25 years ago, and decided to reimburse Beltrami and Clearwater counties for up to 100 percent of the special administrative and social services costs they bear in serving members of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians.

Charles Schultz, assistant commissioner of the Department of Human Services, explained the recommended program elimination Feb. 17 as he reviewed the governor's budget proposal with the Human Services Finance Division of the Health and Human Services Committee.

Noting that Beltrami and Clearwater counties are already struggling, Rep. Bob Anderson (DFL-Ottertail) said, "I'm sure we're going to hear about this."

He was right. In an interview Feb. 18, Rep. Bob Johnson (DFL-Bemidji), whose district includes a portion of Beltrami County, said that the area can't afford to raise \$1 million in property taxes. And if

the county offices on the Red Lake reservation are closed due to lack of funds, reservation residents would have to drive about 40 miles to get services, he said.

Johnson said he will introduce a bill to ensure continued funding.

## Human Services staff cuts

Hundreds of positions would be eliminated from the Department of Human Services during the 1994-95 biennium if Gov. Arne Carlson's recommendations are adopted by the Legislature.

In the central office in St. Paul, 120 to 170 positions would be held vacant or cut. But the greatest reduction would take place at the state's nine regional treatment centers. There, between 500 to 800 positions would be held vacant or cut by closing the state facilities at Moose Lake and Faribault and downsizing other centers.

The centers house and treat people with mental illnesses, developmental disabilities, or chemical dependency, and the elderly. In recent years, the state policy has been to move many of these clients into community-based group homes. As a result, staffing at the large institutions can be trimmed.

Dennis Erickson, director of budget analysis for the Department of Human Services, reviewed the proposed cuts with the Human Services Finance Division of the Health and Human Services Committee Feb. 12.

Staff reductions will allow the department to absorb a 3.5 percent cost of living adjustment for remaining workers in 1994 and 1995, and to reduce its overall salary costs by 5 percent a year.

No budget decisions are expected from lawmakers until after the state Department of Finance releases its revised state revenue forecast in early March.

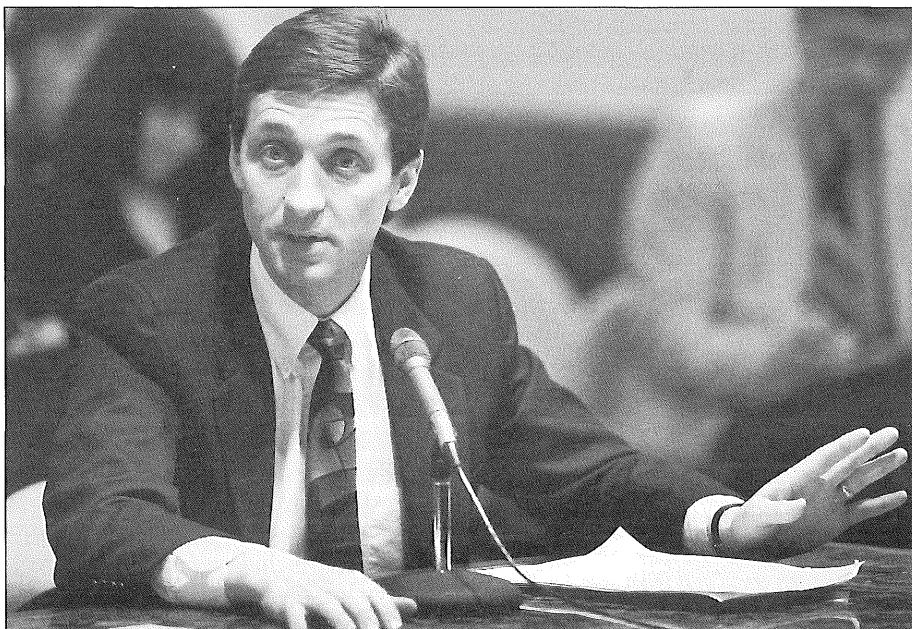


## LABOR

### Right to strike

Some clerical and support workers in the personnel departments of local governments and school districts would be allowed to strike under a bill approved Feb. 15 by the Labor-Management Relations Committee.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Tom



Mike Anderson of the Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing discussed a study entitled "A Place to Call Home — the Crisis in Housing for the Poor" before the Housing Committee Feb. 15. The study was conducted by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

Rukavina (DFL-Virginia), would extend the right to strike to all public "non-confidential" employees — those working in personnel offices who aren't involved in labor negotiations or have access to information used by employers in collective bargaining talks.

Under current law, such employees at the University of Minnesota and the state have the right to strike. This measure would extend that right to similar employees in local government and school districts.

Confidential employees don't have the right the strike. They are organized in separate bargaining units and must accept binding arbitration in the event contract negotiations break down. Rukavina's proposal (HF97) wouldn't change that.

Some employers perceive a potential conflict in determining who is confidential and who is not, especially if only one group would hold the right to strike.

"Our concern is what happens in small offices if we have to begin by deciding whether each person in those offices meets those [confidentiality] criteria," said Irene Koski, personnel director for Stearns County and a representative of the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC).

"Those people may not be directly involved in the information used in negotiations but can certainly easily overhear conversations of other people in those offices," she said.

The number of public employees that would be affected by the bill is unknown. According to the state Bureau of Mediation Services, it most likely would affect those employed by larger governmental units, such as Ramsey and Hennepin counties, or larger metropolitan public agencies.

HF97 was referred to the Governmental Operations and Gambling Committee for further consideration.



## LAW

### Bill extends power of attorney

People who aren't able to make decisions about their finances have the power to designate a trusted relative or friend to take on that task by granting them power of attorney.

A bill (HF45) unanimously approved by the Judiciary Committee's civil law subcommittee Feb. 17 would allow that power of attorney to be designated when it comes

to making decisions about health care.

"Sometimes this bill is connected to the 'living will,' but it has a very different application," said Rep. Dave Bishop (IR-Rochester), the bill's chief author.

It differs from the living will because it is not limited to situations where the person granting the durable power of attorney is terminally ill, Bishop said. Instead, a legally competent adult is simply allowed to name someone to make a broad range of health care decisions when that adult is incapable of doing so.

Several senior citizens groups, along with the Minnesota Bar Association and the Minnesota Medical Association, back the measure.

HF45 now moves to the full Judiciary Committee for consideration.

### Speeding the hearing process

The Office of Administrative Hearings, one of the "release valves" established to alleviate the backlog of cases in the state courts, is a booming, popular success — almost too popular, say some Minnesota lawmakers.

The office will hear about 14,600 cases this year, with more than 14,000 of those involving child support or workers' compensation disputes.

Members of a House finance panel are wondering if more money should be channeled to the office so it could resolve cases more quickly.

On average, it now takes slightly more than eight and one-half months for a workers' compensation case to reach a hearing after being transferred from the state Department of Labor and Industry, William Brown, chief administrative law judge, told the State Government Finance Division Feb. 16. A ruling is then issued about a month later.

Several panel members asked if the office needs additional legal authority or extra staffing, noting that any additional funding would likely be more than offset by reduced social service expenditures paid out during a shortened "wait period" before the ruling is issued.

Brown said that hiring up to 10 administrative assistants for judges and three clerical assistants could do much to speed case resolution, reducing it to a six-month or shorter time period. The hearing office, however, is not seeking new money this budget cycle and is anticipating a small

reduction in its \$7.3 million budget over the next two years.

The hearing office does not receive a direct appropriation out of the state's general fund. Revenue for the office is generated through a dedicated tax on workers' compensation insurance premiums and from hourly fees charged to county governments using the service in place of their district courts.



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Eliminating counties?

County governments may be cowering again this year, as state lawmakers have renewed last year's discussion to eliminate some or all of them.

During a review of the Department of Human Services' budget Feb. 12, Rep. Dave Gruenes (IR-St. Cloud) suggested that the state might want to take over the administration of social services programs from the counties, saying the change made sense from "a financial integrity standpoint."

"The problem I have with this [current system]," said Gruenes, "is that you have county employees out administering programs, but they have no financial stake, for the most part, in the programs."

Once Gruenes had raised the issue, the chair of the Human Services Finance Division of the Health and Human Services Committee was inspired to offer a bolder solution.

"If we're going to take over the staff to run these programs from the counties, I will include with that a motion to reduce the number of counties or eliminate county government completely," Finance Division Chair Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls) said.



## TRANSPORTATION

### Addicted to autos

The American love affair with the car must end if the less expensive alternative of mass public transit is to thrive, representatives of the metro area's largest transit provider said Feb. 16.

Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) said the taxpayers she represents are getting rebellious over massive automobile subsidies. These include downtown parking lot con-

struction and ensuing cost subsidies, highway construction and compensation for adjacent businesses hurt by the construction, and many other hidden costs that have never been added up, she said.

Mike Christenson, executive director of the Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC), agreed.

"It would be cheaper to build a whole new bus company and provide executive coach service and have the state pay for martinis instead of building new highways," he told the Transit Subcommittee of the Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee Feb. 16.

Bus ridership has increased in the past year, in part, because of a concerted effort to serve employees and shoppers of the Mall of America. Speedier rides, made possible by granting buses special driving privileges, have also promoted greater transit use. For instance, buses are now allowed to use the shoulder of the highway during times of heavy congestion.

On the other hand, fear of crime remains a deterrent for some potential riders. MTC Chair Robert Mairs, who has accompanied officers of the MTC's beefed-up security force, described drug-dealing in the back of the bus and a late-night driver needing 50 stitches after being hit by a bottle.

These anecdotes reminded Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls) of even more horrifying incidents that have happened on the transit system in New York City and could potentially happen on buses here.

"I don't ride those things [buses], but I would think twice before I'd ride one of those things," he said. Anderson chairs the full Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee.

Christenson reassured members that the chance that an individual would be the victim of a felony on a bus is one per 250,000 appearances on the bus.

## Transit fund changes

The metro area must redesign and expand its public transit system at a cost of more than \$40 million over five years, according to John Riley, director of the Regional Transit Board (RTB).

Riley told members of the Transportation and Transit Committee Feb. 12 that extending the sales tax to gasoline and creating "a dedicated fund for transportation and transit" was the best way to cover these costs and to provide a stable funding

source for needed transit programs.

"We have to take a long term look at all forms of transit in the metro area . . . and how to finance it," Riley said.

Most notably, the RTB wants to increase bus service between suburbs to reflect their increasing population base and to accommodate the people who travel from suburb to suburb.

Riley presented the committee with the RTB's "Vision for Transit '97," which includes increasing the number of suburban "circulator services" (bus routes that go around the Twin Cities instead of through them) from two to seven.

But parts of the RTB's plans were challenged during the hearing.

Rep. Don Ostrom (DFL-St. Peter) said that extending the sales tax to gas was regressive.

"The proposals that come [here] say, 'Let's hit the lower income- and middle income people hardest with taxes,'" Ostrom complained.

Other members expressed concern that not enough attention was being paid to surrounding counties that lack any transit system at all.

"It's coming," Riley responded, noting that the federal Americans with Disabilities Act requires that some form of transit to serve the mobility impaired be made available in those areas by 1997.

The state constitution appears to prohibit gas taxes from benefiting transit projects, meaning that the RTB's funding suggestion would probably require a ballot proposal before implementation.

## Veterans board asks for cuts

A top the 5 percent budget cut the governor asked them to take, the Veterans Homes Board asked lawmakers Feb. 16 for even deeper cuts.

"Give us an additional 25 percent cut along with the one already suggested . . . but only if you give us the authority to keep our receipts," said Veterans Homes Board Chairman James Sieben.

Receipts are the payments that the Veterans Homes receive for veterans residing in their nursing homes. Payments currently come from the residents' private funds or the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

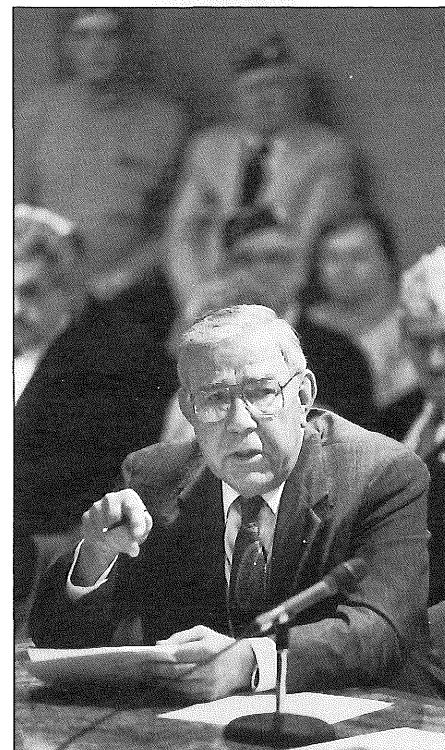
Sieben told surprised members of the Health and Housing Finance Division of the Health and Human Services Committee that the change would give employees

and managers more pride in their work and make them more productive and responsible. "We can generate sufficient funds so we can give you money back," he predicted. Currently, Veterans Homes receipts go directly into the state's general fund.

Contemplating the painful consequences of even a 5 percent cut is what triggered the board to make its unusual recommendation. The cut proposed by the governor would result in more bed closures and layoffs at a time when the veterans' population is aging. Many veterans are in need of the special care other nursing homes have trouble providing.

Veterans Homes Board members voted unanimously not to participate in any budget-cutting exercise that would result in an unacceptable level of care for veterans or that would reduce the numbers served, Sieben said.

"In other words, we just don't want to participate in a repeat of history," he said. He was referring to a time six years ago when the veterans homes in Minneapolis and Hastings were in danger of being shut down because of health care violations. That substandard care resulted from insufficient funding and not enough staff, Sieben reminded members.

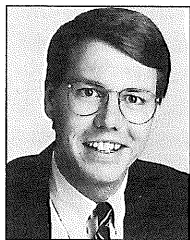


Former state Adjutant General James Sieben, a member of the Veterans Home Board, told members of the Health and Housing Finance Division Feb. 18 that the funding levels in the governor's proposed budget are inadequate to meet the needs of veterans in nursing homes.



# 'Compassionate conservatism' guides Commers

National figures and U.S. politics have provided formative lessons for Rep. Tim Commers (IR-Mendota Heights).



Rep. Tim Commers

"From the day I entered high school in ninth grade until the day I left college, Ronald Reagan was president of the United States." And that fact, Commers said, is what defined his own political agenda and his conservative philosophy of government.

At 26, Commers is the youngest House member. But despite his youth, he is no stranger to the workings of the legislative process.

In 1986, he interned for former U.S. Sen. Rudy Boschwitz. After graduating from St. Olaf College, Commers went to work for former U.S. Rep. Vin Weber's congressional campaign. He later served as a legislative aide to Weber, focusing on a variety of issues including foreign affairs, national defense, environment, housing, and veterans affairs.

When former state Rep. Art Seaberg opted to run for the state Senate, the way was cleared for Commers' first election bid. He describes his district as Republican-leaning, where residents

are "generally fiscal conservatives."

"Are you an incumbent?" was a question Commers heard repeatedly during his campaign, making him thankful that he was not.

"I don't think people were angry, but frustrated," Commers explained, saying that voters were enticed by Texas billionaire Ross Perot's agenda of change.

Aside from avoiding any tax increase, Commers listed political reform at the top of his own legislative agenda. Reducing political action committee (PAC) influence in Minnesota politics is an achievable goal, said Commers. "I don't think we'll get rid of PAC money, but I think we can lessen the amounts contributed." Commers, himself, did not accept PAC money in 1992.

Commers believes that issues raised by Republicans in the last decade remain pertinent to Minnesotans today. "Taxes keep going up, spending keeps going up," Commers said, adding that commercial real estate taxes and rising workers' compensation costs hurt the state's economy.

His stint in the nation's Capitol taught him to appreciate that there are few black and white answers when formulating policy.

"I think that when you go to work in Washington you see things are a lot more gray."

But that hasn't stopped Commers from forging a firm political philosophy. He supports the

"empowerment" ideas of Jack Kemp and others, whom Commers calls "compassionate conservatives."

"When you talk about welfare reform, you're not talking about throwing women with two kids out on the snow bank," Commers said. He explained that his brand of conservative policy would actively assist the transition from welfare mother to fully employed taxpayer.

So far, Commers is thoroughly enjoying the chance to voice his political philosophy as a public servant.

"It's a very fun job. It really is," said Commers. "Every day is different and it's always interesting."

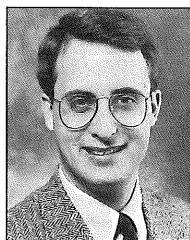
—Adam Samaha

## District 38A

**Population:** 32,186  
**Distribution:** 100 percent urban  
**County:** Dakota, Goodhue  
**Largest city:** Burnsville (portion)  
**Location:** southern Metro  
**1992 presidential election results:**  
 Bush/Quayle: 35 percent  
 Clinton/Gore: 41 percent  
 Perot/Stockdale: 23.5 percent  
 Other: 0.5 percent

# Army veteran Bergson to combat status quo

The blur of the campaign season has given way to the realities of public service for Rep. Brian Bergson (DFL-Osseo).



Rep. Brian Bergson

"It really hadn't set in until I got into my office. You know, here I am. The responsibility is starting to hit me."

Bergson comes from a politically active and service-oriented family that settled in Duluth. "Growing up, my heroes were politicians," he explained.

He takes inspiration from his ancestors and brother, who is the current mayor of Superior, Wis. And a century ago, a relative of Bergson's served in the state Legislature after fighting in the Civil War.

Bergson himself served 10 years in the U.S. Army Reserves and also worked at the state Department of Veterans Affairs until 1990. In August of that year, Bergson volunteered to go to the Persian Gulf, although the war was over by the time his training was complete.

Bergson entered the District 48A race because of philosophical differences with another DFL aspirant. Winning the hotly contested party en-

dorsement and the later primary, Bergson expected to run against nine-term incumbent Rep. Bill Schreiber (IR-Brooklyn Park). But Schreiber opted to run for the Hennepin County Board, and Bergson bested another challenger to represent the traditionally conservative district. At age 28, he is the House DFL Caucus' youngest member.

Bergson describes his district as economically diverse with a large portion of young families. He said the area suffers from a low commercial tax base, especially in Champlin, and he would like to help draw businesses into the area.

But perhaps the most pervasive characteristic of Bergson's district is voter anger. Repeating a mantra heard often during this past election cycle, Bergson said, "People are sick and tired of business as usual" in government and that "they're ticked off about paying taxes."

Bergson feels that the prevailing mood against the status quo in American government helped him get elected. He added that the high rate of turnover — there are 34 first-termers — is a sign that democracy works and that term limits aren't needed. Still, other reform ideas that promote "government responsiveness" and "inclusion" are important to Bergson and his constituency.

The issues voters seemed most angered and

frustrated by are those that Bergson plans to stress during the upcoming session. These include "crime against women and families," property taxes, and traffic congestion on highways 169 and 610, the two most frequently traveled routes going south to Minneapolis and St. Paul from northern Hennepin county. "[Highway] 169 is two lanes wide in my district and it's just packed," Bergson said.

But his plans require something of which the state is in short supply: money. It is an obstacle he knows that youth, excitement, and commitment to public service cannot, by themselves, overcome.

—Adam Samaha

## District 48A

**Population:** 33,322  
**Distribution:** 100 percent urban  
**County:** Hennepin  
**Largest city:** Brooklyn Park (portion)  
**Location:** northern Metro  
**1992 presidential election results:**  
 Bush/Quayle: 32.7 percent  
 Clinton/Gore: 39.1 percent  
 Perot/Stockdale: 27.7 percent  
 Other: 0.5 percent

## Complicated campaign finance laws create confusion

**C**omplicated laws produce complicated questions.

And once again, the Legislature is contemplating changes in campaign finance regulations, including further restricting interest group political contributions and matching small donations from within a candidate's district.

But those charged with enforcing campaign laws say they are having a hard enough time just keeping up with existing law.

Twenty years ago, when the state Legislature decided to try to make money less influential and more accountable in state politics, lawmakers realized the need for an enforcement mechanism and an administrative organization to carry out the aims of the law. They decided to vest all of those responsibilities into a single quasi-judicial body.

Minnesota's Ethical Practices Board is charged with, among other duties, enforcing the state's campaign and lobbyist disclosure laws, processing and analyzing thousands of forms and requests every year, administering the \$1.7 million public financing system for over 400 political campaigns, and keeping track of "potential conflicts of interest."

It's not an easy job, especially with a staff of six, no full-time investigators, and an expectation by the public that the board can actually deal with "ethical" problems in government.

"They're trying to help people do the right thing," said Deb Nankivell, former head of Minnesota's Common Cause chapter and a board observer, but "the law is terribly complicated."

Bill Heaney, a lobbyist and former chair of the board, agreed, adding that Minnesota politics is a relatively clean sport.

"Some of the reporting could be simplified and still end up disclosing the same amount of data," Heaney said. "I know of some treasurers [who] are highly skilled financial people that have a hell of a time with the reporting and they're busting their butt to do the right thing in a timely fashion."

The grandiose title of the board itself has caused more than a few furrowed brows.

The board's staff gets calls on everything from medical malpractice to questionable campaign brochures, over which the board has no authority.

"Other than the name. . . we do not have purview over ethics," explained Mary Ann McCoy, the board's executive director, during a Jan. 25 House committee hearing.

The Ethical Practices Board was created in 1974, just as the federal government was refining its own tool for campaign law enforcement (the Federal Elections Commission) in the wake of Watergate. The intent of Minnesota's effort was to provide a politically balanced, independent board with the authority to interpret the law,

situation, it was obvious that no one [in the campaign] was trying to circumvent the law," he said. Worke explained that there was no real investigation of his case, nor provisions for board leniency. The board called his infraction "inadvertent," but imposed a \$250 penalty anyway.

Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby) complained that "you almost have to be a lawyer or a [certified public accountant]" to understand the law and its filing requirements, and legislators "pray that the [campaign's] treasurer gets it right." She expressed concern that some people might even be frightened out of the political process because of the law's complexity.

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*"You almost have to be a lawyer or a [certified public accountant]" to understand the law and its filing requirements, and legislators "pray that the [campaign's] treasurer gets it right."*

—Rep. Kris Hasskamp

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which could then investigate and punish offenders.

In reality, board members and staff say, they are largely a depository of information that the state requires to be collected. Unless there is technical mistake on a submitted form — and it happens to be noticed by staff or brought to the board's attention by a concerned party — no action will be taken.

Much to the chagrin of legislators who have been slapped with fines for "inadvertent" infractions, this lack of proactive effort hinders the board's ability to educate them and help them "navigate a complex process."

Legislators like first-term Rep. Gary Worke (IR-Waseca) say they feel buried under a pile of complex campaign regulations and requirements that make it difficult for those who really want to play by the rules to do so.

Worke was fined for failing to report within 48 hours a contribution greater than \$400 received between Sept. 2 and Sept. 15 of an election year, as required by law.

"If anybody had taken a look at the

One telling measure of the confusion people have with disclosure and finance laws is the increasing number of advisory opinions issued by the board, which are written upon request to clarify or interpret gray areas in the law. The board is currently producing more opinions than at any time in the past decade.

But those who are affected by the law cannot even be certain that asking the board for advice will produce a clear answer. In 1992, for the first time in its history, the board deadlocked on an advisory opinion. In fact, it failed to respond to two formal requests for advice last year, both dealing with a lobbyist disclosure provision in 1990 amendments to campaign laws.

The board was asked to decide whether municipalities were required to file expenditure reports as "principal lobbyists" if they hired people to influence legislation. Three members of the board and the Senate sponsor of the bill said that the law meant to include local government bodies under its adopted disclosure rules. But the other three board members disagreed, creating the deadlock.

Bruce Willis, a Minneapolis attorney and the current chair of the board, said the board's inability to resolve the more controversial ambiguities about state law hasn't kept them away from tough questions, but it certainly doesn't do confused citizens or lawmakers any good.

"I think it creates a situation where it's more difficult for the people who are subject to the law to understand what's required of them," said Willis.

To be sure, the board and its employees labor to make the law "user friendly." This past year, members of the staff held a "primer" for first-time candidates on election year red tape. The board also issues informational packets and receipt books to make mandated disclosure easier.

And few, if any, complaints are heard about the abilities of the staff and board members to spell out legal deadlines and requirements upon request, or to point out statutory ambiguity where it may exist.

Nevertheless, judging by the comments of legislators and the rising caseload of questions and requests the board must manage, frustration with the system abounds.

All of this leads to questions about what the board can manage, and what its proper role in regulating campaigns ought to be.

Willis explained that the board remains largely reactive in its enforcement efforts. "We rely in large measure . . . on the candidates to police one another." He added

### 'Ethics' enforcement

The Ethical Practices Board needs more money to ensure that the current campaign financing and disclosure laws are being met, board staff members said Feb. 16.

"We're not looking for any new duties or responsibilities," Assistant Director Jeanne Olson said of the board's request for an additional \$150,000.

The board wants to hire a full time investigator and computerize its records to facilitate information requests and data processing.

Board Director Mary Ann McCoy explained that an investigator would be used primarily to follow up on allegations that candidates or lobbyists have failed to properly report financial information. Currently, the board relies on voluntary reporting and does not have the resources to look beyond largely superficial errors.

Board staff members said the Legislature regularly adds to their workload by making additions to the state's campaign donation disclosure laws.

"It's an incremental adding," said McCoy. Olson also said that "the Legislature adds more layers [to the statute] every time."

Rep. Jim Rice (DFL-St. Paul) sympathized with the avalanche of forms that the board must review. "The volume has increased almost geometrically," he said.

McCoy and Olson testified before the Economic Development, Infrastructure and Regulation Finance Committee.

money, they're not going to leave a trail."

Although Nankivell criticized board members for not perceiving their roles as "activist" in nature, and for periodically taking "very strict interpretations of the law," she agreed with Willis' sentiment: "They don't have the money to do the audits, to do the investigations."

However, Nankivell also emphasized that the reporting requirements that have so strained the board's resources (and so frus-

Some legislators believe that the campaign disclosure and finance laws may be too complicated to be adequately or fairly enforced. "We have met the enemy and the enemy is us," Rep. Gil Gutknecht (IR-Rochester) said during a Jan. 25 legislative hearing.

Referring to campaign finance regulations, Gutknecht said, "We have created this monster. . . and now it may be time to take a giant step backwards." Gutknecht suggested that the law ought to be simplified by creating a single spending and contribution limit.

Lawmakers appear poised to enact some form of campaign reform measure this year. But it remains to be seen how it can be effectively enforced without exacerbating the same frustrations board members, staff, and legislators are feeling already.

— Adam Samaha

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*"We have met the enemy and the enemy is us,"*

—Rep. Gil Gutknecht

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that "very often the complaints we get are not the result of any independent investigation that we've undertaken, but, rather, somebody else is going through the opposition's reports with a fine-tooth comb."

Heaney conceded that the board generally deals with campaigns that want to abide by the law, but are imposing fines because of statutory requirements even when the mistakes are relatively trivial.

"It's just all inadvertent stuff that happens because of the frantic pace of campaigns," Heaney said. "It's bread crumb city, you know. If somebody's trying to circumvent the law and illegally accept

trated politicians and lobbyists) are necessary if the state wants to maintain its high standards of disclosure when it comes to mixing money and politics. "There's really no other way to analyze where the money is coming from," she said.

Part of the board's problem is that the Legislature has at times increased its authority without increasing its resources, Willis said. Most recently, the board was directed to register lobbyists and their employers that concentrate their efforts on local units of government. However, no additional staff was added in the 1990 legislation, making the task difficult to carry out.



# Committee, Floor & Final Action

## How a bill becomes a law in Minnesota

The bill status tracking sheets are designed to give you the latest information on bill action during the week preceding each issue (Thursday, 2:30 p.m. to Thursday, 2:30 p.m.). Since it is impossible to provide a cumulative list of all bill action due to space limitations, we urge you to save each issue of the *Session Weekly* and mark the bills you want to follow.

The bill status tracking sheets provide you with the bills under current consideration, their chief authors, and titles to indicate content. They are organized first by committee or division; then, numerically by House File number. Most bills have companions in both the House and the Senate.

*If certain bills are not listed during a particular week, it means that no further action has been taken on them.*

Abbreviations are used throughout the bill tracking sheets to save space. Though they may seem baffling at first, a glance at the key which appears at the top of each page can quickly remedy the problem. The boldfaced terms in this introduction appear as column headings on the bill tracking sheets.

The major section headings on the bill tracking sheets are divided into three stages that parallel the lawmaking process, namely: **committee** action, **floor** action, and **final** action.

### Committee action

Under committee action, bills are **introduced** in written form and **referred** to an appropriate committee for consideration. A bill on farming, for example, would most likely be sent to the Agriculture Committee. Each committee chair decides which bills will be taken up during the session.

The committee or division holds hearings and discussions on the bill, and then sends a **committee report** citing the committee's recommendation for action to the floor of the House (or Senate). Typical actions include "recommended to pass

(rp)," "recommended to pass as amended (rpa)," "not recommended to pass (nrp)," and "**re-referred** (re) to another committee or division."

### Floor action

When the committee report reaches the floor, the full body debates the bill and considers amendments. All legislators then **vote** on the bill in its final form. **Final passage** requires at least 68 "yes" votes in the House; 34 in the Senate.

Since companion bills are processed through both bodies concurrently, there comes a point where the House and Senate must agree on the bill. Therefore, the first body to pass a bill sends it to the other body for a **first reading** where the bill is **substituted** for its companion and replaces it in the process.

If the bills the House and Senate pass differ, either the first body agrees to accept the second body's version, or a **conference committee** is appointed to work out the differences. Typically, either three or five members of each body are named to such committees.

Once the conference committee reaches a compromise, the bill is sent back to the full House and the full Senate for approval. Sometimes the bill differs from the ones members in each body approved. But if both bodies **concur and repass** the bill, it is given a **chapter number** and sent on to the **governor** for action — approval or disapproval.

### Final action

If the governor disapproves or vetoes (v) the bill, it cannot become law unless two-thirds of the members in both the House and the Senate vote to override the veto. If the governor approves or **signs** the bill, it becomes law.

Copies of bills are available through the Chief Clerk's Office, 211 State Capitol, St. Paul, MN 55155, (612) 296-2314.

## Committee/Division Abbreviations

AG	AGRICULTURE
AGR	AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT
CA	CAPITAL INVESTMENT
CCP	COMMERCE & CONSUMER PROTECTION
CED	COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CED/ttt	International Trade, Technology & Economic Development Division
CED/t	Tourism & Small Business Division
CP	CRIME PREVENTION
CP/cpf	Crime Prevention Finance Division
ECF	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE
ED	EDUCATION
ED/ed	Education Division
ED/edf	K-12 Education Finance Division
ED/hif	Higher Education Finance Division
EN	ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES
EN/f	Environment & Natural Resources Finance Division
ENF	ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE
ET	ETHICS
ETC	ETHICS & CAMPAIGN REFORM
FA	FAMILY SERVICES
FN	FINANCE
FN/sg	State Government Division
FI	FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE
GA	GAMING REGULATION
GL	GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS
GOR	GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & REFORM
GO	GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & GAMING
GO/sgf	State Government Finance Division
HC	HEALTH CARE
HC/f	Health Care & Family Services Finance Div.
HH	HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
HH/hhf	Health & Housing Finance Division
HH/hsf	Human Services Finance Division
HO	HOUSING
JEC	JOBS, ENERGY & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
JEC/f	Jobs, Energy & Community Development Finance Division
JU	JUDICIARY
JU/fj	Judiciary Finance Division
LA	LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS
LG	LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS
MLG	METROPOLITAN & LOCAL GOVERNMENT
MLG/t	Metropolitan and Local Government Tax Div.
RI	REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY
RA	RULES & ADMINISTRATION
RU	RULES & LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION
TA	TAXES
TT	TAXES & TAX LAWS
TPT	TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC TRANSIT
TR	TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT
TR/f	Transportation & Public Transit Finance Div.
VG	VETERANS & GENERAL LEGISLATION
WM	WAYS & MEANS

1993 MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE BILL STATUS TRACKING SHEET Bill action between Feb. 11 - 18			COMMITTEE				FLOOR					FINAL
rp - recommended to pass rpa - recommended to pass as amended nrp - not recommended to pass re - re-referred to another cmte./div. a - amended h - heard v - vetoed by governor † - footnote * - version under consideration			Introduction/ Committee Referral	Committee/Division	Committee Report (date/action)	Re-referral	Final Passage	Vote	First reading in other body/Substitution	Referred to Conference Committee	Concurrence & Repassage	Governor's Signature (Chapter Number)
File No.	Author	Committee/Division/Bill Title										
		AGRICULTURE										
HF0210	Nelson	Farmer-lender mediation—	2/9 AG	AG	2/15 h							
SF0239	Bertram	extends program to 1995	2/9 AGR									
		Int'l. Trade, Tech. & Ec. Dev. Division COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT										
HF0167	Bauerly	Development—capital account for small business loans recreated	2/1 CED	CED/itt	2/17 rp	reCED						
SFnone		Tourism & Small Business Division COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT										
HF0165	Jennings	Skiers safety act—privileges, liability rules clarified	2/1 CED	CED/t	2/17 h,a							
SF0317	Johnson, J.B.		2/15 CCP									
		EDUCATION										
HF0002	Dawkins	Minnesota Youth Works—	1/7 ED	ED	2/11 h							
SF0100	Marty	established	1/25 ED									
HF0010	Bauerly	Youth apprenticeship program—	1/7 ED	ED	2/11 h							
SF0029	Beckman	established	1/11 ED									
		K-12 Education Finance Division EDUCATION										
HF0149	Bauerly	Referendum revenue—	1/28 ED	ED/edf	2/17 h							
SF0263	Johnson, J.B.	formula changed	2/11 ED									
HF0180	Anderson, I.	Secondary sparsity revenue—	2/1 ED	ED/edf	2/15 h							
SF0172	Lessard	isolation index changed	2/1 ED									
HF0291	Onnen	Howard Lake and St. Francis—	2/11 ED	ED/edf	2/17 h							
SF0280	Dille	allowed second referendum	2/11 ED									
HF0330	Kelso	School referenda—	2/15 ED	ED/edf	2/17 h							
SFnone		market value phased in										
HF0351	Johnson, A.	School lunch/breakfast—	2/15 ED	ED/edf	2/15 h							
SFnone		funds increased										
HF0379	Bauerly	School breakfast program—	2/15 ED	ED/edf	2/15 h							
SFnone		required in certain schools										
		FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE										
HF0139	Bauerly	Santiago—detached banking	1/26 FI	FI	1/26 rp							
SF0159	Adkins	facility authorized	2/1 CCP									
HF0146	Reding	Financial institutions—	1/28 FI	FI	2/17 rp							
SF0109	Hottinger	merger procedures eased	1/26 CCP	CCP	2/17 rp							
		GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS										
HF0163	Sparby	Campaign reforms—	2/9 GL	GL	2/15 h							
SF0152	Luther	rules modified, limits set	1/28 ETC									
		HOUSING										
HF0183	Clark	Housing Finance Agency—	2/1 HO	HO	2/15 h, a							
SF0054	Johnson, J.B.	mortgage, rent emergency aid	1/19 JEC									
		LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS										
HF0097	Rukavina	Public employees—definition of	1/25 LA	LA	2/15 rp	reGO						
SF0093	Flynn	confidential employee modified	1/25 GOR									

# Bill Introductions

HF325-HF474

## Monday, Feb. 15

**HF325—Sviggum (IR)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Omnibus environmental, natural resources, and agricultural appropriations bill.

**HF326—Haukoos (IR)**  
**Governmental Operations & Gambling**  
Omnibus legislative, judicial, and administrative expense appropriations bill.

**HF327—Hasskamp (DFL)**  
**Gen. Leg., Veterans Affairs & Elections**  
POWs; former prisoners of war provided free motor vehicle license plates.

**HF328—Sviggum (IR)**  
**Economic Development, Infra., & Reg. Finance**  
Omnibus jobs, commerce, and department and agency appropriations bill.

**HF329—Ozment (IR)**  
**Education**  
Children and education services department created; youth apprenticeship enrollment options act adopted; academic excellence foundation established; education finance provisions modified; community programs promoted; and money appropriated.

**HF330—Kelso (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Referendum spread and equalized on market value and homestead and agricultural credit aid increased to phase-in shift to market value.

**HF331—Evans (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Smoking prohibited in a family or group family licensed day care center.

**HF332—Clark (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Marijuana and Tetrahydrocannabinols (THC) allowed for treatment of a medical condition.

**HF333—Steensma (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metro. Affairs**  
Southwest regional development commission to complete feasibility planning and final system design for connecting rural water systems to the multistate Lewis and Clark Rural Water System of the Bureau of Reclamation, and money appropriated.

**HF334—Clark (DFL)**  
**Housing**  
Mortgage foreclosure prevention program established and money appropriated.

**HF335—Simoneau (DFL)**  
**Housing**  
Family homeless prevention and assistance program established and money appropriated.

**HF336—Tompkins (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Family preservation intensive services and child welfare targeted case management services authorized.

**HF337—Wenzel (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Life imprisonment without parole provided for certain murder offenses; firearm and prostitution offense penalties increased; juvenile adult court certification expanded; sex offender registration extended; and money appropriated.

**HF338—Jefferson (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Chiropractic assistant practice and X-ray taking regulated.

**HF339—Skoglund (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Juvenile paid work crew program established to assist victim restitution orders.

**HF340—Ozment (IR)**  
**Education**  
Youth apprenticeship enrollment options act adopted.

**HF341—Pugh (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Commerce department omnibus bill.

**HF342—Ozment (IR)**  
**Regulated Industries & Energy**  
Dakota cooperative electric association to apply residential electric rates to a volunteer fire department using a motor of 50 horsepower or less for fire response and training.

**HF343—Sekhon (DFL)**  
**Labor-Management Relations**  
Unemployment compensation benefits allowed to individuals separated from employment to avoid domestic abuse.

**HF344—Johnson, A. (DFL)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
Motorcycle endorsement fee increased; endorsements on duplicate drivers' license.

**HF345—Luther (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Adult court prosecution provided for previously certified juveniles convicted of a felony in adult court.

**HF346—Erhardt (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Smoking prohibited in a family or group family licensed day care center.

**HF347—Krueger (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Judge elections eliminated and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF348—Krueger (DFL)**  
**Agriculture**  
Minnesota extra category created for certain dairy products produced with milk from livestock free of artificial growth hormones or drugs.

**HF349—Rukavina (DFL)**  
**Labor-Management Relations**  
Unfair labor employer practices to include denial of equal time to labor organizations.

**HF350—Vellenga (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Early childhood family education formula clarified and pupil transportation levy for late activities modified.

**HF351—Johnson, A. (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Breakfast and lunch school programs provided and money appropriated.

**HF352—Krueger (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Gambling**  
Employee suggestion plan established to solicit ways to reduce state government or service costs by reducing waste or promoting efficiency, employee bonuses authorized, and money appropriated.

**HF353—Erhardt (IR)**  
**Judiciary**  
Robbery of an occupied motor vehicle provided penalties.

**HF354—Weaver (IR)**  
**Judiciary**  
Motor vehicle and bicycle regulations clarified; inmate wage fine deductions

allowed; juvenile adult court certification expanded; DNA court rule adoption restricted; probation revocation provided; and medical sexual offenses clarified.

**HF355—Girard (IR)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Drainage system repairs to include incidental straightening of a tile system and replacement of tiles with the next larger size available if the original size is not available.

**HF356—Skoglund (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Mentally ill person and mentally retarded person definitions modified, supervised environment defined, alleged disorder court evidence clarified, incompetency commitment reporting expanded, and incompetency discharge hearings required.

**HF357—Pugh (DFL)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
Motor vehicles failing to yield right-of-way to emergency vehicles delayed arrests authorized, and misdemeanor penalty provided.

**HF358—Milbert (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Revisor's bill correcting erroneous, ambiguous, and omitted text and obsolete references; eliminating certain redundant, conflicting, and superseded provisions; and making miscellaneous technical corrections to statutes and other laws.

**HF359—Olson, E. (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Credit card payment of property taxes provided.

**HF360—Gutknecht (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Medicare limited balance billing extended.

**HF361—Davids (IR)**  
**Local Government & Metro. Affairs**  
Municipal planning services contracts to provide for municipal plan ownership.

**HF362—Davids (IR)**  
**Education**  
Independent school district Nos. 233, Preston-Fountain, and 228, Harmony, provided alternative method to combine referendum authority.



**HF363—Cooper (DFL)**  
**Financial Institutions & Insurance**  
Health care plan coverage clarified during jury duty.

**HF364—Rhodes (IR)**  
**Judiciary**  
Child abandonment provided felony criminal penalties.

**HF365—Lieder (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Town and county expenditures clarified for roads established, upgraded, or improved to serve state leased or plated lands.

**HF366—Rukavina (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
St. Louis county authorized private sale of state land in Virginia.

**HF367—Garcia (DFL)**  
**Gen. Leg., Veterans Affairs & Elections**  
POWs; former prisoners of war provided free motor vehicle license plates.

**HF368—Pelowski (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Technical college student association name updated.

**HF369—Wagenius (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Sales tax exemption provided to libraries.

**HF370—Bauerly (DFL)**  
**Education**  
General education revenue allowance increased and general and supplemental aid appropriated money.

**HF371—Orenstein (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Military assault weapons prohibited, firearm permissive possession inference in an automobile established, and illegal weapon offense penalties increased.

**HF372—Carruthers (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
DWI; driving while intoxicated felony penalties provided for certain repeat offenders.

**HF373—Murphy (DFL)**  
**Labor-Management Relations**  
Labor relations act; arbitration mandatory under certain circumstances.

**HF374—Sparby (DFL)**  
**Gen. Leg., Veterans Affairs & Elections**  
Omnibus election campaign and ethics reform bill, and money appropriated.

**HF375—Pugh (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Evidence obtained illegally by using pen register, trap and trace device, or mobile tracking device inadmissible in court.

**HF376—Simoneau (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Abortion case law codified.

**HF377—Bergson (DFL)**  
**Gen. Leg., Veterans Affairs & Elections**  
Absentee, mail, and facsimile balloting requirements and procedures modified.

**HF378—Reding (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Gambling**  
Investment board management of funds regulated and investment advisory council expiration date eliminated.

**HF379—Bauerly (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Breakfast school program expanded and money appropriated.

**HF380—Rukavina (DFL)**  
**Labor-Management Relations**  
Minimum wage increased.

**HF381—Bauerly (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Referendum revenue authorization property tax notice mailing requirement modified.

**HF382—Macklin (IR)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
DWI; ignition interlock device two-year pilot program provided for alcohol or controlled substance related offenders.

**HF383—Pugh (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metro. Affairs**  
Dakota county housing and redevelopment authority and the county extension committee provided composition and powers.

**HF384—Mariani (DFL)**  
**Housing**  
Housing finance agency program review requirements changed, deferred loan limits increased, homesharing program housing trust fund eligibility expanded, rental housing assistance program modified, and tribal housing projects authorized.

**HF385—Steensma (DFL)**  
**Agriculture**  
Right of first refusal actions provided time limit.

**HF386—Johnson, A. (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Children, youth, and their families legislative commission authorized to hire staff and money appropriated.

**HF387—Kahn (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Smoking in places of employment regulated.

**HF388—Sarna (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Gambling**  
Rule of 85 option provided to state and local governments.

**HF389—Jennings (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Reorganization operating debt levy allowed for one or more years.

**HF390—Jennings (DFL)**  
**Environment and Natural Resources**  
Solid waste collection service sales tax revenue from public and private mixed municipal solid waste collection and disposal services accounted separately, solid waste recycling grants authorized, and money appropriated.

**HF391—Vickerman (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Child care basic sliding fee program allocated money provided to counties.

**HF392—Johnson, R. (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Gambling**  
Fire-safety automatic sprinkler systems required in office and high-rise apartment buildings.

## Thursday, Feb. 18

**HF393—Dauner (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Optometrists authorized to prescribe and use topical legend drugs.

**HF394—Cooper (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Cemetery maintenance purchases provided sales tax exemption for nonprofit religious organizations.

**HF395—Johnson, R. (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Gambling**  
Correctional employees retirement plan coverage to include teachers employed by the corrections and human services departments at a security unit.

**HF396—Stanisius (IR)**  
**Judiciary**  
Harassment and stalking crimes clarified and expanded, warrantless arrests authorized, arrest and detention required, pretrial release restricted and victim notification required, restraining order service clarified, and penalties provided.

**HF397—Cooper (DFL)**  
**Financial Institutions & Insurance**  
Comprehensive health insurance association premium rate determinations and board membership modified.

**HF398—Delmont (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Gambling**  
Lawful purpose expenditures to include social, recreational, community, and athletic facilities and activities for persons 54 years old or older and operation of senior dining facilities.

**HF399—Opatz (DFL)**  
**Commerce & Economic Development**  
Unclaimed abandoned property notice requirements modified.

**HF400—Farrell (DFL)**  
**Commerce & Economic Development**  
Motor fuel retailers provided wholesaler purchase options.

**HF401—Greenfield (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Nursing facilities relocated from a separate nursing home to a former hospital building provided hold-harmless property-related rates, and money appropriated.

**HF402—Jefferson (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Child care fund program services eligibility determined and child care basic sliding fee program appropriated money.

**HF403—Simoneau (DFL)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
Light rail transit design, approval, and construction authority provided to transportation department, corridor management committee established, and light rail transit joint powers board membership and duties modified.

**HF404—Brown, C. (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Higher education merger not to include technical colleges.

**HF405—Macklin (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Optometrists authorized to prescribe and use topical legend drugs.

**HF406—Vellenga (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Child access prohibited to loaded firearms and dealer trigger lock device and notice requirements provided.

**HF407—Brown, K. (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Rice county specialized facilities provided exemption to group residential housing bed moratorium to provide housing for seniors or the disabled.

**HF408—Van Dellen (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Birth certificates to include parent's social security numbers, and various child support provisions modified.

**HF409—Greenfield (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Residential care home definitions modified.

**HF410—Milbert (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Medical malpractice statutes of limitation to begin upon discovery of injury.

**HF411—Kelley (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Gambling**  
Telecommunications technology and services act of 1993 adopted.

**HF412—Rest (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Property tax notices provided additional information requirements.

**HF413—Onnen (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Group residential housing act modified.

**HF414—Simoneau (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Gambling**  
Attorney general opinions given to public pension fund attorneys considered decisive.

**HF415—Kelso (DFL)**  
**Education**  
School building floor level use options authorized for lower grades and certain programs if automatic fire alarm and smoke detection systems are installed.

**HF416—Pugh (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Government data practices act opinions provided by administration commissioner.

**HF417—Jaros (DFL)**  
**Regulated Industries & Energy**  
Liquor importation from a foreign country offenses provided misdemeanor penalties.

**HF418—Sparby (DFL)**  
**Gen. Leg., Veterans Affairs & Elections**  
Grand Forks AFB; President and Congress to retain the Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota.

**HF419—Dawkins (DFL)**  
**Housing**  
Housing finance agency appropriated money for blighted residential property acquisition and rehabilitation, residential rental property rehabilitation, youth training and education, home ownership assistance, and the housing trust fund.

**HF420—Dawkins (DFL)**  
**Gen. Leg., Veterans Affairs & Elections**  
Elective office eligibility in political

subdivisions provided to eligible voters 18 years old or older.

**HF421—Wenzel (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Charles A. Lindbergh state park authorized an addition.

**HF422—Sviggum (IR)**  
**Gen. Leg., Veterans Affairs & Elections**  
Legislative day redefined.

**HF423—Huntley (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Smoking prohibition in public places to include apartment and condominium common areas.

**HF424—McGuire (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Smoking prohibited in a family or group family licensed day care center.

**HF425—Ness (IR)**  
**Gen. Leg., Veterans Affairs & Elections**  
Caucus fundraisers prohibited; political fund contributions restricted; unopposed candidates not to receive public subsidy; matching private contribution requirements expanded for public subsidy recipients; and campaign committees limited.

**HF426—Simoneau (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Development achievement center day training and habilitation services employees provided a salary increase.

**HF427—Winter (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Omnibus technical corrections and administrative changes provided to sales and use, income and franchise, and property taxes and tax administration and enforcement; penalties modified; and money appropriated.

**HF428—Gruenes (IR)**  
**Capital Investment**  
St. Cloud State University authorized bond issuance for residential parcel land acquisition, and money appropriated.

**HF429—Gruenes (IR)**  
**Capital Investment**  
St. Cloud State University authorized bond issuance to complete capital planning for a new library facility and central water chiller plant, and money appropriated.

**HF430—Kinkel (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Human services and health departments to develop and implement a plan to coordinate reviews, surveys, and evaluations.

**HF431—Garcia (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metro. Affairs**  
Metropolitan airports commission provided additional membership.

**HF432—Bishop (IR)**  
**Governmental Operations & Gambling**  
Legislative budget office established and money appropriated.

**HF433—Tompkins (IR)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Emission testing exemption provided to motor vehicles three or fewer model years old.

**HF434—Ness (IR)**  
**Agriculture**  
Farmer-lender mediation program extended and money appropriated.

**HF435—Ness (IR)**  
**Judiciary**  
Reasonable force criminal and civil immunity provided to school officials, and unlawful possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon on school district property or buses provided felony penalty.

**HF436—Greenfield (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Medical assistance disproportionate population adjustment hospital reimbursement rate modified.

**HF437—Skoglund (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Chemical health index for researching chemical abuse and its treatment transferred to human services department, and money appropriated.

**HF438—Farrell (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Educational policy negotiable as term and condition of employment.

**HF439—Farrell (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metro. Affairs**  
St. Paul authorized design advisory committee to preserve and improve the visual and environmental quality of the city.

**HF440—Kahn (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metro. Affairs**  
Aircraft maintenance and repair facility construction bond authority repealed.

**HF441—Kahn (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Gambling**  
Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund (MERF) investments managed independent of fund.

**HF442—Rodosovich (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Higher education coordinating board appropriated money for student grant award deficiency.

**HF443—Olson, E. (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Local government levy limitations abolished.

**HF444—Huntley (DFL)**  
**Financial Institutions & Insurance**  
Health insurance benefit plan option provided for self-insured government unit employees.

**HF445—Dawkins (DFL)**  
**Rules and Legislative Administration**  
Washington, D.C. Congress to grant statehood to the District of Columbia.

**HF446—Orenstein (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Child care funds from higher education coordinating board required annual plan from eligible institutions, and money appropriated.

**HF447—Kinkel (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Independent school district No. 115, Cass Lake, time extended for entering into construction contracts.

**HF448—Van Dellen (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.

**HF449—Bettermann (IR)**  
**Education**  
Independent school district No. 206, Alexandria, school board terms of office furnished.

**HF450—Farrell (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metro. Affairs**  
Metropolitan sports facilities commission control limited over facilities for major league professional hockey and basketball.

**HF451—Mahon (DFL)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
Metropolitan transit commission authorized appointing peace officers, establishing a law enforcement agency, and employment of off-duty peace officers.

**HF452—Clark (DFL)**  
**Financial Institutions & Insurance**  
Osteoporosis bone mass measurement testing covered by health insurance.

**HF453—Bauerly (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Youth entrepreneurship education program established and money appropriated.

**HF454—Clark (DFL)**  
**Commerce & Economic Development**  
Trade and economic development commissioner required annual report on job impact of job creation and retention programs.

**HF455—Clark (DFL)**  
**Housing**  
Youthbuild and housing for the homeless program modified, eligible projects expanded, and money appropriated.

**HF456—Bauerly (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Referendum allowance limit modified, basic revenue increased, school equity provided.

**HF457—Gruenes (IR)**  
**Education**  
Student aid payable to eligible post-secondary institution for pupils enrolled in courses.

**HF458—Farrell (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Ramsey county cities' municipal attorney criminal division powers granted to Ramsey county attorney.

**HF459—Greenfield (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Children's integrated mental health system plan study required by human services commissioner.

**HF460—Frerichs (IR)**  
**Taxes**  
Agricultural land adjusted gross and net tax capacity determinations modified.

**HF461—Jefferson (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metro. Affairs**  
Cities authorized to offer rewards for information leading to the apprehension, arrest, or conviction of alleged felons.

**HF462—Orfield (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Environmental rights act awarding of attorney fees and costs provided to prevailing parties.

**HF463—Perlt (DFL)**  
**Regulated Industries & Energy**  
Limousines and chartered buses provided legalized possession, consumption, sale, and furnishing of alcoholic beverages.

**HF464—Anderson, I. (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metro. Affairs**  
Deer River authorized an office of deputy registrar of motor vehicles.

**HF465—Delmont (DFL)**  
**Gen. Leg., Veterans Affairs & Elections**  
Persian Gulf conflict veterans to receive bonus payments and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF466—Rest (DFL)**  
**Commerce & Economic Development**  
Certified public accountant education requirements modified for certification and licensure.

**HF467—Simoneau (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metro. Affairs**  
Tax-forfeited land sale option provided to counties, and housing and redevelopment authority filing date changed for rental statements.

**HF468—Clark (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) federal waiver request required for providing housing assistance.

**HF469—Gruenes (IR)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
School bus drivers' license endorsement physical requirements considered satisfied by medical examiner's certificate for commercial vehicle drivers.

**HF470—Gruenes (IR)**  
**Governmental Operations & Gambling**  
Bingo licensure exemption provided to certain religious or other nonprofit organizations in connection with a county fair, the state fair, or a civic celebration.

**HF471—Neary (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Aid to Families with Dependent Children medical assistance eligibility determination to exclude child support payments.

**HF472—Krueger (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Deer permits issued free to owner or tenant living on at least 40 acres of agricultural or grazing land.

**HF473—Weaver (IR)**  
**Education**  
Children and education services department created and money appropriated.

**HF474—Kelso (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Optometrists authorized to prescribe and use topical drugs.



No suburb is an island, at least when it comes to bus service. The southwest suburban corridor, where tens of thousands of jobs were created during the 1980s, *can* be reached by city mass transit users, directors of independent suburban transit programs told the Transportation and Transit Committee Feb. 17. Southwest Metro Transit, comprising the cities of Eden Prairie, Chanhassen, and Chaska, has a "reverse commute" route that brings inner city workers out to jobs in five major industrial areas, Southwest Metro Transit Administrator Diane Harberts said. The job-rich area is known as "the Golden Triangle," she said.

There will be a few changes in the way the House conducts its business this session.

Following four hours of sometimes heated debate on the floor Feb. 15, the House adopted rules that prohibit members from voting for their colleagues on roll call votes ("proxy" voting), and from smoking anywhere in the State Office Building after May 31, 1993.

Several attempts were made to amend the rules, including one that would have banned "friends-of . . ." campaign committees, but the majority of them failed.

The Metro Mobility program, which is designed to provide transit services to the mobility impaired, doesn't appear to be too popular with the new director of the Regional Transit Board. "I don't think the program is serving anyone well," said John Riley, director of the Regional Transit Board (RTB). "It's bankrupting the providers and it's bankrupting [our] agency." The RTB proposed a centralized dispatching system and trimming the number of service providers from 15 to about four. Riley told the Transportation and Transit Committee Feb. 12 that the changes would save millions of dollars over the next five years.

By now, it's old news that this year's House includes a record-high 34 women.

There are many ways to express just what that progress represents, but possibly none as telling as a 1970 account from a Minneapolis newspaper noting that legislative candidates that year included large numbers of lawyers and farmers:

"If by some quirk this year's state legislative candidates were exiled to an island of their own, they wouldn't have any trouble settling disputes or growing food.

"In fact, judging from the occupations listed by the 377 candidates, the island wouldn't be short of very many services — except that with only five women running . . . the men would have to do their own housekeeping."

# 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. 22

8 a.m.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

**Agenda:** Department of Commerce, agency overview and budget presentation.

### Higher Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

St. Paul Technical College

Chr. Rep. Peter Rodosovich

**Agenda:** Brief overview of governor's budget: Sue Nemitz and Lisa Griskey, fiscal analysts, Higher Education Finance Division. Public testimony from all higher education institutions via satellite downlink and interactive telecommunications.

### Human Services Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

**Agenda:** Department of Human Services budget presentation: governor's recommendations for family support and self sufficiency programs.

### K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Kathleen Vellenga

**Agenda:** Report on maximum effort loans, MDE. Governor's recommendations on education facilities/equipment (Article 5).

HF159 (Tunheim) Independent School District No. 682, Roseau, time extended for entering into construction contracts.

Governor's recommendations on public libraries (1001, 1002). Capitol Area Library Consortium.

8:30 a.m.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. David Battaglia

**Agenda:** Pollution Control Agency budget presentation.

10 a.m.

### AGRICULTURE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Wenzel

**Agenda:** HF210 (Nelson) Farmer-lender mediation program extended and money appropriated. Wetlands presentation by Ron Nargang, deputy commissioner, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

### JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

**Agenda:** HF358 (Milbert) Revisor's bill correcting erroneous, ambiguous, and omitted text and obsolete references; eliminating certain redundant, conflicting, and superseded provisions; and making miscellaneous technical corrections to statutes and other laws.

HF0047 (Dawkins) Mortgage satisfaction or release following corporate mortgagee or assignee identity change clarified, and mortgage foreclosure notices provided.

HF243 (Pugh) Common interest ownership act adopted.

HF0079 (Peterson) Grandparent visitation action allowed after completion of marriage dissolution or other family court proceedings.

HF0045 (Bishop) Health care durable power of attorney established.

### State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & GAMBLING

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rick Krueger

**Agenda:** Department of Revenue budget presentation.

### REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Joel Jacobs

**Agenda:** Report by Linda Taylor, House Research. Overview of the telecommunications industry in Minnesota, Michael Nowick, Minnesota Telephone Association. Creation and

objectives of the Telefutures Study Group, Don Storm, chair, Public Utilities Commission. Preliminary findings and recommendations of the Telefutures Study Group, John Duda, United Telephone Company of Minnesota. Report on the Minnesota Equal Access Network Services (MEANS).

(After Adjournment of full Judiciary Committee)

### Subcommittee on Criminal Justice & Family Law/JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phil Carruthers

**Agenda:** HF0085 (Bishop) Trespassing on a construction site provided misdemeanor penalty.

If the full Judiciary Committee completes its agenda prior to its scheduled 11:45 a.m. adjournment, the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice & Family Law will meet to take up HF0085.

12:30 p.m.

### GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wally Sparby

**Agenda:** HF170 (Garcia) County veterans service office grant program established and money appropriated.

HF201 (Tunheim) Balloting by mail authorized for certain small cities.

HF254 (Bauerly) County commissioners provided district residence requirement exemptions in redistricting years.

### HOUSING

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

**Agenda:** HFXXXX (Clark) (Presentation and vote)

Further discussion and amendments to:

HF183 (Clark) Mortgage and rental emergency assistance program developed by the Housing Finance Agency, and money appropriated.

HF334 (Clark) Mortgage foreclosure prevention program established and money appropriated.

HF335 (Simoneau) Family homeless prevention and assistance program established and money appropriated.



## LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Pat Beard

**Agenda:** Discussion of Workers' Compensation Reinsurance Association refunds; Jay Benanav, president, Workers' Compensation Reinsurance Association; John Lennes, commissioner, Department of Labor and Industry; Bert McKasy, commissioner, Department of Commerce.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in Session

## TUESDAY, Feb. 23

8 a.m.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

**Agenda:** Agricultural Utilization Research Institute, agency overview and budget presentation.

### EDUCATION

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** Establishing the department of children and education services.

### Health & Housing Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Anderson

**Agenda:** Budget overview of the Department of Jobs and Training.

### Subcommittee on State Taxes/TAXES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

**Agenda:** HF166 (Jennings) Fire truck and emergency rescue vehicle repair part purchases to political subdivisions exempted from sales tax. HF137 (Tunheim) Snowmobiles; resort passenger snowmobile use provided exemption from motor vehicle gasoline excise tax. HF191 (Ostrom) School district contracted motor vehicles provided eligibility for agricultural alcohol gasoline credit. HF131 (Ostrom) Earned income tax credit increased.

8:30 a.m.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. David Battaglia

**Agenda:** Pollution Control Agency budget presentation.

10 a.m.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

**Agenda:** Pollution Control Agency Solid Waste Division report, Art Dunn.

HF0065 (Munger) 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.

### GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & GAMBLING

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

**Agenda:** Continuation of the Commission on Reform and Efficiency recommendations on administrative rules, budgets, electronic data, and human resource recommendations; response by AFSCME.

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wayne Simoneau

**Agenda:** HF145 (Steensma) Physician reciprocity licensure to include temporary permits for physicians not currently licensed.

HF112 (Anderson, R.) Child care special variances authorized for serving additional school-age children.

HF156 (Anderson, R.) Head Start minimum grantee funding required at no less than fiscal year 1993 funding and money appropriated.

HF142 (Anderson, R.) Nursing assistant competency evaluation program eligibility option to include enrollment in a licensed nurse education program.

HF227 (Bauerly) Adult foster care licenses allowed additional program operations.

Overview of the Department of Human Services.

### Judiciary Finance Division/JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

**Agenda:** Budget overviews of the Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training, Minnesota Tax Court, Minnesota Board on Judicial Standards, and the Bureau of Mediation

Services. Anyone wishing to testify in regard to the above agencies should contact John Curry at (612) 296-5533.

12:30 p.m.

### CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

**Agenda:** Discussion of criteria used in determining state's credit rating, Steve Hochman, Moody's Investors Service.

### COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Sarna

**Agenda:** Informational presentation by the Minnesota Association of Realtors.

### Subcommittee on Local Government Relations/LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Syd Nelson

**Agenda:** HF0070 (Opatz) St. Cloud conveyed certain St. Cloud State University state land.

HF127 (Bishop) Sheriff civil service commissions permitted to expand eligible lists for affirmative action hiring purposes.

HF220 (Perlt) Oakdale authorized to annex certain state land in Washington County for highway right-of-way purposes.

HF259 (Dauner) Notice and list of delinquent property and financial statement publications modified.

HF298 (Jacobs) Anoka County coroner office created.

2:30 p.m.

### State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & GAMBLING

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rick Krueger

**Agenda:** Continuation of the Department of Revenue budget presentation.

## WEDNESDAY, Feb. 24

8 a.m.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

**Agenda:** Minnesota Technology Inc. overview and budget presentation.

**Human Services Finance Division/  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

**Agenda:** Department of Human Services budget presentation: governor's recommendations for family support and self sufficiency programs.

**K-12 Education Finance Division/  
EDUCATION**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Kathleen Vellenga

**Agenda:** Governor's recommendations on special education, limited English proficiency, and secondary vocational for students with disabilities - Article 3, Recs. 0301 - 0309.  
HFXXXX (Olson, K.) Agriculture education program.  
Legislative Commission on Fiscal Planning and Policy report on special education, Julie Tonneson, Department of Finance.

8:15 a.m.

**Higher Education Finance Division/  
EDUCATION**

140 Nolte Center  
University of Minnesota, Mpls. Campus  
Chr. Rep. Peter Rodosovich

**Agenda:** Brief overview of the governor's budget proposal: Sue Nemitz and Lisa Griskey, fiscal analysts, Higher Education Finance Division. Public testimony.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &  
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

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

**Agenda:** Pollution Control Agency budget presentation.

10 a.m.

**Subcommittee on Civil Law/JUDICIARY**

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Pugh

**Agenda:** HF181 (Rest) Limited liability companies provided application of financial institution, workers' compensation, unemployment compensation, taxation, and usury laws.  
HF341 (Pugh) Commerce Department omnibus bill.

**Subcommittee on Criminal Justice  
& Family Law/JUDICIARY**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Phil Carruthers

**Agenda:** Any bill not completed at 2/22 subcommittee meeting, plus other bills to be announced.

**FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS  
& INSURANCE**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Leo Reding

**Agenda:** HF296 (Bertram) Credit union share certificate investments regulated, reverse mortgage loans authorized, and deposit authorized of various funds.  
HF363 (Cooper) Health care plan coverage clarified during jury duty.

**Subcommittee on Facilities/K-12 Education  
Finance Division/EDUCATION**

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** Update on code compliance and related issues, Thomas Brace, state fire marshal. School district representatives report on health and safety cost issues. School district report on maximum-effort loans and debt service.  
HF0071 (Brown, C.) 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.

**State Government Finance Division/  
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS  
& GAMBLING**

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Rick Krueger

**Agenda:** Continuation of the Department of Revenue budget presentation. Overview of the State Auditor's Office.

12:30 p.m.

**Tourism & Small Business Division/  
COMMERCE &  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

**Agenda:** HF165 (Jennings) Ski safety act adopted (continued from 2/17 meeting).

**TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

**Agenda:** Report by James Denn, commissioner, Minnesota Department of Transportation.

2 p.m.

**Legislative Commission on  
Pensions and Retirement**

318 State Capitol  
Chr. Sen. Phil Riveness

**Agenda:** HF378 (Reding)/SF376 (Metzen) Investment board management of funds regulated and investment advisory council expiration date eliminated.  
HFXXXX/SFXXXX MERF; Administrative provisions.

2:30 p.m.

**HOUSING**

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

**Agenda:** Further discussion, amendments, and voting on:  
HF183 (Clark) Mortgage and rental emergency assistance program developed by the Housing Finance Agency, and money appropriated.  
HF334 (Clark) Mortgage foreclosure prevention program established and money appropriated.  
HF335 (Simoneau) Family homeless prevention and assistance program established and money appropriated.

**Legislative Commission on Children,  
Youth and their Families**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

**Agenda:** Review and approval of 1992 commission report. Election of chair.

**THURSDAY, Feb. 25**

8 a.m.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
INFRASTRUCTURE &  
REGULATION FINANCE**

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

**Agenda:** Overview and budget presentations for Minnesota Project Innovation, Minnesota Project Outreach, Minnesota Inventors Congress, the Natural Resources Research Institute, the Minnesota Council for Quality, and the High Technology Corridor Corporation.

**EDUCATION**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** Review of the Postsecondary Enrollment Options Program, House Research.

**Health & Housing Finance Division/  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

400S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bob Anderson

**Agenda:** Overview of the MinnesotaCare law by the Health Department.

**Subcommittee on Property Taxes/TAXES**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson

**Agenda:** HF275 (Dauner) Property taxes; game and fish fund disbursements and proceedings modified for payment of certain in-lieu taxes.  
HF265 (Cooper) Agricultural property tax classification rates changed, assessment/sales ratio study modified.  
HF273 (Olson, E.) General education tax levy to exclude certain land and provided based on

school district modified net tax capacity, disparity reduction aid modified, and income tax rate schedules adjusted.  
HF247 (Klinzing) Levy limit penalties canceled.

8:30 a.m.

#### **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. David Battaglia  
**Agenda:** Pollution Control Agency budget presentation.

10 a.m.

#### **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger  
**Agenda:** HF0065 (Munger) 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. (If necessary, the committee will meet after Session to continue discussion of HF0065.)

#### **GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & GAMBLING**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn  
**Agenda:** HF0086 (Vellenga) Governor's residence council expiration date extended to 1998. HF132 (Mariani) Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC) allowed to accept grants and gifts for educational or other public purposes. HF0023 (Milbert) Dakota County and Inver Grove Heights reimbursed for certain kidnapping investigation costs, and money appropriated.  
HF168 (Krueger) Service contracts authorized between regional organizations and state agencies.  
HF0031 (Kahn) Gender balance required in multi-member state agency appointments.

#### **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Wayne Simoneau  
**Agenda:** HF240 (Greenfield) Nursing home bed license surcharges and waivers modified. HF0029 (Greenfield) Smoking prohibited in a family or group family licensed day care center. HF241 (Greenfield) Housing Finance Agency authorized to finance residential care facilities for elderly or physically infirm or impaired persons, and money appropriated.  
HF242 (Greenfield) Nursing homes authorized reimbursement of self-insured workers' compensation program money reserves.  
HF138 (Cooper) Senior companion, foster grandparents, volunteer, and congregate and

home delivered meal programs appropriated money.

HF203 (Kelley) Physician licensing requirements modified, immigrant and alien physician eligibility requirements clarified, and temporary and residency permits established; and medical practice board reporting requirements and indemnification modified.

#### **Judiciary Finance Division/JUDICIARY**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy  
**Agenda:** Budget overviews of the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals, the Sentencing Guidelines Commission, and the Office of the Attorney General. Anyone wishing to testify in regard to the above agencies should contact John Curry at (612) 296-5533.

12:30 p.m.

#### **COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. John Sarna  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

#### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

2:30 p.m.

#### **The House meets in Session**

### **FRIDAY, Feb. 26**

8 a.m.

#### **Human Services Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield  
**Agenda:** Public testimony regarding the governor's recommendations for family support and self sufficiency programs. To testify, call (612) 296-0173 by 4 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 25.

#### **K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Kathleen Vellenga  
**Agenda:** Governor's recommendations on special programs - Article 3, Recs. 310-320.

8:15 a.m.

#### **Higher Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Peter Rodosovich  
**Agenda:** Reports on faculty workload: HECB, David Powers, executive director; State University System, Terrence MacTaggart, chancellor; University of Minnesota, Dave Berg, Management Planning; Technical College System, Craig Froke, Dan Wagner; Community College System, Ron Williams, Craig Schoenecker; Higher Education Board, Jay Noren, chancellor; Archie Chelseth, chair.

10 a.m.

#### **Subcommittee on Criminal Justice & Family Law/JUDICIARY**

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Phil Carruthers  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

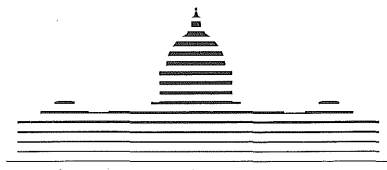
#### **TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff  
**Agenda:** Reports by Bob Orth, MICA; Richard Helgeson, Minnesota Transportation Board.

2 p.m.

#### **Legislative Audit Commission**

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ann Rest  
**Agenda:** Release of Program Evaluation Division report concerning higher education programs.



MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
175 STATE OFFICE BUILDING  
ST. PAUL, MN 55155-1298

Speaker of the House: Dee Long  
Majority Leader: Alan W. Welle  
Minority Leader: Steven A. Sviggum

## MINNESOTA INDEX

### State, federal campaign dollars and disclosures

Number of years since a "minor party" qualified	9
for state income tax checkoff funds	37.8
Percent of all tax checkoff dollars going to the DFL account, 1991 estimate	29.1
Percent going to the IR account	27.1
Percent of Minnesota taxpayers "checking-off" in 1977, highest since the program began in 1974	13.9
Percent "checking-off" in 1991, lowest since the program began	0
Effect, in dollars, on an individual's taxes if they "check-off"	\$1
Amount contributed per checkoff, 1974	\$5
Amount after 1986	66
Percent of all state candidates agreeing to limit spending in return for public subsidies in 1980, lowest recorded	95
Percent agreeing in 1992, highest recorded	\$2.6
Total dollars disbursed to state candidates through public subsidies in 1992, in millions	300
Number of associations registered as employers of lobbyists in 1975	1,162
Number registered in 1992	5
Total paid staff on the Ethical Practices Board in 1975	6
Total paid staff in 1992	- 5
Percent change in the number of registered lobbyists and lobbying organizations (1990-91)	146
Percent increase in the number of lobbyist registrations between 1975 and 1992	234
Number of Federal Election Commission employees who are charged with ensuring compliance with federal campaign expenditure laws, 1986	367
Number of Merit Systems Protection Board employees who are charged with overseeing the federal employee merit system, 1986	\$3.65
Amount spent by an incumbent member of Congress to get re-elected for each dollar spent by their challengers, 1990	0
Number of U.S. House candidates spending more than \$500,000 to get elected, 1974	168
in 1990	10
Number of U.S. House candidates spending more than \$200,000 to get elected, 1974	428
in 1990	30
Percent of all federal candidate campaign dollars reported that were PAC contributions, 1980	41
in 1990	

Source: *Vital Statistics on Congress, 1991-1992*, Norman Ornstein, Thomas Mann, and Michael Malbin; Ethical Practices Board.



### For more information . . .

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