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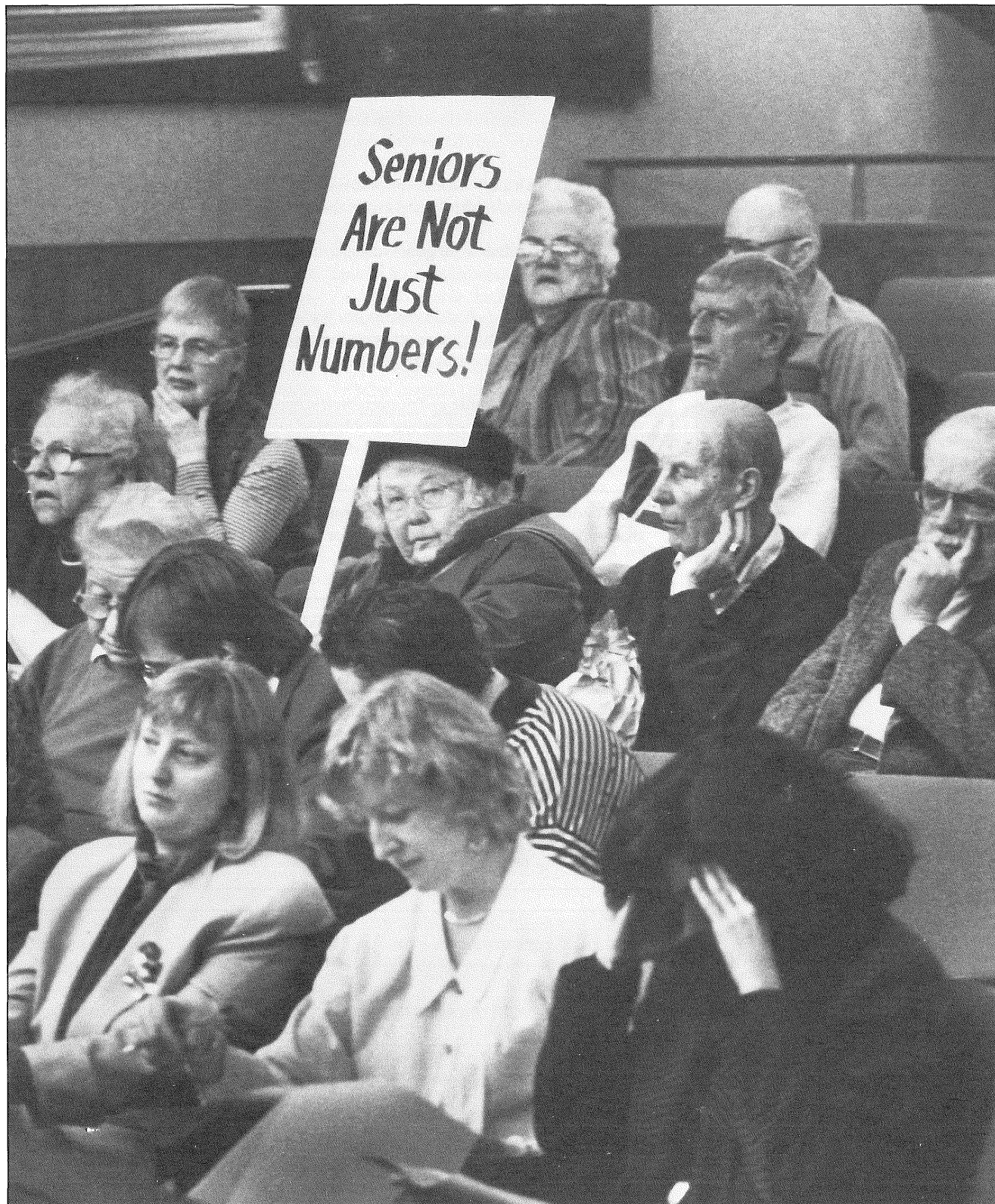
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SESSION WEEKLY

MAR 11 1994

Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ March 11, 1994 ♦ Volume 11, Number 3

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SESSION WEEKLY

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Week at a glance

The carrot and the stick — Lawmakers want to get tough on juvenile crime this session. But the plan approved by the House Judiciary Committee actually has more money for crime prevention programs than for law enforcement. **Page 3**

Flood relief — A bill to help out the hardest hit victims of last spring's floods makes its way through the House Agriculture Committee. **Page 3**

Marshall's Catch 22 — Lawmakers and residents of the Marshall area debate the need for a \$1.6 million flood-control reservoir on the Redwood River. **Page 4**

Bad idea to brandish a BB gun — Displaying a BB gun in a threatening manner could become a felony. **Page 6**

Earlier school start — Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, falls on a unique day this year, which could cause many Jewish students to miss the first day of school. A bill would allow schools to start a little earlier this year. **Page 7**

"Far out" in Sparsityville — Fourteen rural school districts would get more money from the state to cope with their unique problems in isolated areas of Minnesota. A bill being considered in an education finance division would increase the "sparsity aid" in isolated school districts. **Page 8**

Teen daddies — Teen mothers have several support programs. But a House bill proposes that an educational fatherhood program for male teens be created. **Page 8**

Government watch dogs — A House bill is designed to make it easier for the winners in lawsuits over open meeting law violations to collect attorney's fees from the losers. The measure would also increase the fine for violating the law. **Page 11**

Apartment smokers beware — Some lawmakers want to ban smoking in common areas of apartment buildings. And they also want to educate more people about the dangers of secondhand smoke. **Page 12**

The suburban wall? — A Minneapolis lawmaker is trying again to make Twin Cities suburbs with the greatest job growth open their communities to low- and moderate income people. A similar bill was vetoed last year by the governor. **Page 12**

Cracking down on insurance fraud — Lawmakers want to require insurance companies to notify police even if they only suspect insurance fraud. **Page 13**

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On the cover: Members of Group Health Seniors Plus protested a possible merger between Ramsey Health Care Inc. and HealthPartners Inc. (HF2296) March 10 before the Health and Human Services Committee.

—photo by Laura Phillips

Highlights

Juvenile justice . . .

Crime bill employs both carrots and sticks

The ultimate solution to Minnesota's juvenile crime problem may lie in strong families and unified communities, but the Legislature knows it can't wait for that.

That's why, this year, lawmakers are pushing a tough new comprehensive juvenile crime bill that treats more teens as adults, creates more juvenile prison space, funds more judges to handle the increasing caseload, and creates mandatory minimum sentences for some crimes such as drive-by shootings.

After 25 hours of discussion over several days, the House Judiciary Committee approved the bill (HF2074) March 10. The omnibus juvenile crime bill now moves to the Ways and Means Committee for debate.

The proposal, sponsored by Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), carries an \$18.5 million price tag. In addition, Minnesota counties would have to come up with several million additional dollars to pay for everything from more public defenders to new detention programs for juveniles.

Skoglund said his bill, which includes many of the recommendations of the Minnesota Supreme Court Advisory Task Force on the Juvenile Justice System, is "not really a very punitive bill. . . . More money is going for prevention than is going for law enforcement."

He pointed to \$3.5 million for pre-school education programs and violence prevention grants and \$2 million for after-school and summer work programs for at-risk youth. A \$3 million appropriation for more probation officers also can be viewed as an element of crime prevention, Skoglund said.

HF2074 also creates new penalties for some juvenile offenses. A minor carrying an assault weapon in public would face a felony charge rather than a misdemeanor. Drive-by shootings would be added to the list of crimes that warrant a mandatory minimum sentence. The bill does not specify the sentence.

Not all attempts to toughen juvenile crime laws succeeded, however.

Skoglund's attempt to raise the legal age from 18 to 21 for possessing a pistol or semi-automatic assault rifle was defeated during a marathon nine-hour committee meeting

March 4. Rep. Warren Limmer (IR-Maple Grove) succeeded with his amendment to maintain the current age.

In the same vein, the committee rejected an amendment which would have allowed counties or cities to prohibit people younger than 25 from possessing pistols or assault weapons.

Several provisions of the bill would change juvenile court procedures:

- Juveniles over the age of 16 charged with first-degree murder or first-degree criminal sexual conduct would be automatically prosecuted as an adult.
- Most juvenile conviction records would be kept on file for three more years than current law mandates—until the offender reaches the age of 26, or until 28 for sex offenders.
- A new category of "serious youthful offender" would be established and defined as a 14- to 17-year-old charged with a felony. Juvenile court judges could use their discretion to decide who is a "serious youthful offender." A 14- to 17-year-old who is considered such would be entitled to legal representation and a jury trial. If found guilty, the juvenile would receive both an adult criminal sentence and a juvenile sentence. The adult penalty would not be imposed if the minor successfully completes the juvenile penalty. However, should a serious youthful offender commit another crime—or violate the terms of the juvenile penalty—the adult criminal penalty would then be imposed. Court records for "serious youthful offenders" would be forwarded to the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) and kept on file for 15 years after the disposition of a case.
- Juveniles, 14 and older, would be tried as adults only for felony offenses. Current law allows them to be tried as adults for any offense. There would be a presumption to try a 16- or 17-year-old as an adult if the juvenile court decides a prison sentence is likely. In other words, they would face an adult trial unless they prove they warrant a juvenile hearing.

- A juvenile court could subpoena a minor's parent or guardian at any hearing held during a delinquency proceeding. A parent or guardian not complying could be held in contempt of court.

The juvenile justice bill also would provide the Department of Corrections with \$1.5 million to create several small, secure regional prisons to hold serious youthful offenders. The money should pay for up to 50 new beds throughout the state. Corrections officials would have an additional \$1 million for adult and juvenile supervised community service programs.

Since HF2074 calls for more juveniles to be tried as adults, the district courts would have more cases. To help, the bill allocates \$372,000 to create four new judgeships.

—Mordecai Specktor



AGRICULTURE

Flood relief

The House Agriculture Committee March 8 approved a \$54 million relief package for the hardest hit victims of last spring's floods.

Sponsored by Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls), the bulk of HF2249 lies in two major state-funded relief programs.

The first would set aside \$15 million to help eligible farmers pay this year's property taxes.

The second would spend \$30 million to subsidize an interest buy-down program to make credit available for farmers and small businesses, groups that likely will need loans to help them rebuild and plant crops this spring.

Under the buy-down program, the state would pay up to \$3,750 of interest on the first \$100,000 of a loan to an eligible farmer or small business. The state's contribution is expected to leverage nearly \$1 billion in loans.

The bill would spend an additional \$9.4 million from the state's general fund for various other assistance programs, including:

- \$5 million to the Department of Jobs and Training for emergency job training and creation programs;

- \$2 million to the Department of Agriculture to buy new machinery to test the protein content of grain. This machinery would be leased to grain elevators at cost. It is expected to curb the millions of dollars farmers lose each year when faulty machines give inaccurate or inconsistent readings on their grain samples;
- \$1.6 million for farm and small business management programs at technical colleges; and
- \$430,000 for grants to the University of Minnesota or other state educational institutions to research grain diseases.

HF2249 also includes a provision that, according to Wenzel, would eliminate the need for the state to pass disaster relief bills in the future. The bill calls on the state to establish a permanent farm disaster insurance fund. Under this plan, a state-owned insurance company would sell crop insurance to farmers that would supplement federal crop insurance. The bill allocates \$250,000 to set up the program.

The bill now moves to the House Taxes Committee.

Last spring's flood caused an estimated \$1.6 billion in damages to Minnesota farms and businesses. According to Wenzel, Minnesota has received about \$800 million in federal disaster relief and will likely receive a total of about \$1 billion in federal relief by the time "all is said and done."



BONDING

Catch RW-22

Although Marshall has experienced severe flooding during the past few years, a proposal to spend \$1.6 million for a flood-control reservoir project wasn't all that popular at a meeting of the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee.

Ron Harnack, executive director of the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), told the committee March 7 that the "area has significant flooding on a regular basis."

He said the "RW-22" project on the Redwood River near Marshall in southwestern Minnesota is needed to hold back heavy rains and spring runoff that wash out roads and bridges, flood farms, and damage property in Marshall.

The Redwood Reservoir project would consist of a 30-foot high earthen dam extending for 1,000 feet between two hills. The dam would create a reservoir of more than 1,000 acres at the height of a severe flood.

While the project received the endorsement



Jesse Purvey, 3, of Minneapolis, got a look at the syringe farmer Loren Barclay used in a skit about recombinant Bovine Growth Hormone (rBGH). Barclay and Margie Werritt (in the cow suit) performed the skit March 8 during a Capitol rotunda rally supporting a bill that calls for the labeling and certification of dairy farms and products.

of Sen. Arlene Lesewski (IR-Marshall) and John Feda, a former mayor of Marshall, some area residents are not enthusiastic about it.

Kenneth Erickson, who owns land in Murray County, said that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dropped the reservoir project in 1980 because it was "not environmentally nor economically feasible."

The corps determined the project would cost \$6.6 million, not \$1.6 million, he said.

Erickson said he would lose 90 acres of his farm land to the reservoir. He also said he would lose access to his barns.

He said 23 land owners would be affected and has presented lawmakers with a petition signed by 100 people who oppose the reservoir.

The state says it will reimburse landowners whose property is flooded. But some property owners say money is not enough.

"My farm is not for sale," said Erickson. "My entire farm is going to be ruined by this project."

Committee members will consider the BWSR's request as they develop a bonding bill within the next week.

If approved, the state would sell bonds to pay for the project.

The 1993 Legislature approved \$250,000 for land acquisition for a flood control project on the Redwood River, upstream from Marshall.

Green education

Five Minnesota environmental learning centers that teach students about natural resources and house overnight guests have asked the Legislature for \$7.5 million to expand their centers.

The House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee heard the proposal March 8. It will consider the request for inclusion in its bonding bill recommendations which it expects to soon forward to the Capital Investment Committee.

As part of a \$25 million expansion, the Blandin Foundation of Grand Rapids, which specializes in rural Minnesota causes, has agreed to donate \$7.5 million to expand the nature learning centers if the state matches the money. The endeavor is called Project EarthSense.

The balance of the money would come from businesses, individuals, and other foundations.

Gov. Arne Carlson has included \$7.5 million in his bonding proposal for the nature learning centers. The sale of state bonds would pay for the projects.

Minnesota's five environmental learning centers are: Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center, Finland; Deep Portage Conservation Reserve, Hackensack; Long Lake Conservation Center, Palisade; Audubon Center of the North Woods, Sandstone; and Forest Resource Center, Lanesboro.

Last year the Wolf Ridge center served 15,000 students from 165 schools. Its director, Jack

Pichotta, said there is a waiting list of 140 schools that want to come to the center.

The Wolf Ridge center, like the four others, offers three- and five-day programs for school children. The centers offer some 30 different classes on topics ranging from beaver ecology to rock climbing.

K-12 education bonding

If a House education subcommittee has its way, \$51 million dollars in state bonding proceeds would be granted to help Minnesota school districts pay for equipment and new construction projects in 1994.

The bonding request, approved March 9, is more than double the governor's request of \$17 million for K-12 education projects.

The following list includes some of the requests the K-12 Education Finance Division's Facilities Subcommittee approved, which are also included in the governor's bonding plan:

- \$2.7 million for the state's schools for deaf and blind students at Faribault. The money would be used to demolish one building and equip another with more classrooms, a library media center, and offices;
- \$1.5 million for the Minnesota Center for Arts Education, a magnet high school in Golden Valley, to renovate one dormitory and create a physical education/recreation center in another;
- \$9.8 million for the Big Lake School District to construct a new high school, remodel an elementary school, and convert the existing high school into a middle school; and
- \$3 million for the Nett Lake School District to complete construction of an elementary school that began with a \$5 million grant from the Legislature in 1993.

Both the Nett Lake and Big Lake amounts would be in the form of Maximum Effort Loans, which are available to some "property poor" school districts. The state forwards the money from the sale of bonds and the districts are required to pay them back. If the districts are unable to repay the state within 50 years, the loan would be forgiven.

Also included in the House K-12 bonding bill, but not in the governor's proposal, are requests for:

- \$20 million (two \$10 million grants) for two or more metropolitan school districts to create a specialized magnet school to achieve racial desegregation;
- \$6 million for the school districts of Atwater, Cosmos, and Grove City to build a combined high school;
- \$3 million in grants to help schools make their buildings handicapped accessible, in compliance with the Americans with Dis-

abilities Act;

- \$5 million in grants to make public libraries handicapped accessible; and
- an additional \$35,000 for the state schools for deaf and blind students at Faribault, to renovate and equip a science classroom.

The K-12 education bonding bill now goes to the full Education Committee.

Higher education bonding

The Higher Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee March 4 approved a \$233.8 million bonding bill that would fund construction and equipment projects at Minnesota's public colleges and universities in fiscal year 1994.

Division members want to grant \$53.4 million to the Minnesota State University System, \$32 million to the Community College System, \$114.1 to the University of Minnesota and \$34 million to the Technical College System. (See March 4, 1994, *Session Weekly*, page 4)

The sale of state bonds would pay for the approved projects.

The bill, not yet formally introduced, now moves to the full committee.

Below is a list of some of the bonding requests:

Technical College System

- \$22.5 million to construct and equip a new technical college campus on the Brainerd Community College Campus;
- \$600,000 to complete construction of a driving course at the Dakota County Technical College;
- \$600,000 for Bemidji Technical College to draw designs for remodeling and expanding the campus media center, child care center, a children's playground, a new school entrance, additional classrooms, laboratories, and offices.

Community College System

- \$11.2 million to improve Normandale Community College classrooms, the learning resource center, campus center, teaching labs, offices, and institutional services;
- \$8 million for Cambridge Community College Center to build classrooms, a learning resource center, campus interactive television facilities, teaching labs, offices, and institutional services;
- \$960,000 for Inver Hills Community College to relocate an entrance road, remodel part of the learning resource center and to draw designs for expanded classrooms, the learning resource center, teaching labs, offices, and a fitness center.

State University System:

- \$20.9 million to construct a new Winona State University library and to install an air cooling system;
- \$4 million to build a new air cooling system at St. Cloud State University and to draw construction plans for a new library;
- \$300,000 for Bemidji State University to draw plans to remodel and expand its library.

University of Minnesota

- \$25 million to construct a new Carlson School of Management building;
- \$12.5 million to construct the first phase of a new archival research library to house university collections as well as overflow collections for the state university system, private colleges, city, county, and regional libraries;
- \$13.7 million to renovate and reconstruct labs and classrooms in the electrical engineering building for the mechanical engineering program;
- \$22.4 million to renovate and construct an addition to the architecture building;
- \$4.1 million for the University of Minnesota-Duluth campus to construct an addition to its medical school.



Majority Leader Rep. Phil Carruthers and Minority Leader Rep. Steve Sviggum assisted with the House clothing drive March 9. The drive brought in about 40 bags of clothing and kitchen items, all donated by House members and staff to help families left homeless by a fire in a St. Paul home. Five children died in the Feb. 28 fire on St. Paul's East Side.

Convention center expansion

The Minneapolis Convention Center is running out of room to accommodate all the trade shows and other groups that want to use its facilities, according to testimony at a March 10 finance committee meeting.

The committee approved a bill (HF2301) that would grant Minneapolis \$14.8 million to nearly double the exhibition space in its convention center. The state would sell bonds to pay for the project.

"A major convention center is not only good for Minneapolis, but outstanding for the entire state of Minnesota," said Minneapolis City Council Member Alice Rainville (4th Ward).

The total cost of the expansion would be \$115 million, according to Rainville, and more state money in later years likely would be needed to complete the project.

The expansion is absolutely necessary to keep the convention center competitive on a national and international level, Rainville told members of the House Economic Development, Infrastructure and Regulation Finance Committee.

The expansion would create about 4,800 new full-time jobs and bring in \$299 million to the state each year, said Craig Skiem of Coopers and Lybrand, the accounting firm that studied the proposed expansion for the city of Minneapolis.

Rep. Don Frerichs (IR-Rochester) questioned whether it was appropriate to use state money to fund a project that would mostly benefit the Twin Cities area.

Rainville replied that the entire state would get a return on this investment because the newly created jobs would generate more income tax revenue. She added that many out-of-state convention goers also combine a Minnesota vacation with their trips to the Minneapolis Convention Center.

HF2301, sponsored by Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls), now goes to the House Capital Investment Committee. That committee considers all bonding bills and will decide which proposals will be incorporated into this session's omnibus bonding bill.



BUSINESS

Women and business

Two bills designed to study the needs of women-owned businesses won approval from the full House Commerce and Economic Development Committee March 10.

Rep. Geri Evans (DFL-New Brighton) has sponsored a bill (HF1984) asking the Department of Commerce to study the credit

needs of women-owned businesses. The department would report to the Legislature in February 1995.

Rep. Darlene Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park) has sponsored a bill (HF1846) asking the Department of Trade and Economic Development to study the status of women-owned businesses in Minnesota as well as nationwide. The priority of this study, according to Luther, is to pinpoint the areas in which government can assist these businesses. The department would report to the Legislature in January 1995.

The bills now go to the House Economic Development Infrastructure and Regulation Finance Committee.

Aviva Breen, executive director of the Legislative Commission on the Economic Status of Women, has stated that it is difficult to obtain information on women-owned businesses. (See Feb. 25, 1994, *Session Weekly*, page 5.)



CRIME

Drawing a bead on BB guns

Brandishing a BB gun in a threatening manner would become a felony offense if a bill approved by the House Judiciary Committee March 7 becomes law.

HF2351 would "close a loophole in the law," explained bill sponsor Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls). It would add BB guns to a current state law that outlaws the threatening use of replica firearms.

Skoglund, displaying a BB gun that looked like an actual 9mm pistol, explained that such a weapon "can take an eye out" or even kill a person.

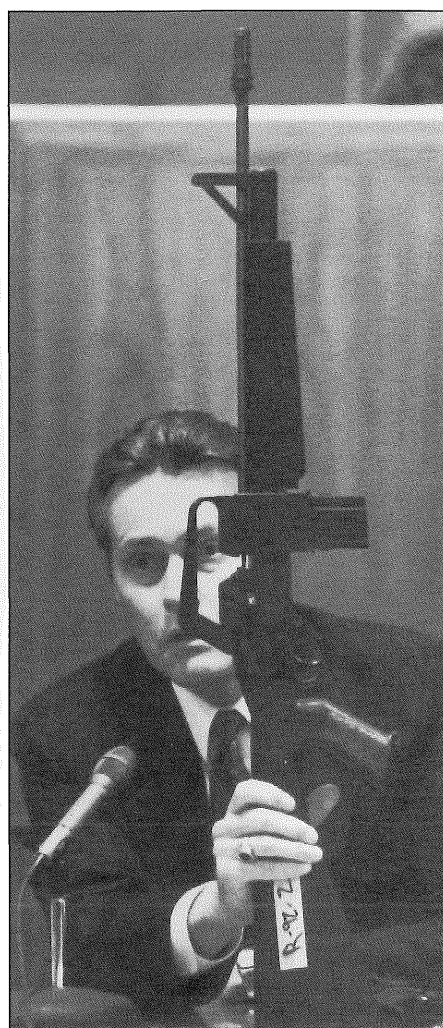
"In low light conditions, in a dark alley, [the BB pistol] would appear, to a police officer on the street, to be a real weapon," said Don Peterson, a special agent with the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, as he held up both the BB gun and his smaller 9mm pistol for comparison.

Peterson also displayed a BB gun resembling an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle, the civilian version of the military M-16.

The bill defines a BB gun as a device firing a shot measuring .18 of an inch or less in diameter. Threatening someone with a BB gun would be punishable by "not more than one year and one day" in jail and/or a \$3,000 fine.

Also, the bill expands the law against carrying a rifle or shotgun in a public place to include BB guns. Such action would be a gross misdemeanor offense.

The committee is expected to include HF2351 in this year's omnibus crime bill.



Don Peterson, a Bureau of Criminal Apprehension special agent, held up a Crossman, model 17 BB gun designed to look like an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle. He testified March 7 before the Judiciary Committee in support of a bill that would include BB guns under the law prohibiting the threatening use of replica firearms.

More judges needed

Because legislators have created new categories of crimes and stiffened penalties for existing crimes, Minnesota judges say they need more staff to handle the courtroom overload, according to testimony before a House judiciary panel.

"We're trying to rearrange the deck chairs on the Titanic," said Kevin Burke, chief judge of Hennepin County District Court.

Burke was one of four district judges who testified March 8 before the Judiciary Finance Division of the Judiciary Committee, which is considering supplemental budget requests for courts and law enforcement agencies.

The workload of judges is so heavy, Burke said, that judges across the state decide a DWI case in an average of only 11 minutes. In Hennepin County, Burke said, judges average less than two minutes on a misdemeanor case.

The judges asked the division to create positions for 16 more judges, half of whom could be retired judges who could travel around the state and hear cases when a sitting judge is ill or on vacation.

The need for more judiciary funding is not limited to the metropolitan area, said Judge Gerald Seibel of Morris in the Eighth Judicial District in western Minnesota.

Seibel said he and other judges in rural districts often must travel to perform their duties; therefore, they need more court reporters and law clerks to help them handle their cases more efficiently.

Seibel said he shares a court reporter with a judge in another county and is often more than 100 miles away from the reporter when he needs a transcript of a court proceeding or deposition.

Because of the shortage of court reporters, Seibel said he sometimes must transcribe courtroom proceedings directly from tape recordings.

That's not a very cost-effective way for an \$83,000-a-year judge to spend his time, he told division members.

Tattoo library

Law enforcement and correctional agencies soon may be required to photograph the tattoos of convicts and people who are arrested, under a proposed Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) program.

A bill (HF2344) approved by the House Judiciary Committee March 10 would establish a computer database of tattoo identification information. Currently, information about tattoos and other identifying marks can only be found on fingerprint cards.

The bill's author, Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), explained that a crime victim might not remember an assailant's face, but can recall a distinctive tattoo. A police officer could then go to the BCA database for a list of possible suspects who have such tattoos.

Law enforcement and correctional agencies also would be required to describe where the tattoos appear on a convict's, or arrested person's, body.

The proposal also includes a \$100,000 appropriation to institute the program.

The bill now moves to the committee's Judiciary Finance Division.



EDUCATION

Note: K-12 education bonding bill. See story under "Bonding" on page 5.

Starting school later

Recognizing an important Jewish holiday, the House Education Committee unanimously approved a bill March 8 that could have some students in school a few days early this fall.

Sponsored by Rep. Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park), the measure would allow districts the option of starting the 1994-95 school year on the Thursday or Friday before Labor Day.

Minnesota law currently prohibits school districts from starting classes before Labor Day. This year, however, Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, begins the day after Labor Day, which is usually the first day of school.

Jewish children do not go to school on Rosh Hashanah, known as two of the most holy days in the Jewish religion. The days are traditionally set aside for confession and introspection.

The bill (HF1845) would enable Jewish students to attend the first day of classes, which is recognized as uniquely important to both teachers and students for setting the tone of the school year.

Each district would decide whether to start school early. Since the holiday comes early

Graduation rule opinions sought

The House Education Committee is accepting written testimony on the proposed graduation rule until March 21.

Although the State Board of Education is scheduled to adopt a graduation rule by July 1 of this year, some lawmakers are asking that that deadline be moved back a year.

Under the proposed rule, students would need to demonstrate knowledge in reading, math, writing, science, government, geography, physical health, and wellness.

But some lawmakers and citizens are questioning whether the proposed rule is too vague, whether the proposed evaluations are fair, and what the possible costs would be.

Please send testimony to: House Education Committee, 379 State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155.

just once every 30 years, the bill is intended for 1994 only.

According to Rabbi Howard Siegel of the B'nai Emet Synagogue in St. Louis Park, Rosh Hashanah is "the most participated in religious activity of the year."

Brian Rusche, director of the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, said both Catholic and Protestant communities strongly support the bill.

A representative from Minnesota's hotel and campground industries — the primary force behind the law prohibiting the first day of school before Labor Day — told the committee her group supports the bill because it would affect only 1994.

HF1845 now goes to the House floor. A similar bill has been approved by the Senate Education Committee.

Learning disabilities

A typical classroom is equipped to educate most students. A special education classroom helps many physically and emotionally disabled students, and others with special needs. There is one group, however, some say is forgotten — students with learning disabilities.

Under a bill discussed by the K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee March 7, districts could train all their full-time teachers to work with students with learning disabilities in a mainstream classroom.

The bill (HF1902), proposed by Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park), is meant to give students with learning disabilities a full — and adequate — education in a mainstream classroom. It would establish a three-year pilot program for districts to train their regular teachers. Also, the bill would help free up specialists to work with teachers on programs for students with learning disabilities.

According to Sonja Kerr, a lobbyist with Learning Disabilities of Minnesota, this program is crucial because many children who are not labeled "special ed" don't fit the "regular ed" profile, either.

Currently, the only option for many students with learning disabilities is to go into special education, Kerr said. Special education classes, traditionally meant for students with physical or emotional barriers to learning, do not always cater to students with specific learning disabilities.

Kerr said there are 85,000 Minnesota students in special education programs; 35,000 of those have learning disabilities.

She added that some students with learn-

ing disabilities do not qualify for special education, and are stuck in a regular classroom where the teacher may or may not have the training to work with them.

"All of the children in my room have a right to their education," Cheryl Schneider, a second grade teacher in the Mounds View School District, told the division. "I need someone to help them, or [for myself] to get training so that I know what to do with them."

The bill would appropriate \$800,000 in fiscal year 1995 from the state's general fund to establish the program. The Department of Education would grant the money to districts that set up pilot programs, which would be entitled "Options Plus."

Under **HF1902**, any disabled child who qualifies for services under the state's special education laws and any disabled child under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, or Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act, would be eligible for assistance from these programs.

The committee did not vote on the bill.

Fatherhood responsibility

The Harlem Globetrotters dribbled into a House education division hearing March 7 to urge lawmakers to support a \$1 million bill to help educate young fathers.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. David Tomasoni (DFL-Chisholm), would provide money for programs that teach junior and senior high school males about the responsibilities of parenthood.

Supporters of the measure (**HF2232**) say it

will have a long-term effect on social problems such as crime and poverty because it addresses the real root of those issues: the absence of fathers in children's lives.

"A black child has only one chance in five of growing up with two parents," said Marvin Walters, speaking for the Globetrotters.

He cited a recent study which found that 70 percent of kids in juvenile justice institutions have grown up without a father, and that Minnesota children are owed more than \$450 million in back child support payments.

"We must teach males about what it means to raise a child," he said. "We have got to teach our young people — at an early age — parenting is no joke."

Walters finished by saying there is currently a lack of support available to young men. "There are always programs for teenage mothers, but what about the fathers?"

Neil Tift, a family mediator and the director of the Father's Resource Center, agreed that young men need support.

"Girl Scouts get a service bar for child care, Boy Scouts do not," he said.

Tift also said he hopes the programs will help prevent teen pregnancies by teaching young men how to act responsibly "before they become teen fathers."

The Globetrotters have teamed up with the United Way to promote childhood development programs in Minnesota and across the country.

HF2232 calls on the state to spend \$1 million from its 1995 fiscal year general fund for a minimum of 10 grants. The commissioner of the Department of Education would distribute the money to programs that qualify.

To be eligible, a youth or parenting program must work with school districts to

provide education in such areas as parenting, child development, decision-making in relationships, and the legal implications of parenthood.

The K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee hosted the March 7 hearing.

Aid for rural schools

The state would double a portion of its current aid to the most "far out" school districts under a bill that went before the K-12 Education Finance Division March 8.

HF2075, proposed by House Speaker Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls), calls on the state to spend an additional \$2.4 million each year in "sparsity revenue" to be divided among the 14 most geographically isolated school districts in Minnesota.

Among the districts to benefit from the bill are Cook County schools, which span more than 1,600 square miles, and Lake Superior schools, which encompass more than 2,600 square miles.

According to officials from those districts, their distance from other districts creates a unique need for state help.

"We must rely on our own internal resources to provide everything for these students," said Donald Langan, superintendent of Cook County schools.

Before he came to Cook County, Langan said, he taught in another rural area of the state, but was closer to other districts and could share some resources, such as specialized teachers and facilities.

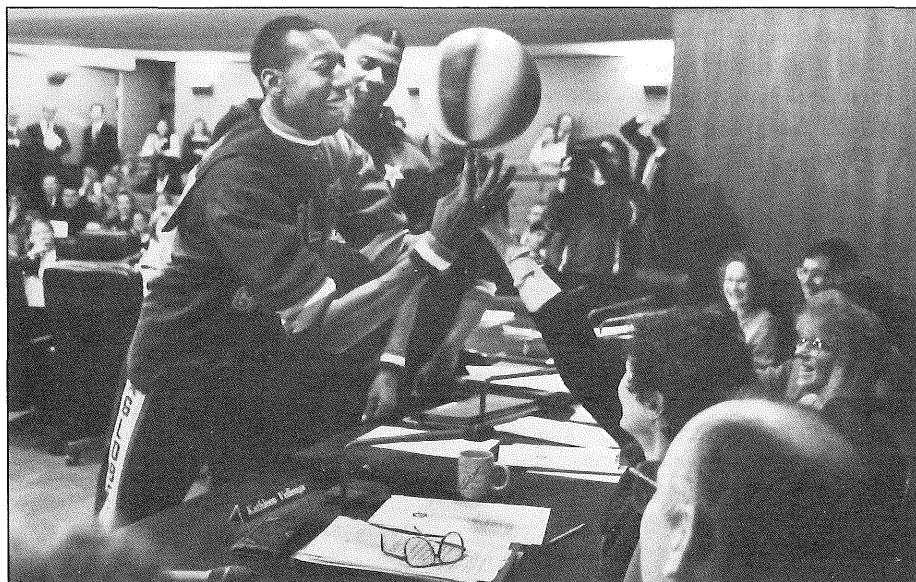
"We were able to put together, through cooperation, a very rich curriculum for those youngsters," he said. "It's a reduction of alternatives when you're this far away."

Langan said Cook County High School is more than 50 miles from the next closest high school.

The bill would increase the "isolation index number" that helps determine how much sparsity aid the schools receive. That formula has not been changed since 1987, when the Legislature modified rules concerning which districts qualify for the aid, but did not increase the funding.

More than 60 districts currently receive a total of \$5.8 million in sparsity aid each year; the bill would affect just the 14 most isolated school districts.

HF2075 will stay in the K-12 Education Finance Division for further consideration. Although most committee members expressed support for the measure, its passage depends largely on the amount of money the



Harlem Globetrotter Billy Ray Hobley tried to place a spinning basketball on Rep. Kathleen Vellenga's finger during a March 7 K-12 Education Finance Division hearing. The Globetrotters spoke in favor of a bill calling for educating males on the responsibilities of fatherhood.

division sees fit to propose spending this year.

School bus drivers

The second Monday in January would be designated to honor school bus drivers, under a bill given preliminary approval by the House March 10.

"School bus driving is one of the most difficult, thankless jobs there is," said Rep. Bob Anderson (DFL-Ottertail), the bill's sponsor.

The bill (HF1811) calls on schools to use the day for special programs honoring and fostering appreciation for Minnesota school bus and Head Start drivers.

Anderson said a retired school bus driver in his district brought the proposal to him a few years ago.

Some members did express concern that declaring a special day for bus drivers would open up the flood gates for other groups to seek a designated day.

"We don't have a day for policemen or firemen or nurses [and others] who take care of our children on a daily basis," said Rep. Charlie Weaver (IR-Anoka). "Let's not get a little carried away here."

Weaver offered an amendment that would recognize the importance of bus drivers, but would not declare a specific day in their honor. The amendment failed 84 to 43.



ENERGY

Nuclear waste storage OK'd

A House energy committee approved a bill March 7 that would allow Northern States Power Company to store radioactive waste in above-ground casks beside its Prairie Island nuclear power plant.

The action took place after the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee heard more than six hours of public testimony from NSP and others who support the plan and from those who say the casks would pose unacceptable risks to humans and the environment.

The bill (HF2140) specifically authorizes NSP to transfer radioactive waste from its indoor, underwater temporary storage pool at the Prairie Island plant in Red Wing to 17 above-ground steel casks weighing 122 tons when filled with radioactive waste.

Without the Legislature's approval for the casks, the Prairie Island plant, running at full capacity, would run out of storage space for its spent fuel in May 1995, said Laura McCarten,

NSP's manager of regulatory projects.

The waste storage issue is before the Legislature because last June the Minnesota Court of Appeals ruled that NSP's request for above-ground storage needed legislative approval.

Although NSP received approval for its plan from the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) in August 1992, the issue landed in court three months later when the Prairie Island Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal Council appealed the PUC decision.

Before approving the bill, the committee deleted a portion that would have given the Prairie Island Mdewakanton Dakota Tribe \$2.2 million a year for eight years, the additional amount of time the plant would be able to operate with the 17 casks.

Tom Anzelc, a spokesperson for the tribe, had previously told the committee that the tribal council was insulted by that monetary provision.

The committee also amended the bill to ensure that after eight years, any decision to expand the storage site beyond 17 casks would need further legislative approval. The original version of the bill gave the PUC that authority.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris), now goes to the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

Many of the bill's opponents testified that approving the plan could mean that the Prairie Island site would become a de facto permanent waste storage site because the federal government would not be able to develop a permanent storage site.

"It is not at all unlikely that this approval is tantamount to making Minnesota a high-level-waste storage site," said Todd Otis, a former state representative and now a DFL candidate for state auditor.

Highly radioactive waste from other nuclear power plants is a mounting problem, said Richard Duncan, a lawyer representing Minnesotans for Nuclear Responsibility. If Prairie Island constructs the above-ground storage casks, he said, the plant may be forced to accept waste from nuclear plants in other states.

"Once you let the genie out of the bottle and establish a waste site, the Legislature will probably lose control over that site," Duncan told the committee.

Duncan based his opinion on an interpretation of interstate commerce laws, which prohibit states from placing restrictions on trade that crosses state lines.

"This is not a referendum on nuclear power," said Don Storm, chair of the Public Utilities Commission, who spoke in favor of the bill. The dry-cask storage plan is economically sound and in the public's best

interest, he told the committee.

Storm also said that alternative forms of energy generation such as wind and solar power, which opponents say can replace much of Prairie Island's energy-generating capacity, are not developed enough to be a cost-effective replacement.



ENVIRONMENT

Note: See "Catch RW-22" and "Green education" under "Bonding," page 4.

Septic system standards

By 1996, all Minnesota counties and cities would need to adopt strict anti-pollution rules for septic tanks, under a proposal approved March 10 by the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

More than 340,000 failed or malfunctioning septic tanks exist statewide, according to Patty Burke of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

"A failed system is going to threaten groundwater or surface water or both," she told committee members.

Septic tanks, which gather, decompose, and drain human wastes into the soil, are needed by households that are not connected to municipal sewer systems.

The MPCA has guidelines regulating septic tanks and some counties already have adopted them. They regulate such things as how deeply a septic tank should be buried, how and where it should drain, and how far away it should lie from surface water.

The bill (HF2158), sponsored by Rep. Dave Bishop (IR-Rochester), also would require that an existing septic sewage system be inspected whenever someone wants to build an additional bedroom or bathroom onto a house.

Such home improvements, Bishop said, are a likely indication that septic tanks may soon be subject to greater use.

If the inspection shows that a septic system doesn't meet MPCA rules, a building permit would be denied until the tanks are improved or replaced.

Rep. Dave Battaglia (DFL-Two Harbors) was one of three committee members who said the bill should somehow provide financial help to property owners who may be forced to make expensive improvements to their septic tanks.

"There isn't anyone who doesn't want to clean up the problem," Battaglia said. "But there are many people who can't afford to do it."



ETHICS

Lobbying disclosure

The Minnesota House approved the most stringent lobbying disclosure bill ever March 3 on a 123-to-9 vote. But the bill could become even more stringent once the Senate gets through with it.

The House bill would place a \$5 cap on what a lobbyist can spend on a legislator without reporting it. Current law allows lobbyists to spend up to \$50 without filing a report.

Although the \$5 limit was in the original draft of the bill, the House Ethics Committee had raised it to \$20. (See Feb. 25, 1994, *Session Weekly*, page 10.) The \$5 limit was reinstated on the House floor March 3 on a 129-to-2 vote.

The Senate, however, is considering an even tougher measure. The Senate Committee on Ethics and Campaign Reform approved an amendment to **HF1863** March 8 that would prohibit lawmakers from accepting any gifts from lobbyists. A lobbyist could still pay for meals or entertainment, but would be required to report anything worth \$5 or more.

If given final approval by the Senate, the House would then have to approve those changes or work out the differences in conference committee, where up to five members from both the House and Senate work to reach a compromise on the different versions of a bill.

In addition to lowering the lobbying reporting threshold, the House bill would require a business or special interest group to report the name, address, and employer of any lobbyist it hires to influence legislation. Under current law, the business or special interest group must report the total amount spent on lobbying activity, but need not identify individual lobbyists.

In addition, the House version would prohibit a legislator from becoming a lobbyist until one year after he or she leaves office.



FAMILY

Postnuptial contract update

A bill to allow spouses — who each hold more than \$1.2 million in assets — to create a postnuptial contract defining property matters won preliminary approval from the House March 10.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Dave Bishop (IR-Rochester), specifies that these agreements could not deal with child support, but would be specifically applicable to estate planning.

Ethics Committee membership changes

The House Ethics Committee will now have an equal number of DFLers and Independent-Republicans sitting on it, following a change in House rules March 3.

Traditionally, the Ethics Committee, which in the past was limited to passing judgment on the conduct of House members, has had equal representation from both parties.

In September, House Speaker Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls) expanded the duties of the committee and its membership, and also added the Member Conduct Division.

While membership on the Member Conduct Division remained equal between DFLers and IRs, the full committee had more DFLers than IRs — as do all other House committees. (The House speaker has the authority to appoint committee membership.)

The committee was assigned to assemble an ethics bill and to help develop an ethics code.

The amendment adopted March 3 requires equal party representation on both the conduct division and the full committee. The amendment, offered by Rep. Brad Stanius (IR-White Bear Lake), was approved 77 to 55.

The three new members are: Reps. Greg Davids (IR-Preston), Virgil Johnson (IR-Caledonia), and Jerry Knickerbocker (IR-Minnetonka).

Two other changes were made March 10 in committee membership that should be noted in the Committee Information section that appeared in the March 3, 1994, *Session Weekly*.

Reps. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) and Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) were officially added to the Rules and Legislative Administration Committee.

The postnuptial contract would be void if either spouse files for separation or divorce within two years of signing it. It can be used for changing or revoking a prenuptial contract.

The House approved an amendment, authored by Rep. Kathleen Vellenga (DFL-St. Paul), that would allow a couple to share legal counsel.

The impetus of the bill comes from a prospective University of Minnesota donor who wants to donate a large sum of money. He wants to make sure he and his wife's assets are clearly defined so that in the case of a death, for example, his wife couldn't contest his will. (See March 4, 1994, *Session Weekly*, page 8.)

HF1788 now awaits final passage in the House.



GAMBLING

Video lottery, horse racing

Minnesotans may soon get to decide for themselves whether they want off-track betting on horse races — provided live horse racing returns to the state.

But whether video gambling will be allowed in bars and certain restaurants remains an open question, following a failed attempt to exchange paper pulltabs for video lottery terminals.

An omnibus gambling bill approved by a House subcommittee March 4 asks that a proposed constitutional amendment to al-

low off-track betting be put to voters this fall.

But the bill, approved by the House Governmental Operations and Gambling Committee's Gambling Subcommittee, made no mention of video gambling, one of the most heavily lobbied issues in the Legislature this year.

The measure (**SF103**) now moves to the full Governmental Operations and Gambling Committee, where several amendments are expected.

Although the 1991 Legislature approved up to four off-track telereading sites around Minnesota, that law was later declared unconstitutional by the Minnesota Supreme Court. If a constitutional amendment were adopted, the Legislature could re-authorize off-track betting in 1995 or later.

"In order to keep horse racing as a live industry, we do need to have some form of off-track betting," said Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), chair of the committee and chief architect of the gambling proposal. "If there's no chance of live horse racing, there's no point in putting the [constitutional amendment] question on the ballot."

The question of video lottery was quashed after Kahn offered a proposal that would have eliminated paper pulltabs in bars and replaced them with up to four video lottery terminals per establishment.

Under her proposal, gamblers would have been allowed to play such games as blackjack, keno, video pulltabs, and others on the terminals. Video gambling profits would be divided between charitable gambling organi-

zations and the state. The terminals would be connected to, owned, and regulated by, the Minnesota State Lottery computer.

Kahn said her proposal is not an expansion of Minnesota gambling, but rather a replacement — paper pulltabs for video gambling terminals.

"I have agreed with the statement we shouldn't have an expansion of gambling. I don't think that means we shouldn't substitute a technologically superior form of gambling for an obsolete form," Kahn said.

But she voted against her own amendment after a successful vote led by Rep. Bob Haukoos (R-Albert Lea) did away with the section eliminating paper pulltabs.

"Now the amendment only has a video lottery, which is not acceptable to me," Kahn said. She plans to offer her amendment, in its original form, when the bill reaches the full committee.

Haukoos said he has a company in his district which makes paper pulltabs. It employs 70 people and he says he's worried about lost jobs should Minnesota no longer allow the pulltabs.

Also during the March 4 subcommittee meeting, Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) proposed an amendment that would have asked voters if they wanted to do away with all forms of lawful gambling in Minnesota except for social bets. Her amendment was not adopted.

Correction

Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) was misquoted in a story on video gambling in the Feb. 25, 1994, issue of the *Session Weekly*, page 11. Greiling does not support an expansion of gambling in Minnesota.



GOVERNMENT

Open meeting law

The winner in a lawsuit over an open meeting law violation could stand a better chance of having their attorney's fees paid by the loser if a bill approved March 8 by the House Governmental Operations and Gambling Committee becomes law.

Current law doesn't explicitly state whether the winner of such a suit can be awarded attorney's fees. Sometimes those awards are

made, but more often they are not, said bill sponsor Rep. Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center).

"Under current law, an average citizen may say, 'It's really hard to get back attorney's fees, so I'm going to turn my back on this violation,'" Carruthers said.

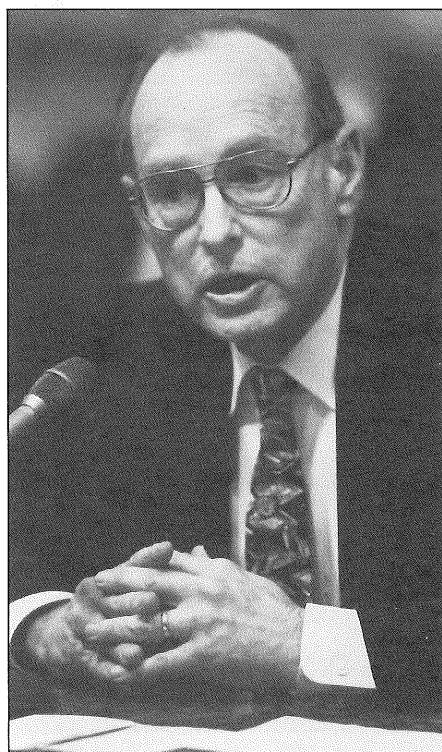
Carruthers' bill (HF613) would explicitly state that attorney's fees up to \$7,500 could be imposed on the loser of an open meeting law dispute in certain cases.

But the measure states that attorney's fees and fines could only be imposed if the court determined that a public body willfully violated the law.

Another provision in the bill calls for raising the fine to \$300 from \$100 for violating the open meeting law. It also specifies that the fine can't be paid with taxpayer money; individual board members would be held liable.

Minnesota's open meeting law ensures that local public entities inform the public of their intent to meet and post their agendas far enough in advance so that interested people can attend. Most meetings involving elected officials are open to the public.

Committee members, in a vote led by Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud), added a provision that Carruthers had earlier deleted from HF613. It says that a public body may close



State Treasurer Michael McGrath spoke against a bill to abolish his office. A subcommittee of the Governmental Operations and Gambling Committee heard the bill March 9. The subcommittee took no action.

a meeting to review employment applications before the body has chosen finalists.

Quality candidates may not apply for a job if their application is public because their present employer may hear of it, Opatz said.

But Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul), disagreed, saying, "I don't know, if people apply, why there should be something secret about it?"

The committee also added a provision that says an individual who is the subject of a closed meeting may request the meeting be opened to the public.

HF613 now moves to the House floor.

Audit exemptions

Townships and cities with annual budgets of less than \$100,000, and those with combined town clerk and town treasurer offices, would not have to undergo annual financial audits, under a bill approved by the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee March 8.

Currently, townships and cities — regardless of size — are required to undergo an audit by the state auditor or a public accountant.

Under the bill, these small cities and townships would contribute \$100 annually to two different funds which would be used to randomly audit 5 percent of both the cities and townships that are exempted from the annual financial audits.

HF2066, sponsored by Rep. Roger Cooper (DFL-Bird Island), now moves to the House Governmental Operations and Gambling Committee.

A boy named Sue

Prince, listen up: Minnesota may soon create an easier way to change your name.

The law now requires a personal court appearance — with two witnesses vouching for your identity — to obtain a legal name change.

Under HF2099, sponsored by Rep. Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul), a person could avoid the court appearance and file a sworn petition, along with affidavits from two people vouching for his or her identity.

Pugh said that the new procedure came at the suggestion of Hennepin County Chief Judge Kevin Burke, who mentioned it as one way to help the courts lighten their caseloads.

The House Judiciary Committee March 7 approved HF2099. The measure now moves to the House floor.



HEALTH

Smokers targeted

It's more difficult to find a place to light up a cigarette these days, and lawmakers are trying to make it even tougher for apartment dwellers.

A bill (HF423) would prohibit smoking in common areas of apartment buildings such as laundry rooms, mail rooms, and hallways. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Edwina Garcia (DFL-Richfield), was approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee March 8 and now moves to the House floor.

The measure would expand Minnesota's Clean Indoor Air Act, which restricts smoking in many public places.

A separate bill (HF1836), sponsored by Rep. Darlene Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park), calls for more public education about the dangers of secondhand smoke. Her bill would require the state Department of Health to develop a long-term secondhand smoke advertising campaign.

If parents were educated about the danger secondhand smoke poses to their children, Luther said, parents would think twice about smoking in front of them.

Luther said her bill would not take away the freedom of choice. Adults would still have a choice, she said, but, with an advertising campaign, she hopes parents would make an educated choice to quit smoking.

Three hundred children from Birch Grove Elementary School in Brooklyn Park attended the committee hearing to demonstrate their desire for a healthy environment. Besides showing concern for their parents' health, they said they had a right to a smoke-free home.

HF1836 was referred to the committee's Human Services Finance Division to discuss how much money was needed for an advertising campaign.



HIGHER EDUCATION

Note: Higher education bonding bill. See story under "Bonding" on page 5.

Improving public universities

The state should develop a new way to fund Minnesota's public colleges and universities that rewards institutions for doing a good job.

That's the finding of the Minnesota Task Force on Post-Secondary Education. The Legislature created the task force in 1991 to find a fair funding formula that would make

quality schools more affordable for students.

The task force reported to the Higher Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee March 7.

Legislators should use a "base-plus" funding formula instead of the average cost formula in place since 1983, task force member David Berg told division members.

Under the average cost formula, schools calculate the average cost of programs and divide that by the number of full-time students to come up with a total. The state then pays 67 percent of that total and expects tuition to make up the rest.

The "base-plus" formula would give schools a set dollar amount based on building costs, utilities, equipment expenses, and other costs. The formula would not be based on enrollment.

Under the recommended formula, schools would receive a fixed dollar amount for things like administrative expenses and building maintenance. That figure would be determined by looking at the school's history of such costs.

And schools also would receive a variable dollar amount for teacher salaries and classroom equipment, which would change with enrollment shifts. Also, schools could get an extra 1 percent bonus if they meet specific

performance standards the Legislature outlines for them, Berg said.

Research and public service costs wouldn't be part of the fixed base, but would be tied to the school's performance, he added.

The task force also recommended the state allow its higher education systems to manage their own budgets. Furthermore, Minnesota law should continue to mandate that the state pick up at least 67 percent of higher education's instructional costs, the report stated. Although that is written into law, the state has fallen short in recent years, according to a recent report from the Office of the Legislative Auditor.

Rep. Connie Morrison (R-Burnsville) asked Berg how the task force's recommendations would hold down escalating tuition costs.

Keeping tuition stable may be one performance area the Legislature could mandate before giving a school the 1 percent bonus, he replied.

Colleges and universities that don't meet certain performance criteria could be placed on probation. That would give schools incentive to improve, the task force suggested.



HOUSING

Low-income housing

The Twin Cities suburbs with the greatest job growth need to open up their communities to low- and moderate-income people, according to one House lawmaker.

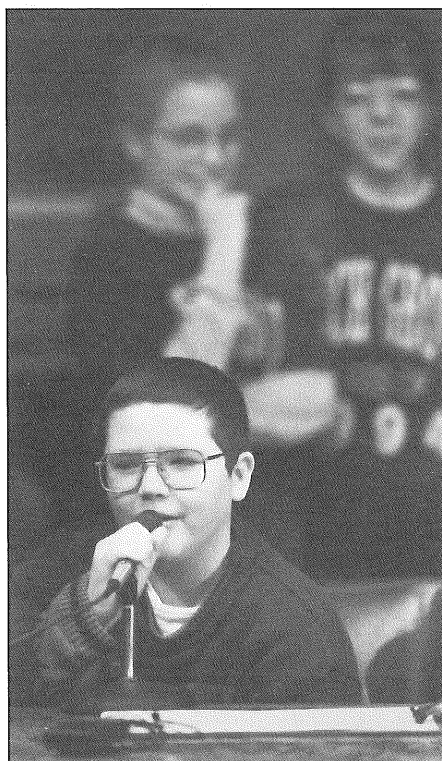
Too many of these cities have zoning laws that exclude affordable housing for low- and moderate-income people, said Rep. Myron Orfield (DFL-Mpls), chief sponsor of the bill (HF2171).

"America is not about making it and pulling up the ladder behind you," Orfield told the Housing Committee March 7. The committee approved the bill.

The measure calls for the Metropolitan Council to allocate affordable housing in the seven-county metropolitan area based on a formula that determines each city's current proportion of such housing.

Cities that do not change their zoning laws to accept their share of low- and moderate-income housing would be penalized under provisions in the bill. One of the penalties would be to deny a city permission to increase its sewer service or access.

The bill would help break the cycle of poverty, said Yusef Mgeni of the Urban Coalition, who testified in favor of the bill. Poor people in the inner cities don't have cars that would allow them to get to the suburbs where the jobs are, he said.



Andrew Jaquich, a fifth-grader at Birch Grove Elementary School in Brooklyn Park, spoke to the Health and Human Services Committee March 8 in support of a bill to educate people on the effects of secondhand smoke on children. His classmates, Sarah Munson, left, and Heidi Kader, listened to Jaquich.

If poor people could live in the places that are experiencing job growth, Mgeni said, they could help raise themselves out of poverty.

Orfield carried a similar bill last session that passed both legislative bodies. Gov. Arne Carlson vetoed the bill, however, saying that he did not believe the bill would achieve the ideals that inspired it.

HF2171 now goes to the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee.

INSURANCE

INSURANCE

Braking insurance fraud

It would be easier for law enforcement agencies to detect insurance fraud under a bill approved by the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee March 9.

The measure, sponsored by Rep. Tom Pugh (DFL-St. Paul), would require insurance companies to notify law enforcement officials even if they only suspect fraud.

The bill (**HF1999**) also would require insurance companies to disclose relevant information in suspected fraud cases upon the request of an investigator. An insurer would face a misdemeanor charge for ignoring the bill's reporting guidelines.

The bill would give insurers protection if they cooperate with police, a sheriff's department, attorney general, or other criminal investigation agency. The bill says the insurance company would not be liable for information given to authorities.

Because insurance companies often fear legal action if they release information to authorities or delay payment on a claim, Pugh said they are reluctant to report suspected fraud. Instead, insurance companies typically conduct internal investigations or just pay off the claim.

This lack of a "paper trail" makes it difficult for both insurance companies and authorities to investigate claims of fraud, said Pugh.

Under the bill, police and insurance companies would be required to keep better records to help apprehend pattern offenders.

HF1999 also requires insurance companies to develop a plan to combat fraud and to put an "anti-fraud" warning on all forms. The warning should tell a customer that falsifying a claim is a crime.

According to the FBI and the United States General Accounting Office, as much as 10 percent of all health care spending is lost to fraud. In Minnesota, that figure would amount

to \$1.5 billion a year. And that's not including the fraud that occurs with other forms of insurance such as life, auto, and disability.

HF1999 now moves to the House Judiciary Committee.



TAXES

Reimbursing school districts

A bill that would pay back \$172 million of the \$664 million Minnesota owes its school districts won approval March 8 from the House Taxes Committee.

The bill is identical to the version approved by the House Education Committee March 3. (See March 4, 1994, *Session Weekly*, page 7.)

Currently, the state is required to repay districts that "shift" their regular local property tax funds to replace late state aid payments. The law, however, does not authorize the state to repay districts that cover the late payments with local referendum levies — extra property tax money their local taxpayers voted to give the district.

HF1925, sponsored by Rep. Kathleen Vellenga (DFL-St. Paul), would ensure that districts with local referendum levies are repaid.

Without the law change, the state would have to withhold \$51 million of the full \$172 million that has been earmarked to be returned to school districts in 1994.

Vellenga said the bill would affect the two-thirds of the school districts in the state whose taxpayers have voted to give their schools extra money.

The state began borrowing money from the school districts in the 1980s during a series of budget crises.

Legislation passed in 1984 and amended in 1993 mandates that any time the state's general budget reserve exceeds \$500 million, the excess goes toward paying back the districts.

In January, the Department of Finance determined that \$172 million was available in 1994 to reduce the debt. The recent March revenue forecast indicated an additional \$311 million surplus in state revenue which could be available to school districts in 1995 — provided current law isn't changed.

HF1925 now goes to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Fingerhut tax breaks OK'd

Fingerhut Companies is one step closer to creating another 400 jobs in St. Cloud.

On an 86-46 vote, the House March 7 approved a measure that would give Fingerhut special tax breaks to build a \$19.2 million expansion in St. Cloud. Specifically, it asks that Fingerhut and St. Cloud be exempt from some Minnesota laws regarding government tax breaks.

HF2213, sponsored by Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud), now goes to the Senate.

An amendment adopted would require the county board to approve the tax break plan and any future changes. The St. Cloud Housing and Redevelopment Authority, which helped negotiate the deal with Fingerhut, also would be required to report to the Legislature.

Fingerhut has told St. Cloud city officials it will take its new jobs, paying \$8 to \$12 an hour, to Kansas City, Mo., if the city and state do not meet its requests.

The national mail order retailer wants \$1 million in grants from the state and tax breaks from the city of St. Cloud.

City officials are ready to give Fingerhut \$4.8 million in tax breaks if both the House and Senate approve the deal. The tax breaks would be spread out over up to 25 years and could eventually cost the city \$13 million in property taxes.

Under Minnesota law, cities can offer tax breaks to companies to help create jobs in their community. Normally the agreement, called a Tax Increment Financing District, involves a company expanding and creating new jobs in exchange for the city forgiving property taxes for a set number of years.

State law allows the job-creating districts to last 11 years. St. Cloud and Fingerhut have asked the Legislature to extend their limit to up to 25 years.

The bill also asks that the penalty normally assessed against cities that set up these districts be forgiven. Cities lose a portion of their state aid when they offer a business tax breaks. In St. Cloud's case, the city could lose about \$4.5 million.

Fingerhut, headquartered in Minnetonka, employs about 4,000 people year round in St. Cloud and several thousand others throughout Minnesota.



TOURISM

Note: See "Convention center expansion" under "Bonding," page 6.

Welcoming foreigners

At least one Minnesota lawmaker wants to spend some extra money to make the state more appealing to international visitors.

A bill (HF1900), sponsored by Rep. Mike Jaros (DFL-Duluth), would create a coordinator of international affairs.

The International Trade, Technology and Economic Development Division of the House Commerce and Economic Development Committee heard the bill March 9.

Jaros said the coordinator would be responsible for such things as monitoring programs that host international visitors to Minnesota and advising Minnesotans on how to treat official visitors from other nations.

Currently, the Minnesota Trade Office is authorized to handle these affairs but is too busy working on trade agreements with foreign countries, said George Crolick, executive director of the trade office.

"We need someone in our office to take care of some non-trade issues, to do a better job than what's being done," said Crolick. "This is a step forward."

The bill, which does not specify how much the new position would cost, was referred to the Commerce and Economic Development Committee.

Banning Canadian fish

The fish are biting near the Ontario boundary waters, and anglers from the United States are trying to get their share.

But a bill approved by the House Commerce and Economic Development Committee March 8 would effectively prohibit anglers from bringing fish into Minnesota that were caught in Ontario, Canada.

The proposal is the latest in a long-running border dispute between Minnesota and Ontario over fish. The measure, sponsored by Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy), is designed to bring Minnesota and Ontario officials to the bargaining table to work out a fishing agreement.

Last year, Ontario officials passed a law that prohibits anglers who lodge in Minnesota and fish the Canadian side of Lake of the Woods, from bringing back more than two fish to the United States.

The law also prohibits them from bringing back any fish from the Canadian side of Rainy Lake (Minnesota-based anglers are under a

catch-and-release-only policy on Rainy Lake).

If Minnesotans stay in Canadian resorts, however, Ontario law allows them the same limit Canadians have — six walleye on Lake of the Woods and three on Rainy Lake.

The proposed Minnesota law says anglers staying on either side could only bring into Minnesota the lowest limit allowed by Ontario guidelines, which is currently zero because of the Rainy Lake policy.

The Minnesota bill also calls on the commissioners of the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Trade and Economic Development to regulate the natural resources and promote tourism on both sides of the U.S.-Canada border. (See March 4, 1994, *Session Weekly*, page 12)

Last year, Minnesota passed a law that required Minnesota anglers fishing in Canada to transport their catch across the border with their heads, tails, fins, skins, and tails intact. This law took effect March 1 of this year.

HF1835 now moves to the House floor for further consideration.



TRANSPORTATION

Scanning for tax dollars

In the near future, optical scanners installed in Minnesota gas stations may take information from a microchip connected to a vehicle's odometer and reveal how far that vehicle has been driven between fill ups.

The high-tech system is needed because newer, more fuel-efficient vehicles drive farther on a gallon of gas than do older ones, making the current per-gallon gas tax increasingly unfair, said the microchip bill's chief author, Rep. Bernie Lieder (DFL-Crookston).

Every driver pays the same amount of tax on a gallon of gas, Lieder said, but more fuel-efficient cars travel farther on that gallon.

"It's a fairness issue," Lieder recently told a meeting of the House Transportation and Transit Committee which approved the bill. Such a mileage-based tax structure would also encourage less driving, he said. "If you don't drive, you don't pay."

If the bill survives and the state adopts the system, the tax paid at fill-up time would be based on actual road use, which would be instantly calculated by scanners reading the mileage information contained on the microchips.

The bill (HF1816) instructs the Department of Transportation to begin studying these automatic mileage recorders as a way to replace fuel, registration, title, and excise

taxes with a system based entirely on road use by Jan. 1, 2001.

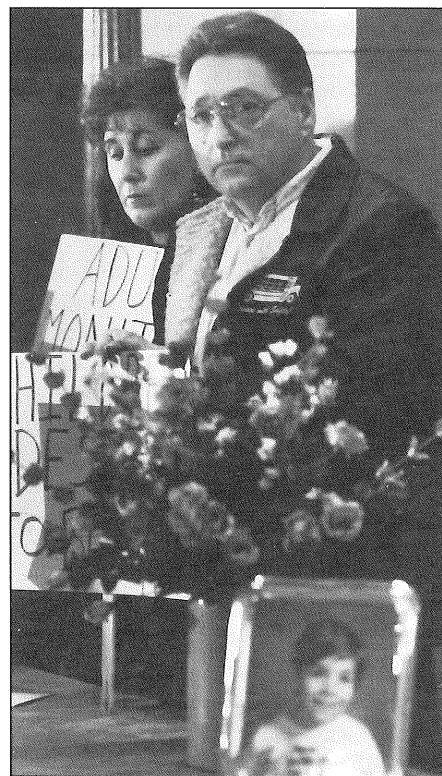
Such a technology would allow the state to collect money from the many western Wisconsin residents who commute daily to jobs in the Twin Cities, said Rep. Pam Neary (DFL-Afton), who spoke in support of the bill. She said she is distressed whenever she sees such commuters getting a free ride on Minnesota's roads when they gas up just across the border in Wisconsin.

Although the bill cannot mandate that other states adopt these types of microchip mileage monitors, Lieder explained that if enough states become involved in such a project, automobile manufacturers will soon install such chips in all their vehicles.

Then, a vehicle's microchip could be "reset" by an optical device as the vehicle enters the state, Lieder said, making it possible to accurately measure how far it drives on Minnesota roads.

Although the bill doesn't name a specific dollar amount to pay for the study, Lieder estimates that it should cost about \$200,000. The bill stipulates that the transportation department give a preliminary report on its findings by January 1996.

The bill now goes to the House Economic Development, Infrastructure and Regulation Finance Committee for further consideration.



Bill and Joan Ziemer of Hastings, Minn., display a photograph of their son, Mickey, who was fatally run over by a school bus. The couple came to the State Capitol in St. Paul to participate in a March 10 rally for school bus safety.

It's a fact!



Minnesota's Clean Indoor Air Act of 1975, which eventually restricted smoking in many public places, including hospitals and child care centers, was a revolutionary crackdown seen as a victory for non-smokers everywhere.

Smokers should be advised that the 1901 Legislature had plans to go much further.

At the time, cigarettes were not in fashion. In fact, North Dakota had barred their sale for many years. Minnesota state Sen. Charlie Halvorson was not a fan of smokes or smokers and introduced a bill to ban the sale of cigarettes in Minnesota. On Feb. 18, 1901, the bill passed the Senate with only five negative votes.

The House held onto the bill for more than a month. Expected opposition never manifested, and the House, with an amendment, passed the bill March 22, by a 72-to-36 margin. Four days later, the Senate took up the matter again. The body accepted the House amendment, but then rejected the measure 25 to 27.

The issue died that session. Although the sale of cigarettes is still permitted in the state, it is becoming harder and harder to find a place to smoke.

Just this week, the House Health and Human Services Committee approved an amendment to the Clean Indoor Air Act that would prohibit smoking in common areas of apartment buildings. (See related story, page 12.)



There is progress in state government — you just have to know where to look. The Department of Human Services earlier this session invited members of the House Health and Human Services Committee to come take a gander at its new state-of-the-art computer system. The network is responsible for processing more than \$2 billion a year in medical assistance payments and MinnesotaCare medical bills. The department is testing the new computer system now and expects it to be fully operational by May 31. The new system replaces one installed in 1974, said Larry Woods, a department representative.

IRs dominate in special elections

If special elections could decide the entire makeup of the Minnesota House of Representatives, Independent-Republicans likely would hold a majority.

During the past two decades, 20 seats in the Minnesota House have been filled through special elections. IRs won in all but four.

Since the close of the 1993 Session, there have been three special elections. They occurred in northwestern Minnesota's District 1B, formerly held by Rep. Wally Sparby (DFL-Thief River Falls); Bloomington's District 40B, formerly held by Rep. Kathleen Blatz (IR-Bloomington); and Kandiyohi County's District 15A, formerly held by Rep. Alan Welle (DFL-Willmar)

IRs won all three seats. Tim Finseth won in District 1B, Kevin Knight in District 40B and Tom Van Engen in District 15A.

Below is a history of House special elections over the past 20 years:

Date: Dec. 23, 1974

District: 12A - portions of Todd and Morrison counties.

Candidates: Bruce Nelson (Republican) 3,806 votes
Guy Rice Doud (DFL) 2,640 votes

Date: March 15, 1977

District: 21B - portions of Kandiyohi, Redwood, Renville, and Yellow Medicine counties.

Candidates: Gaylin Den Ouden (IR) 3,472 votes
Dolores Nelson (DFL) 2,664 votes

Date: Sept. 27, 1977

District: 22B - portions of Hennepin, McLeod, Meeker, and Wright counties.

Candidates: Tony Onnen (IR) 3,385 votes
Joseph M. Campbell (DFL) ... 2,247 votes

Date: Dec. 10, 1977

District: 35A - portions of Fillmore, Mower, and Olmsted counties.

Candidates: Elton Redalen (IR) 3,474 votes
Renee Haugerud (DFL) 1,344 votes

Date: June 19, 1979

District: 67A - portions of Dakota and Ramsey counties.

Candidates: Frank J. Rodriguez Sr. (DFL) . 3,608 votes
Robert Pavlak (IR) 3,287 votes

Date: Jan. 17, 1980

District: 60B - portions of Hennepin County.

Candidates: Donna Peterson (DFL) 1,758 votes
Bob Lange (IR) 1,632 votes

Date: July 15, 1981

District: 32B - portions of Dodge and Olmsted counties.

Candidates: Don Frerichs (IR) 2,169 votes
Lance P. Peterson (DFL) 1,076 votes

Date: Nov. 8, 1983

District: 8B - portions of St. Louis County.

Candidates: Ben Boo (IR) 8,493 votes
Thomas Huntley (DFL) 4,230 votes

Date: Dec. 22, 1986

District: 16A - portions of Benton, Morrison, and Stearns counties.

Candidates: Bernie Omann Jr. (IR) 2,704 votes
Carl F. Stich (DFL) 2,656 votes

Date: Nov. 3, 1987

District: 65A - portions of Ramsey County.

Candidates: Andy Dawkins (DFL) 1,950 votes
Eunice Smith (IR) 589 votes

Date: Nov. 3, 1987

District: 30B - portions of Dodge, Freeborn, Mower, Steele, and Waseca counties.

Candidates: Dale Deraad (IR) 3,532 votes
Peter Fog (DFL) 3,055 votes

Date: Feb. 4, 1989

District: 52A - portions of Anoka and Ramsey counties.

Candidates: Linda Runbeck (IR) 3,427 votes
Dawn Schnickels (DFL) 2,437 votes

Date: Nov. 7, 1989

District: 63B - portions of Ramsey County.

Candidates: Alice Hausman (DFL) 5,258 votes
Joy Strane Albrecht (IR) ... 3,149 votes

Date: Feb. 5, 1991

District: 50B - portions of Anoka County.

Candidates: Phil Heir (IR) 1,828 votes
Jim Nelson (DFL) 1,586 votes

Date: Feb. 12, 1991

District: 32B - portions of Fillmore, Mower, and Olmsted counties.

Candidates: Gregory M. Davids (IR) 3,369 votes
Harlin Taylor (DFL) 1,929 votes

Date: Dec. 17, 1991

District: 47A - portions of Hennepin County.

Candidates: Rich Krambeer (IR) 2,043 votes
Darlene Luther (DFL) 1,805 votes

Date: Jan. 12, 1993

District: 44B - portions of Hennepin County.

Candidates: Jim Rhodes (IR) 2,414 votes
Gail Dorfman (DFL) 2,235 votes

Date: July 13, 1993

District: 1B - portions of Marshall, Pennington, Polk, and Red Lake counties.

Candidates: Tim Finseth (IR) 3,309 votes
Joel Swanson (DFL) 2,790 votes

Date: Jan. 11, 1994

District: 40B - portions of Hennepin County.

Candidates: Kevin Knight (IR) 2,720 votes
Tom Spies (DFL) 2,204 votes

Date: Feb. 8, 1994

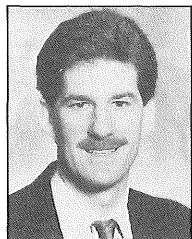
District: 15A - portions of Kandiyohi County.

Candidates: Tom Van Engen (IR) 3,447 votes
Rolf Hage (DFL) 3,355 votes

Freshman profile . . .

Knight hopes to help curb state spending

Rep. Kevin Knight (IR-Bloomington) had only one month to pull together a winning campaign. It didn't help that the month was December, which included holidays, frigid temperatures, and plenty of snow.



Rep. Kevin Knight

"Basically, I campaigned 14 to 16 hours a day. It helps that my wife and my kids were very supportive," Knight said.

Nor did the Bloomington political community hesitate to help out. His campaign manager, Bill Walsh, and hundreds of volunteers trudged from door to door through snow to help get out the vote, Knight said.

"Volunteers came forward knowing it was such a short race, it wasn't this huge time commitment," Knight said. His campaign put up more than 300 lawn signs and made thousands of phone calls during the short race.

His success mirrors those of past special elections. Since 1971, IR candidates for the House and Senate have won 27 of 35 special elections.

The District 40B seat opened in December

when Kathleen Blatz, a 15-year House veteran, was named a Hennepin County District Court judge. Knight, 36, had been involved in local IR caucuses only three years, but hit the ground running. He not only won the IR party endorsement over two other contenders, he bested both the DFL candidate and an independent candidate.

He grew up in Chicago, attended the University of Arizona, where he earned a degree in history, then moved to San Francisco. He relocated to Minnesota in 1984 to start a business with his brother. They sold safety products for a manufacturer. Now, he publishes a newsletter focusing on economic trends and forecasts.

Knight says he is by no means a political insider. Winning the nomination over the two other IR candidates proved to be the "high point of the race" for him.

"I had to meet all the delegates, but that wasn't terribly difficult, it was just a matter of meeting them. I had a lot of fun at the convention. But I suppose it's always fun when you win," he said.

The freshman legislator arrived at the Capitol one month before session began and immediately dived into his work, much the way he threw himself into his campaign. He

got his first taste of state government by attending an Environment and Natural Resources subcommittee meeting. In fact, he's already learned his first lesson.

"Legislative speak is not regular English. You have to learn all the acronyms and the verbiage," he said.

Knight hasn't forgotten the predominant reason voters put him in office — his forceful pledge to curb state spending. It's the issue he stressed most while door knocking. Knight already has a plan to do just that, but he is not talking about it yet.

"State spending is the number one problem we have relating to taxes going up because spending is going up," he said.

— Jean M. Thilmany

District 40B

Population: 32,313

Distribution: 100 percent of residents live in urban areas.

County: Hennepin

Location: southwestern Metro

1992 presidential election results:

Clinton/Gore: 41.3 percent

Bush/Quayle: 34.3 percent

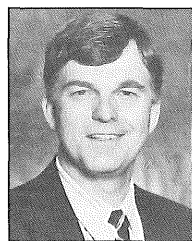
Perot/Stockdale: 23.5 percent

Other: 0.9 percent

Freshman profile . . .

Van Engen's vow includes 'telling it like it is'

Rep. Tom Van Engen (IR-Spicer) had to wait a little longer than he had hoped to take the oath of office as the state's newest representative.



Rep. Tom Van Engen

The Independent-Republican ran for the District 15A seat in 1992 but lost to incumbent Rep. Alan Welle, the former House DFL majority leader who resigned in January following the misuse of his long distance telephone line.

"I was always taught that this is a representative government, and I could be involved in it," said Van Engen, who won a Feb. 8 special election.

Emerging from a district so closely touched by the political cloud of the House phone

troubles, the new representative believes he was elected because his constituents see him as straightforward and more like themselves than other politicians.

"It seems to me that people are most interested in honest, hard working representation and people telling it like it is," he said.

Van Engen, 40, works for Kandiyohi County Family Services as a licensed social worker specializing in chemical dependency. He said his career has given him a great deal of experience with 'telling it like it is.'

"My business is sending people to alcohol treatment," Van Engen said. "They're usually not too happy with the news I give them, but they respect me because I'm honest."

A self-titled active Christian, Van Engen has served in several positions within his church. For more than a decade, he has filled

in for pastors who were not able to conduct services. As both a husband and a father of three, Van Engen feels his constituents appreciate his stand on "moral issues."

Although he describes himself as a moderate conservative, Van Engen is quick to point out that, unlike the label suggests, he opposes abortion. He also calls himself fiscally conservative, saying he can "pinch pennies with the best of them." In the spectrum of most issues such as energy policies, however, the new lawmaker says he is moderate.

Holding onto his belief that government invites citizen participation, Van Engen has worked his way up the political ladder through positions such as chair of the Kandiyohi County Independent-Republican Party and then Senate district chair. His first campaign was the unsuccessful attempt to unseat Welle in 1992.

Now that he has a second chance at serving his district, Van Engen said he'll concentrate on helping business. This includes revamping workers' compensation laws.

"We need to improve the job climate and reduce the obstacles, especially workers' compensation, so that Minnesota businesses can prosper," he said.

He also wants to find ways to reduce state spending and stabilize tax rates.

"We just cannot continue the pattern of raising taxes every time the Legislature meets,"

Van Engen said. "We need to figure out what the revenue is, and spend within those limits."

Whether the issues are taxes, spending, education, or government reform, Van Engen said he'll build his legislative career by sticking to the ideals that have brought him this far: "Work your way up, do the best you can do, be honest, and make the best life for yourself and your family."

— Amber Brennan

District 15A

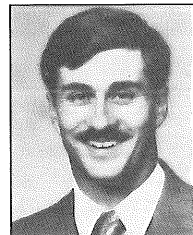
Population: 32,614
Distribution: 55 percent of residents live in urban areas, 45 percent live in rural areas.
County: Kandiyohi
Largest city: Willmar
Location: central Minnesota
1992 presidential election results:
 Clinton/Gore: 41.2 percent
 Bush/Quayle: 33.2 percent
 Perot/Stockdale: 24.6
 Other: 1 percent

Freshman profile . . .

Finseth hunting for workers' compensation reform

Two coyote pelts hang on the walls of Rep. Tim Finseth's (R-Angus) office.

He shot the coyote himself on his farm near Oklee. Those pelts, along with another office fixture, an Arctic Cat snowmobile that could fit in your hand, represent what Finseth doesn't intend to forget: He represents rural interests. Arctic Cats, big ones, are made in Thief River Falls.



Rep. Tim Finseth

"My district [1B] is heavy in agriculture and agriculture-related business. I'm trying to make this a better state for business and agriculture to operate together, like having less burdensome taxes on ag businesses," Finseth said.

Voters elected him on his third try, during a July 1993 special election. He takes former Rep. Wally Sparby's seat. Sparby, a DFLer, resigned last May after 11 years in the House to become executive director of the state's U.S. Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. Finseth, 30, said he won the historically DFL district because residents' concerns mirrored his own.

"More people are concerned with state government becoming bigger and having more regulations," he said. "It's beautiful up there in northwest Minnesota. It's a slow and

peaceful area to live in and the people want to make sure it stays that way. I think people in a rural district have a sense of independence and they want to keep it."

His district borders North Dakota, which makes workers' compensation costs one of the area's top priorities. Some Minnesota businesses leave the state to take advantage of lower workers' compensation insurance rates, Finseth said. He told voters he wanted to lower those rates. In addition, he pledged to try to scale back state spending and hold the line on rural property taxes.

The special election came in the political off-season, but Finseth had no trouble recruiting campaign volunteers. They came looking for him.

Because he had run for office in 1992, Finseth was "geared up and ready to go" when Sparby announced he was leaving. "It didn't take me long to get geared up again," he said.

The campaign against Joel Swanson, a Thief River Falls DFLer, went smoothly and before Finseth knew it, then-House Speaker Dee Long was administering his oath of office.

He is on leave from his job as manager of the Marshall County Soil and Water Conservation District. Before re-election time rolls around, he'll decide whether to continue that leave of absence or to quit his job. He doesn't want to take time away from either his constituents or the farmers in the conservation

district and may have a difficult time balancing both, he said.

Finseth lives in St. Paul during the session, but makes the 325-mile drive back home to wife, Ruth, and five-month-old-son, Cameron, on weekends. Once there, he also can talk to constituents, hunt, fish, and, for a few more weeks, go snowmobiling.

Already, he has noticed a faster pace than he had expected around the State Office Building.

"I didn't realize there are so many issues. I knew it would be fast, but not this fast," said Finseth, who serves on the Judiciary, Housing, and Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs committees as well as on the Judiciary Finance Division. "But I'm looking forward to helping pass legislation. I've been waiting since July to get in the chamber."

— Jean M. Thilmany

District 1B

Population: 32,796
Distribution: 51 percent of residents live in urban areas, 49 percent live in rural areas
Counties: Marshall, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake
Largest city: Thief River Falls
Location: northwestern Minnesota
1992 presidential election results:
 Clinton/Gore: 39.1 percent
 Bush/Quayle: 36.6 percent
 Perot/Stockdale: 22.2 percent
 Other: 2.1 percent



Visiting the Minnesota State Capitol complex can be a rewarding and educational experience for everyone. There are buildings to explore and tours to take almost any time you choose to visit. And when the Legislature is in session during the first part of every year, there are floor sessions to observe, committee meetings to attend, and legislators to meet. Remember that this is your state Capitol, and you are always welcome.

Here's some general information to help you plan your visit.

How to get here

Location

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

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

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

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

I-35E southbound: Exit at University Av-

enue. Turn right. Go to Rice Street and turn left. Go one block and turn left to enter Parking Lot D.

Parking

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

Outdoor handicapped parking is available in Lot N, which is directly behind the Capitol, and in Lot D, which is off Rice Street on Aurora Avenue. Indoor handicapped parking is avail-

able on the lower level of the State Office Building Ramp; on the blue level of the Centennial Office Building Ramp; and on the entry level of the Administration Building Ramp (two stalls).

Since parking is limited during legislative sessions, busing may be easier. Freeway express bus service is available. Call the Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC) at (612) 349-7000 for your specific route information.

What to do

Tours

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

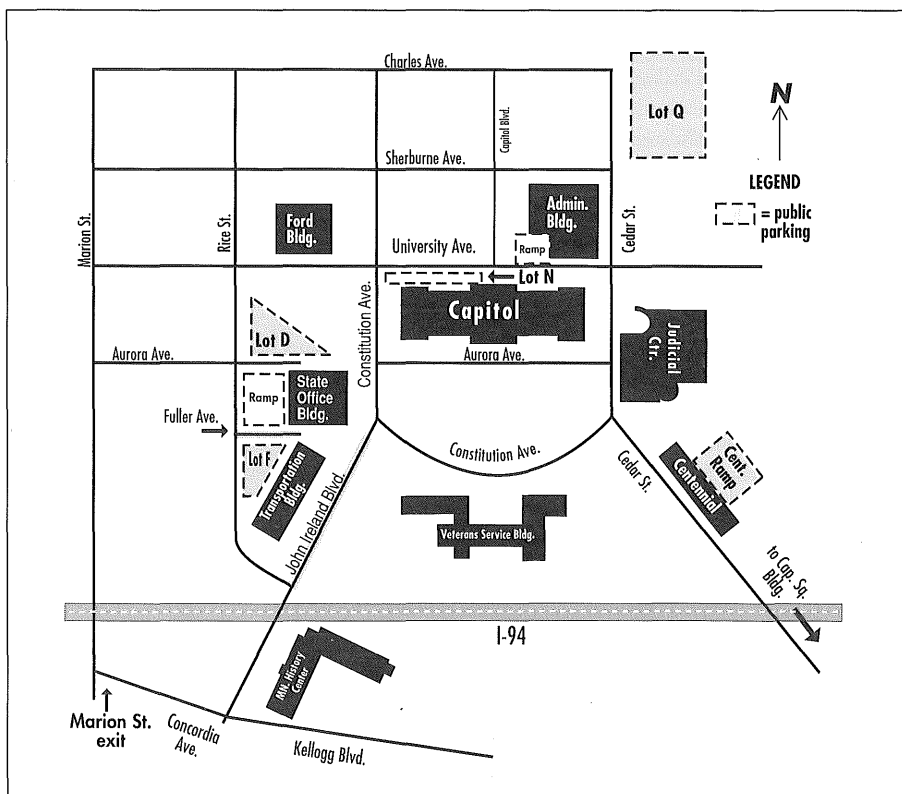
Tour guides lead the 45-minute tours Mondays through Fridays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. (last tour leaves at 4 p.m.); Saturdays between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. (last tour leaves at 3 p.m.); and Sundays between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. (last tour leaves at 3 p.m.). The tours are free of charge and begin at the Capitol's information desk at the end of the corridor to the right of the main entrance. Brochures in several languages, including Japanese, German, and Spanish, are also available there.

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

The society offers "Voice of the People: Your Role in Minnesota Government," a half-day educational session for students in grades 7-12.

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

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



Legislative sessions

Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate debate bills when the Legislature is in session.

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

Generally, the House meets at 2:30 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays, and the Senate meets at 10 a.m. Mondays and at 8 a.m. Thursdays during the first few weeks. House floor sessions are scheduled for the afternoon because committees meet in the morning and early afternoon. As the session nears the end, however, both bodies may meet several times a day, often into the night.

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

Committee meetings

Committees still consider bills several weeks after the session starts. Visitors who want to attend a committee meeting may call the committee hotlines for prerecorded messages with the meeting times and agendas for each day: House, (612) 296-9283; Senate, (612) 296-8088. Printed agendas for the week also appear in each issue of the *Session Weekly* and the *Senate Briefly*.

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

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

Each committee has a chair, vice chair, legislative assistant, and administrator. A list of committees and members is available in the House Public

Information Office in Room 175 of the State Office Building or the Senate Information Office in Room 231 of the State Capitol.

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

Legislators

Lawmakers are busy but look forward to meeting with their constituents. You should contact your legislator's office to set up an appointment.

Dining

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

Group visits

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

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

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

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

Groups planning a trip to the Capitol should remember that seating is fairly limited in some committee rooms — particularly when the topic is controversial.

Where to find information

House Public Information Office

175 State Office Building
(612) 296-2146 or
1-800-657-3550

Committee schedule: The *Session Weekly* includes the upcoming week's schedule, and the office has a prerecorded message (612) 296-9283, that provides up-to-date information on meeting agendas, times, and locations.

Legislator information: The office has a complete listing of telephone and room numbers for the representatives.

Informational brochures: Many brochures for all ages are available at no charge.

Chief Clerk's Office

211 State Capitol
(612) 296-2314

Copies of bills: This office provides copies of bills at no charge, all agendas for House sessions, and the *Journal of the House*.

House Index Department

211 State Capitol
(612) 296-6646

Bills: The House Index Department, a part of the Chief Clerk's Office, has a computerized index available for public use. House Index lists bills by committee, topic, author, file number, and other categories.

Bill status: House Index can also tell you the current status of legislation.

Senate Information Office

31 State Capitol
(612) 296-0504

This office is responsible for all information about the Senate, including the committee schedule, bill status, legislator information, and the distribution of bill copies.

Senate Media Services

B-44 State Capitol
(612) 296-0264

This bipartisan office produces television programs, multi-media production, scriptwriting, photography and graphics. It offers live coverage of the Senate floor sessions and some committee hearings.

Public Access Computer Room

181 State Office Building
The room houses computers that the public may use to obtain legislative information on a variety of subjects.

Bill Introductions

HF2363-HF2649

Monday, March 7

HF2363—Neary (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Washington County allowed a reverse referendum for making the auditor and treasurer and recorder offices appointive.

HF2364—Greenfield (DFL) Transportation & Transit

Jerry Haaf Memorial Drive designated in Minneapolis on Trunk Highway No. 55 between Lake Street and 46th Street.

HF2365—Morrison (IR) Transportation & Transit

Bus requirements provided for transporting Head Start students, auxiliary low beam light removal requirement removed, commercial motor vehicles provided seat belt requirements, and raw farm and forest product maximum weight increased.

HF2366—Jennings (DFL) Judiciary

Children provided equal right to support.

HF2367—Long (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources

Mixed municipal solid waste landfills provided an alternative cleanup program, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2368—Johnson, A. (DFL) Education

General education formula increased, supplemental revenue reduction modified, and money appropriated.

HF2369—Waltman (IR) Judiciary

Premarital and predissolution counseling provided and at least one year delay required between petition filing and final decree if children are involved.

HF2370—Brown, K. (DFL) Judiciary

Child abuse investigation liability immunity to include child protection workers, attorney fee reimbursement provided, protocol provided governing abuse and neglect assessments, and maltreatment determination data access provided.

HF2371—Evans (DFL) Labor-Management Relations

Self-employment assistance program established.

HF2372—Goodno (IR) Taxes

Agricultural processing facilities allowed property tax exemption in border cities.

HF2373—Olson, E. (DFL) Agriculture

Wheat and barley promotion orders and checkoff fee payments and refunds modified.

HF2374—Steensma (DFL) Agriculture

BST; recombinant bovine somatotropin (rBST) manufacturers and distributors provided registration requirements.

HF2375—Jefferson (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Minneapolis authorized to establish a jobs park to expand employment opportunities.

HF2376—Bergson (DFL) General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

National Guard Youth Camp Foundation Fund appropriated money.

HF2377—Molnau (IR) Rules & Legislative Administration

Term limits; ballot access denied after serving six consecutive years in the U. S. House of Representatives and 12 consecutive years in the U.S. Senate, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF2378—Sviggum (IR) Rules & Legislative Administration

Term limits; ballot access denied after serving 10 consecutive years in the legislature or eight consecutive years in an executive office, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF2379—Bishop (IR) Financial Institutions & Insurance

HIV antibody test results for emergency medical service personnel use prohibited in insurance underwriting decisions.

HF2380—Wejcman (DFL) Judiciary

Abused child program established and grants authorized.

HF2381—Leppik (IR) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Home rule charter cities allowed to apply statutory city law in instances where the charter is silent.

HF2382—Solberg (DFL) Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance

National shooting sports center construction provided within a taconite tax relief area, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2383—Seagren (IR) Education

Misbehavior incidents in schools reported of students with an individualized learning plan (IEP), and money appropriated.

HF2384—McCollum (DFL) Transportation & Transit

Child passenger restraint and education program established to assist families in financial need to obtain child passenger restraint systems.

HF2385—Morrison (IR) Taxes

Fiscal disparities; areawide net tax capacity municipal contribution limited to 15 percent of net tax capacity.

HF2386—Trimble (DFL) Agriculture

BGH; recombinant bovine growth hormone certification and labeling program established to identify milk and milk products free of rBGH.

HF2387—Leppik (IR) Rules & Legislative Administration

Reapportionment; congressional and legislative bipartisan reapportionment commission established and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF2388—Winter (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources

Paper; court papers required on recycled paper.

HF2389—Smith (IR) Judiciary

Theft to include a tenant issuing a dishonored check to a landlord for rent.

HF2390—Gruenes (IR) Health & Human Services

Ramsey County social service agency allowed to create an adoption services pilot project for children with special needs, and money appropriated.

HF2391—Olson, K. (DFL) Health & Human Services

Physician license data classified as private data and foreign medical school graduates provided modified license provisions.

HF2392—Mosel (DFL) Taxes

Property tax refund appropriation uncapped for 1994 targeting, and money appropriated.

HF2393—Lourey (DFL) Health & Human Services

Dentist participation required in state health care programs, and medical assistance coverage and reimbursement expanded for dental services.

HF2394—Lourey (DFL) Health & Human Services

Dental health board established, dental insurance regulation transferred, dental services exempted from all-payer option reimbursement limits and growth limits, and direct billing allowed for upgrade dental services.

HF2395—Gruenes (IR) Transportation & Transit

Electric motor vehicle transportation technology studied under the Saints road project in St. Cloud, and money appropriated.

HF2396—Greenfield (DFL) Health & Human Services

Housing with services act adopted and money appropriated.

HF2397—Olson, K. (DFL) Education

Mouthguard use option provided in certain interscholastic sport activities.

HF2398—Olson, K. (DFL) Education

Independent School District No. 325, Lakeland; 328; Sioux Valley; 330, Heron Lake-Okabena; 513, Brewster; and 516; Round Lake provided a cooperation planning grant, and money appropriated.

HF2399—Mosel (DFL) Education

Accessibility grants provided to school districts, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2400—Mosel (DFL) Agriculture

Rural Finance Authority authorized participation increased in restructuring program loans, and Detroit Lakes agricultural-industrial facility bond issuance authority repealed.

HF2401—Dempsey (IR)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Building permit surcharge excesses re-funded to municipalities.

HF2402—Johnson, R. (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Gambling
American Indian tribal governments included as municipalities for fire and police state aid.

HF2403—Abrams (IR)
Education
Appropriations; earlier appropriations supplemented, reduced, and transferred.

HF2404—Asch (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Quality assurance board established to regulate health-related professions, and money appropriated.

HF2405—Reding (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Gambling
Administrative and minor substantive changes provided to the state retirement system, the Public Employees Retirement Association, and the Teachers Retirement Association.

HF2406—Murphy (DFL)
Judiciary
Juvenile justice provisions modified related to adult court presumptive certification, serious youthful offender designations, juvenile court jurisdiction, jury trials, and correctional programming, and money appropriated.

HF2407—Carruthers (DFL)
Taxes
Levy per capita and overall limits imposed on counties and certain cities and towns.

HF2408—Jennings (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Telephone companies provided alternative regulation plans.

HF2409—Mahon (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Gambling
Open Appointments Act applicability provided to appointments made by the governor and legislators, data collection provided, multi-member agency registrations required, and secretary of state reporting requirements provided.

HF2410—Rukavina (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Tree planting stock and native tree seed sales provided to nurseries, and timber land lease terms and conditions modified.

HF2411—Solberg (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Gambling
Itasca medical center facility employees provided public employee status after lease conversion to a nonprofit public corporation.

HF2412—Brown, C. (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Gambling
Horse race telecasts authorized for class D licensees.

HF2413—Murphy (DFL)
Judiciary
Arrowhead Regional Corrections Consortium provided bond issuance for construction of a secure juvenile detention and treatment facility, and money appropriated.

HF2414—Kinkel (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Paul Bunyan state trail development provided from Baxter to Lake Bemidji State Park, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2415—Rhodes (IR)
Commerce & Economic Development
International Business Partnership Program eligibility clarified.

HF2416—Clark (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Lead abatement liability coverage provided through the Joint Underwriting Association.

HF2417—Gutknecht (IR)
Health & Human Services
Olmsted County authorized a pilot project for community-based alternative services for persons with mental retardation and related conditions.

HF2418—Frerichs (IR)
Transportation & Transit
Drivers' license reinstatement test provided.

HF2419—Limmer (IR)
Judiciary
Snowmobile or motorboat operation while intoxicated penalties increased for persons previously convicted of driving while intoxicated (DWI).

HF2420—Rice (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Gambling
Minneapolis Fire Department Relief Association provided surviving spouse benefit terms.

HF2421—Bertram (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Weight; single wheel weight limitation increased for pneumatic-tired vehicle.

HF2422—Bertram (DFL)
Taxes
Dependent care income tax credit income limitations increased.

HF2423—Bertram (DFL)
Judiciary
Prison and jail inmates not provided elective or cosmetic surgery or treatments.

HF2424—Bertram (DFL)
Taxes
Farm machinery allowed an investment tax credit.

HF2425—Brown, K. (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Juvenile crime prevention pilot project established through the Three Rivers Community Action Council and Partners in Alliance for Learning, and money appropriated.

HF2426—Kinkel (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Handicapped parking enforcement provided by citizen enforcement programs.

HF2427—Jaros (DFL)
Commerce & Economic Development
Non-profit corporations accepting public money required to have open board meetings.

HF2428—Clark (DFL)
Taxes
Housing Development Fund use expanded and federal taxable income to include residence interest income.

HF2429—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Koochiching County allowed to appoint and reorganize the office of recorder.

HF2430—Jaros (DFL)
Education
Higher Education Board payment provided for transferred technical college property.

HF2431—Orenstein (DFL)
Education
Higher Education Board to reimburse school districts and intermediate districts for transferred technical college property.

HF2432—Rest (DFL)
Taxes
Federal taxable income deduction provided for certain mortgage loan credits.

HF2433—Huntley (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Duluth authorized to issue bonds to finance improvements to the entertainment convention center.

HF2434—Wejcman (DFL)
Judiciary
Female genital mutilation penalties imposed and education, prevention, and outreach activities provided in communities that traditionally engage in female genital mutilation practices.

HF2435—Osthoff (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Abandoned animal procedures modified.

HF2436—Dawkins (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Gambling
Youth and young adult corps members provided group health and accidental death insurance and education awards.

HF2437—Perlt (DFL)
Judiciary
Firearm serial number removal or alteration prohibited, firearm serial numbers required, and penalties imposed.

HF2438—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Human services provisions modified related to mental health grants, psychopathic personalities, dependency treatment, AFDC income standards, inpatient hospital payments, child support incentives, family preservation, and other provisions.

HF2439—Mosel (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Gaylord authorized to establish special service districts.

HF2440—Beard (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Electrical and thermal energy power facilities containing cogeneration systems provided exemption from property taxes.

HF2441—Swenson (IR)
Judiciary
Juveniles charged with nonfelony traffic offenses after becoming 16 years of age provided district court criminal and civil jurisdiction, and incarceration prohibited in an adult jail or workhouse.

HF2442—Mariani (DFL)
Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance
Children's Museum site preparation and construction grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2443—Tomassoni (DFL)
Education
Range Technical College construction and co-location provided at the Hibbing Community College site, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2444—Krueger (DFL)

Education

Instructional days increased and off-campus learning opportunities provided for kindergarten students.

HF2445—Bertram (DFL)

General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Flag desecration; Congress to propose a constitutional amendment prohibiting the physical desecration of the flag.

HF2446—Swenson (IR)

Education

Charter schools allowed to lease school facility constructed space from sectarian organizations.

HF2447—Winter (DFL)

Education

Worthington Community College covered walkway construction provided bond issuance and money appropriated.

HF2448—Solberg (DFL)

Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance

National Resources Research Institute, Coleraine laboratory facility, capital improvements provided bond issuance and money appropriated.

HF2449—Luther (DFL)

Judiciary

Adult court prosecution provided for children aged 14 to 18 charged with felonies involving firearms.

HF2450—Dorn (DFL)

Education

Mankato area model school for truants at the law enforcement center appropriated money.

HF2451—Winter (DFL)

Regulated Industries & Energy

Nuclear waste; President and Congress to procure storage sites for high-level radioactive waste.

HF2452—Lourey (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Kettle River wild and scenic river interpretive center and trail in Sandstone predesign and engineering work provided bond issuance and money appropriated.

HF2453—Weaver (IR)

Judiciary

Bail pretrial evaluations required in felony, domestic abuse, assault, harassment, and stalking cases.

HF2454—Jacobs (DFL)

Labor-Management Relations

Paramedics and emergency medical services personnel included in workers' compensation occupational disease presumption.

HF2455—McGuire (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Physicians attending a newborn informed of the hepatitis B infection status of the biological mother.

HF2456—Frerichs (IR)

Regulated Industries & Energy

Municipalities prohibited from using a quick take condemnation proceeding when acquiring the property of another electric service provider through eminent domain.

HF2457—Osthoff (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

County state-aid highway and municipal state-aid street funds to provide increased set asides to the disaster and research accounts, Disaster Account Board composition modified, and fund lapse provided.

HF2458—Skoglund (DFL)

Judiciary

DARE officers provided use of forfeited motor vehicles.

HF2459—Skoglund (DFL)

Judiciary

Felons; recapture provided for felons fleeing pending sentencing.

HF2460—Skoglund (DFL)

Judiciary

Pistol or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon possession prohibited for persons found incompetent to stand trial or not guilty by reason of mental illness.

HF2461—Skoglund (DFL)

Judiciary

Plea negotiation policy and practice written guidelines adopted by county attorneys.

HF2462—Skoglund (DFL)

Judiciary

Sex offender registration expanded to include sex crimes involving child victims, juvenile offenders, offenders from other states, and probationers from other states accepted under interstate compact.

HF2463—Skoglund (DFL)

Judiciary

Firearm theft ranked as a presumptive prison offense.

HF2464—Skoglund (DFL)

Judiciary

Fingerprint information requirement compliance by local law enforcement agencies report provided.

HF2465—Skoglund (DFL)

Judiciary

Prosecutors to collect statistics on the number of cases they dismiss or decline to prosecute.

HF2466—Skoglund (DFL)

Judiciary

Diversion program participant information reports provided to the Criminal Justice Information System.

HF2467—Skoglund (DFL)

Judiciary

Warrant information provided to the Criminal Justice Information System.

HF2468—Skoglund (DFL)

Judiciary

Crime information reward fund and board created and money appropriated.

HF2469—Reding (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Conservation easements and restrictions provided maximum payment rates.

HF2470—Rest (DFL)

Education

School board terms extended to four years and school district general elections required on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

HF2471—Anderson, R. (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Audiologists exempted from hearing instrument dispenser certification requirements.

HF2472—Anderson, R. (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Child support obligor monthly withholding fee reduced for automatic income withholding.

HF2473—Klinzing (DFL)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Stearns County Housing and Redevelopment Authority provided federal tax exempt revenue bond use.

HF2474—Jefferson (DFL)

Taxes

Housing interest reduction program tax increment period extended.

HF2475—Brown, C. (DFL)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Deed, condominium floor plan, abstract title, and other instrument fee collection eliminated by county recorders.

HF2476—Delmont (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Wetland compensation changed when a wetland replacement plan is not approved.

HF2477—Finseth (IR)

Judiciary

Drivers' license suspension provided for failure to pay a child passenger restraint law violation fine.

HF2478—Reding (DFL)

Governmental Operations & Gambling

Teacher salary defined and parental leaves provided for first class city teachers.

HF2479—McCollum (DFL)

Education

Technical college licensing rules reinstated.

HF2480—Simoneau (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Medicare health insurance counseling and assistance program established and money appropriated.

HF2481—Simoneau (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Department of Health housekeeping bill.

HF2482—Dorn (DFL)

Judiciary

Truants authorized transportation to school by peace and probation officers.

HF2483—Mahon (DFL)

Judiciary

Peace officer temporary exchanges provided between law enforcement agencies.

HF2484—Orenstein (DFL)

Judiciary

Peace officer license revocation, suspension, or nonrenewal provided upon criminal sexual conduct or assault conviction.

HF2485—Munger (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Legislative Water Commission duties provided, Sustainable Agriculture Advisory Committee provided, sustainable agriculture and integrated pest management plans required, groundwater policy and education provided, and well permits changed.

HF2486—Pugh (DFL)

Governmental Operations & Gambling

Video lottery machines authorized and regulated and paper pulltabs abolished.

HF2487—Davids (IR)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Olmsted County towns authorized to adopt and enforce the state building code.

HF2488—Molnau (IR)

Transportation & Transit

Emissions; motor vehicle temporary registrations provided for emissions inspections.

HF2489—Simoneau (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
No-fault automobile insurance reparation obligors authorized to offer medical expense benefits through managed care plans and premium reductions provided.

HF2490—Knickerbocker (IR)
Education
School year allowed to begin before Labor Day when a religious holiday is observed the following week.

HF2491—Sekhon (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations
Personnel record review rights of employees provided enforcement.

HF2492—Reding (DFL)
Taxes
Guaranty association assessment allowed as offsets against the premium tax liability of insurance companies.

HF2493—Baverly (DFL)
Agriculture
Agricultural operation nuisance liability provisions modified.

HF2494—Bertram (DFL)
Education
Farm and small business management programs at technical colleges in flood damaged counties appropriated money for tuition buy down, emergency staff, equipment upgrades, and teleconferences.

HF2495—Bertram (DFL)
Agriculture
Junior livestock loan guarantee program established.

HF2496—Bertram (DFL)
Taxes
Military retirement pay provided exemption from taxation.

HF2497—Seagren (IR)
Environment & Natural Resources
Licenses; unsold resident and nonresident 24-hour angling license not returned by a subagent prior to the end of the angling season.

HF2498—Beard (DFL)
Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance
Wakota bridge on Interstate Highway No. 494 in Dakota and Washington counties provided bond issuance for environmental impact statement, and money appropriated.

HF2499—Bertram (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Nursing home bed moratorium exception provisions modified.

HF2500—Macklin (IR)
Judiciary
Crime provisions modified related to sentence stays, teacher-student sexual contact, attorney fees, arson, increased arson sentences when victims suffer injuries, insurance fraud, and restitution.

HF2501—Asch (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Ramsey County cities with 5,000 or more population provided municipal state-aid street funds for former county highways.

HF2502—Anderson, R. (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Regional treatment centers allowed to provide services to outpatients and day care patients.

HF2503—Winter (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Wind energy conversion facilities provided educational demonstration grants, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2504—Dehler (IR)
Transportation & Transit
Recreational vehicle combinations allowed consisting of a horse or snowmobile trailer.

HF2505—Bertram (DFL)
Taxes
Firefighting equipment purchased by local governments exempted from sales tax.

HF2506—Van Dellen (IR)
Governmental Operations & Gambling
Job Skills Partnership Board membership increased.

HF2507—Kinkel (DFL)
Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance
Battle Point Historic Site architectural and engineering studies and construction provided bond issuance and money appropriated.

HF2508—Steensma (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Motor vehicle registration and taxation provisions modified for commuter vans, personalized license plates, special ready reserve and collegiate license plates, temporary registrations, transit license plates, and other technical changes.

HF2509—Baverly (DFL)
Education
Education funding cap repealed for fiscal years 1996 and 1997.

HF2510—Dawkins (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Candidates for partisan office allowed to appear as a candidate of more than one political party or principle.

HF2511—Steensma (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Rail carrier participation authorized in Rail User Loan Guarantee Program.

HF2512—Sarna (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Gambling
Minneapolis Police Relief Association provided level benefits and surviving spouse definition changed for benefit eligibility.

HF2513—Lieder (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
County state-aid highway powers clarified.

HF2514—Rest (DFL)
Taxes
County auditor's tax certifications required on condominium and common interest community plats.

HF2515—Erhardt (IR)
Labor-Management Relations
Workers' compensation provided a new general system of law and insurance provisions, plan approval provided, workers' compensation court of appeals jurisdiction and personnel transferred, and rights, duties, and remedies provided.

HF2516—Van Dellen (IR)
Judiciary
Crime and crime prevention provisions provided and sentences imposed.

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HF2517—Weaver (IR)
Environment & Natural Resources
Rough fish taking by harpooning allowed by non-residents.

HF2518—Neary (DFL)
Taxes
Homestead tax capacity determination method modified.

HF2519—Mariani (DFL)
Judiciary
Prostitution; civil cause of action created for persons coerced into prostitution.

HF2520—Weaver (IR)
Environment & Natural Resources
Air emission facility construction and expansion provided permit cost reimbursement.

HF2521—Pauly (IR)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Eden Prairie authorized to issue 12 additional on-sale licenses.

HF2522—Molnau (IR)
Environment & Natural Resources
Art, photography, posters, or outdoor skill competitions authorized in conservation related activities.

HF2523—Brown, C. (DFL)
Commerce & Economic Development
Concrete and masonry workers provided licensure as residential contractors.

HF2524—Beard (DFL)
Housing
Rental agreement application fees refund by landlords to prospective tenants if a rental agreement is not entered.

HF2525—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
MinnesotaCare; community integrated service networks established, reinsurance and risk adjustment association created, regulated all-payer option modified, essential community providers designated, and money appropriated.

HF2526—Beard (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Municipal state aid eligibility provided for groups of cities with a combined population of at least 5,000 with a single public works street maintenance department unified under a joint powers agreement.

HF2527—Kinkel (DFL)
Education
Independent School District No. 118, Remer-Longville, authorized to transfer funds from the bus purchase fund to the capital fund for facility repair and technology-related equipment without a levy reduction.

HF2528—Haukoos (IR)
Transportation & Transit
Recreational vehicle combinations regulated.

HF2529—Haukoos (IR)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Freeborn County allowed to appoint the recorder and auditor/treasurer and authorized county office reorganization.

HF2530—Molnau (IR)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Fibrocystic condition based health insurance coverage termination or reduction prohibited.

HF2531—Seagren (IR)
Health & Human Services
Public assistance programs provided restructuring.

HF2532—Erhardt (IR)
Health & Human Services
Public assistance programs provided restructuring.

HF2533—Koppendrayner (IR)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Town board notice requirements removed for emergency on-site inspections.

HF2534—Baverly (DFL)
Education
Referendum revenue reduction modified and money appropriated.

HF2535—Wolf (IR)
Labor-Management Relations
Personnel record review provisions extended to all employers.

HF2536—Greiling (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Gambling
Retirement pension plan obligations clarified for former spouses.

HF2537—Baverly (DFL)
Taxes
Benton County correctional facility construction project purchases provided sales and use tax exemption.

HF2538—Weaver (IR)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Removal election petition procedure prerequisites simplified.

HF2539—Lasley (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Cambridge Regional Human Services Center provided campus and community services integrated network for services for persons with developmental disabilities, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2540—Peterson (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Implements of husbandry allowed to travel to the left of the highway center during daylight hours while displaying a flashing amber lamp in lieu of an escort vehicle.

HF2541—Krueger (DFL)
Education
Independent School District No. 793, Staples, provided transportation aid for residents of Independent School District No. 483, Motley.

HF2542—Limmer (IR)
Judiciary
Intensive community supervision program modified to increase participation.

HF2543—Limmer (IR)
Judiciary
Felon placements in correctional facilities awaiting pre-sentence investigation report completion limits authorized.

HF2544—Swenson (IR)
Judiciary
DWI provisions modified relating to consecutive sentences, bail limits, chemical dependency treatment programs; alcoholic beverage excise tax rate increased, offender tracking system studied, and money appropriated.

HF2545—Waltman (IR)
Health & Human Services
Medical assistance ongoing reimbursement authorized for certain persons with mental retardation or related conditions.

HF2546—Kelley (DFL)
Judiciary
Videotape consumer information use and dissemination regulated.

HF2547—Gutknecht (IR)
Governmental Operations & Gambling
Legislative Audit Commission composition changed.

HF2548—Gutknecht (IR)
Judiciary
Sentence negotiation or plea agreements restricted for crimes involving a firearm.

HF2549—Swenson (IR)
Judiciary
Marijuana sale and possession crime penalties provided based on number of marijuana plants.

HF2550—Wagenius (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Candidates provided access to broadcast facilities.

HF2551—Pugh (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Gambling
St. Paul water utility retired employee allowed to rescind a joint and survivor annuity and receive a normal retirement annuity.

HF2552—Wenzel (DFL)
Taxes
Child passenger restraint systems exempted from sales and use taxes and motor vehicle excise taxes.

HF2553—Reding (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Gambling
Soil and water conservation district employees allowed service credit purchase.

HF2554—Winter (DFL)
Agriculture
Agricultural processing facility loan program provided by the Rural Finance Authority and money appropriated.

HF2555—Winter (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Water quality fee increases limited.

HF2556—Clark (DFL)
Taxes
Lead abatement income tax credit provided and money appropriated.

HF2557—Olson, E. (DFL)
Taxes
Indian employment credit subtraction and accelerated property depreciation provided.

HF2558—Weaver (IR)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Motor vehicles leased and owned by local governments provided identification requirements.

HF2559—Bettermann (IR)
Labor-Management Relations
Wage payment provisions modified.

HF2560—Bettermann (IR)
Labor-Management Relations
Workers' compensation obligations and procedures provided through a collective bargaining agreement.

HF2561—Kelso (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Gambling
Head Start responsibilities transferred to the Department of Education.

HF2562—Bettermann (IR)
Labor-Management Relations
Boiler inspection division chief experience requirements modified to include insurance company boiler inspectors.

HF2563—McGuire (DFL)
Health and Human Services
Nursing home bed moratorium exception provided for a facility in Ramsey County.

HF2564—Hasskamp (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Wetlands replacement plan exceptions provided for certain cities.

HF2565—Nelson (DFL)
Education
Northwest Technical College International Training Center appropriated money to adapt curriculum to the international market and deliver related international business market education and training.

HF2566—Onnen (IR)
Health & Human Services
Children Helped in Long-term Development (CHILD) program established for child abuse prevention and money appropriated.

HF2567—Pauly (IR)
Governmental Operations & Gambling
Vacation leave donations provided for a Pollution Control Agency employee.

HF2568—Molnau (IR)
Judiciary
Tobacco possession prohibited by minors.

HF2569—Finseth (IR)
Judiciary
Correctional facilities and lockups provided required inspections at least once every biennium.

HF2570—McGuire (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Off-road motor vehicle decal registration system provided.

HF2571—Wejcman (DFL)
Education
Opportunities industrialization centers accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools provided post-secondary enrollment options program eligibility.

HF2572—Waltman (IR)
Environment & Natural Resources
Wabasha County and Fillmore County state lands authorized private exchange.

HF2573—Johnson, A. (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Gambling
Affirmative Action officers provided by the attorney general to the State University System.

HF2574—Orenstein (DFL)
Ethics
Legislators and legislative employees provided gift acceptance restrictions.

HF2575—Farrell (DFL)
Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance
St. Paul Phalen corridor development and infrastructure analysis provided and money appropriated.

HF2576—Dawkins (DFL)
Taxes
Franchise taxable income deduction provided for certain mortgage loan credits.

HF2577—Rukavina (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations
Dislocated worker retraining and targeted training grant program established.

HF2578—Cooper (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Ambulance services provided criteria for reimbursement under the integrated service network system and the regulated all-payer option, growth limit and fee schedule exemptions provided, and volunteer ambulance service clarified.

HF2579—Jacobs (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy

Counties provided off-sale liquor license issuance to certain towns.

HF2580—Wejcman (DFL)
Education

Opportunities industrialization centers accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools provided post-secondary enrollment options program eligibility.

HF2581—Clark (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Prescription drug contracting authority provided, correction orders authorized, formulary and drug technology assessment committees established, and price disclosure and costs savings required.

HF2582—Cooper (DFL)
Health & Human Services

First responders defined and regulated.

HF2583—Winter (DFL)
Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance

Prairieland Expo historical display facility development provided by the Southwest Regional Development Commission, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2584—Jacobs (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy

Public Utilities Commission rate regulation exemption provided to independent, cooperative, and municipal telephone companies.

HF2585—Wejcman (DFL)
Judiciary

Crime victims ombudsman autonomy and inspection powers expanded.

HF2586—Rice (DFL)
Transportation & Transit

Motor vehicle transfer fee increased and provided to state patrol vehicles and money appropriated.

HF2587—Seagren (IR)
Governmental Operations & Gambling

Management training programs implemented, facsimile machine use authorized, and career executive service abolished.

HF2588—Jacobs (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy

Liquefied petroleum gas sales modified, residential liquefied petroleum gas heating equipment energy efficiency improvement provided, and money appropriated.

HF2589—Jacobs (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy

Carbon monoxide control area redefined as a 10-county area and oxygenate blender registration and provisions provided.

HF2590—Jacobs (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy

Municipal energy conservation investment loan program provided data classification and application information requirements.

HF2591—Jacobs (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy

Energy demand forecasting information duplicate reporting eliminated for public utilities.

HF2592—Rukavina (DFL)
Taxes

Mineral interest and unmined taconite and iron sulphides provided increased taxation.

HF2593—Leppik (IR)
Governmental Operations & Gambling

Rulemaking administrative procedures regulated.

HF2594—Long (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources

Landfill cleanup program established for closed permitted landfills, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2595—Van Engen (IR)
Taxes

Seasonal recreational property homestead treatment time requirement reduced when occupied by a relative.

HF2596—McGuire (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy

Dram Shop Act extended to include providing gifts of alcoholic beverages to persons under age 21.

HF2597—Pugh (DFL)
Judiciary

Bail pretrial evaluations required in felony, domestic abuse, assault, harassment, and stalking cases, and money appropriated.

HF2598—Evans (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Gambling

Innovation and cooperation government board waivers provided for non-profit organizations providing services to local governments, and money appropriated.

HF2599—Van Engen (IR)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Prairie Woods Residential Environmental Learning Center in Kandiyohi County construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2600—Rodosovich (DFL)
Education

Bond issuance provided for acquisition and betterment of public land and buildings for technical colleges, community colleges, state universities, and the University of Minnesota, and money appropriated.

HF2601—Gruenes (IR)
Environment & Natural Resources

Disabled hunters with a permanent permit allowed to take deer of either sex.

HF2602—Rodosovich (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Legislative district boundaries used for the 1992 election codified and recodified, with adjustments provided for Willernie, New Hope, and Ham Lake.

HF2603—Pugh (DFL)
Judiciary

Liability; personal injury liability provisions consolidated and recodified for good samaritans, volunteer and charitable activities, public benefit or function activities, and other miscellaneous activities.

HF2604—Clark (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance

Sign and other language translations provided health insurance plan and workers' compensation coverage, and money appropriated.

HF2605—Dorn (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Airport electorate bond approval abolished, governing body bond approval provided, levies authorized, and joint agreement bond issuances authorized.

HF2606—Bettermann (IR)
Labor-Management Relations

School districts exempted from prevailing wage laws for debt service equalization revenue construction or maintenance projects.

HF2607—Winter (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Insurer definition clarified during marriage dissolution proceedings.

HF2608—Gruenes (IR)
Health & Human Services

Medical services assistance grant lump sum payment waiver provided.

HF2609—Pelowski (DFL)
Education

Higher Education Board provisions modified related to employee bargaining, unclassified employees, higher education system merger, bonding authority, instructional appropriations, vocational education funding, and student members.

HF2610—Pauly (IR)
Environment & Natural Resources

Field citation pilot project made permanent and unauthorized waste disposal provided penalties.

HF2611—Vellenga (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Bond issuance provided for the Department of Jobs and Training, Housing Finance agency, and the Department of Trade and Economic Development and money appropriated.

HF2612—Anderson, R. (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Bond issuance provided for the Department of Jobs and Training, Housing Finance Agency, and the Department of Trade and Economic Development and money appropriated.

HF2613—Luther (DFL)
Judiciary

DWI breath test refusal penalty increased when a person under 16 years old is in the motor vehicle.

HF2614—Jefferson (DFL)
Judiciary

Urban Initiative Board information provided nonpublic data classification.

HF2615—Trimble (DFL)
Commerce & Economic Development

Currency exchanges regulations modified and to include wire transfer and money order businesses.

HF2616—Trimble (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources

Chemical substance administering to wild animals regulated.

HF2617—Jacobs (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy

Liquor provisions modified for retailer solicitations, beer consignment sales, retail licensees nonresident eligibility, hotel licenses, political committees, temporary license restrictions, wine tastings, and coupon use.

HF2618—Clark (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Health assurance board created, regional coordinating board membership modified, insurance policy selling restricted, statewide and regional health care budgets provided, health care commission abolished, and money appropriated.

HF2619—Winter (DFL)

Education

Independent School District No. 518, Worthington, provided bond issuance for residential facility construction at Lakeview school, and money appropriated.

HF2620—Farrell (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Motor vehicle safety standards and inspection programs studied and money appropriated.

HF2621—Anderson, I. (DFL)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Koochiching County authorized a city-county rural development finance authority.

HF2622—Anderson, I. (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Itasca and St. Louis county state land sales authorized.

HF2623—Anderson, I. (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Itasca County authorized to sell tax-forfeited land bordering public water.

HF2624—Reding (DFL)

Governmental Operations & Gambling

Labor agreements ratified for AFSCME Council 6, Middle Management Association, engineers, community college faculty, nurses, special teachers, law enforcement, unrepresented employees, managers, and professional employees.

HF2625—Mahon (DFL)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Metropolitan Waste Control Commission chair salary range reduced and provided part-time status.

HF2626—Wenzel (DFL)

Governmental Operations & Gambling

Teachers Retirement Association member authorized prior service credit purchase for service in the United States Merchant Marine.

HF2627—Hausman (DFL)

Education

Library services to children and their families grant program established and money appropriated.

HF2628—Battaglia (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Cook County authorized to sell tax-forfeited land bordering public waters to the Grand Portage Band of Chippewa Indians.

HF2629—Lourey (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Moose Lake Regional Treatment Center community care pilot project established for certain committed patients, and emergency admission standards and notice requirements clarified.

HF2630—Carlson (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Motor vehicle accident reporting threshold level increased to \$1,000.

HF2631—Garcia (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Gasoline excise tax exemption provided to transit providers receiving reimbursement for transporting persons needing medical assistance.

HF2632—Gutknecht (IR)

Rules & Legislative Administration

Taxes; special vote required on new taxes, tax increases, and tax extensions, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF2633—McGuire (DFL)

Judiciary

Motorcycle off-road registration law and rule violation provided misdemeanor penalty.

HF2634—Lourey (DFL)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Town road damage award appeals provided understandable notice requirements.

HF2635—Wagenius (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Carbon dioxide emissions included in proposed project environmental reviews.

HF2636—Jefferson (DFL)

Governmental Operations & Gambling

Department of Jobs and Training omnibus housekeeping bill.

HF2637—Jefferson (DFL)

Judiciary

Violence prevention and nonviolent conflict resolution class requirement provided for students, trial by jury of their peers right provided to juveniles, and juvenile justice peer group jury system established.

HF2638—Sekhon (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Metropolitan Waste Control Commission authorized total watershed management agreements.

HF2639—Greiling (DFL)

Education

Food service employees provided staff development training and money appropriated.

HF2640—Pugh (DFL)

Judiciary

Attorney unauthorized practice of law exemption provided.

HF2641—Greenfield (DFL)

Financial Institutions & Insurance

Workers' compensation health care utilization review provided state regulation.

HF2642—Pugh (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Juvenile mental health assessments required for juveniles alleged or found delinquent or in need of protection or services, youth intervention programs expanded to underserved communities and populations, and money appropriated.

HF2643—Murphy (DFL)

Labor-Management Relations

Civil Air Patrol volunteers provided workers' compensation coverage.

HF2644—Dawkins (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Dog and cat low-cost spaying and neutering program established, dog and cat food wholesale sales tax imposed, penalties provided, and money appropriated.

HF2645—Greiling (DFL)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Appointments provided for certain county offices previously elective.

HF2646—Olson, E. (DFL)

Agriculture

Potato seed restricted growing area expanded.

HF2647—Murphy (DFL)

Education

Independent School District No. 94, Cloquet, allowed to establish a Time and Technology Enhanced Curriculum school three-year pilot project, and money appropriated.

HF2648—McCollum (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

School buses provided commercial motor vehicle inspection requirements.

HF2649—Hasskamp (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Crosby provided a deputy registrar of motor vehicles office.

Note: HF2650 - HF2692, which were also introduced March 10, were unavailable at press time. They will appear in next week's issue of Session Weekly.

Committee Schedule

This schedule is subject to change.
For information updates, call House
Calls at (612) 296-9283. All meetings
are open to the public.

MONDAY, March 14

8 a.m.

Higher Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peter Rodosovich

Agenda: Presentation of Teaching Excellence Awards. State University System supplemental budget presentation, Terrence MacTaggart, chancellor, Minnesota State University System.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Kathleen Vellenga

Agenda: K-12 bonding bill. Overview of education provisions in the crime bill. Anti-violence proposals.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. David Battaglia

Agenda: HF2001 (Neary) St. Croix River; Lower St. Croix River Act of 1972 commitment to scenic easement acquisition provided bond issuance and money appropriated.

HF2186 (Anderson, I.) Deer River authorized a grant for White Oak Fur Post tourism and education facility improvements, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1994 (Asch) Independent School District No. 621, Moundsview, provided a grant for capital improvements at the Laurential Environmental Learning Center, and money appropriated.

HF2193 (Anderson, B.) Fergus Falls appropriated money and provided bond issuance to establish the North American prairie wetlands learning center.

HF1842 (Molnau) Chaska provided flood hazard mitigation grant, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

Governor's proposed capital budget public testimony. To testify, contact Sandy Dicke at 296-5366, or Pat Morrison at 297-8134.

Human Services Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Presentation of the governor's budget recommendations for human services programs (conclusion).

10 a.m.

AGRICULTURE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Wenzel

Agenda: HF2493 (Bauerly) Nuisance liability.

HF2386 (Trimble) Milk labeling.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: Any bill not completed at 3/11 meeting.

HF300 (Delmont) Kidnapping.

HF2259 (Farrell) Kidnapping person under 16.

HF2458 (Skoglund) Forfeited vehicles for DARE officers.

HF2483 (Mahon) Permitting law enforcement agencies to exchange peace officers with those of other agencies on a temporary basis.

HF1952 (Bishop) Contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

HF2071 (Smith) Public housing drug free zones.

Other bills to be announced. For further information, call 296-5396.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Joel Jacobs

Agenda: HF2206 (Kalis) Changing interest rate paid on utility customer deposits.

HF2440 (Beard) Providing a property tax exemption for power facilities containing cogeneration systems.

HF2451 (Winter) Memorializing the President and Congress to act expeditiously in procuring a site or sites for the storage of high-level radioactive waste.

HF2503 (Winter) Appropriating money for

educational demonstration grants for wind energy conversion facilities; authorizing the sale and issuance of state bonds.

SF1403 (Terwilliger); HF1558 (Erhardt) Public utilities commissioner duties expanded to include making portfolio assignments and time and travel allocation monitoring of members.

SF788 (Johnson, J.B.); HF834 (Frerichs) Abolishing certain duties of the commissioner of public service relating to energy.

HF2456 (Frerichs) Prohibiting a municipality from using a quick take condemnation proceeding when acquiring the property of another electric service provider through eminent domain.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & GAMBLING

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rick Krueger

Agenda: Capital investments (bonding).

12:30 p.m.

GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

Agenda: HF2029 (Wenzel) Establishing a veterans' cemetery.

HF2222 (Ostrom) Elections.

HF2362 (Carlson) Changing the definition of a dangerous dog.

HF2089 (Olson, K.) Square dance.

HOUSING

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

Agenda: HF2174 (Orfield) Creating a metropolitan reinvestment account.

HFXXXX (Clark) Mortgage interest deduction bill.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Pat Beard

Agenda: HF1374 (Johnson, A.) Child labor standards. (Delete everything amendment) HF2228 (Carruthers) Requiring public employers to afford time off to appointed representatives.

HF2562 (Bettermann) Boiler bill.

HF2292 (Sekhon) Protecting certain whistleblowers from retaliation.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in Session.

Immediately After Session

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Joel Jacobs

Agenda: HF2143 (Jacobs) Regulating competitive telephone services and incentive plans; extending expiration dates and making technical changes for certain regulatory provisions.

HF2151 (Hausman) Providing for election of public utilities commissioners; requiring commissioners to select commission chairs; requiring proceedings of public utilities commission to be recorded.

Subcommittee on Facilities/K-12

Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: HF2253 (Kinkel) Relating to extending the time for school districts receiving capital loans to enter into construction contracts.

HF2398 (Olson) Relating to providing for a cooperation planning grant to Independent School District Nos. 325, Lakefield; 328, Sioux Valley; 330, Heron Lake/Okabena; 513, Brewster; and 516, Round Lake.

HF1841 (Pelowski) Relating to permitting bonds to be issued.

HF1912 (Seagren) Relating to authorizing the use of a portion of capital expenditure facilities revenue for equipment uses.

HF2162 (Kelso) Relating to increasing the formula allowance for the capital expenditure equipment revenue program.

HF2059 (Greiling) Relating to modifying provisions governing guaranteed energy savings contracts.

Discussion of the continuation of Cooperative Secondary Facilities grants and the Maximum Effort Loan Program.

St. Paul House Delegation

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Howard Orenstein

Agenda: HF881 (Trimble) Authorizing the city to require employees to reside in the city. Other delegation business.

4 p.m. or After Session

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Pat Beard

Agenda: HF2243 (Rukavina) Restoring the purchasing power of a minimum wage salary.

TUESDAY, March 15

8 a.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. James Rice

Agenda: HF2348 (Farrell) Appropriating money for the Science Museum of Minnesota.

HF2507 (Kinkel) Appropriating money for the Battle Point Historic Site.

Minnesota Historical Society testimony regarding the Northwest Company Fur Post.

EDUCATION

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: Discussion and action on Higher Education and K-12 Education Finance Divisions bonding proposals. Overview of Minnesota State High School League Rulemaking proposal. (The agenda will be continued at 6 p.m. in Room 200, if necessary.)

Health & Housing Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Anderson

Agenda: Public testimony regarding governor's supplemental budget.

TAXES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ann Rest

Agenda: To be announced.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. David Battaglia

Agenda: Capital budget allocations.

10 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: HF892 (Munger) Toxic Air Emissions Act of 1993 adopted and money appropriated.

HF2043 (Trimble) Electric public utility with overhead power lines within Indian Mounds Park in St. Paul required to remove the sup-

port structures and remove, relocate, or bury the power lines.

HF2010 (Ozment) Solid waste managers arranging for solid waste management in an inferior manner required waste generator indemnification, and landfill contamination fund established.

HF1995 (Wagenius) Waste management provisions modified and clarified.

HF2277 (Sekhon) Waste Education Coalition and Market Development Coordination Council expiration dates extended.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & GAMBLING

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: SF103 (Kahn) Omnibus gambling bill.

Summary of testimony presented in Gambling Subcommittee.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wayne Simoneau

Agenda: HF2169 (Clark) Group residential housing; moratorium exception for Hennepin County.

HF1452 (Klinzing) Establishing grants to community health boards for programs designed to coordinate childhood screening.

HF2318 (Cooper) Extending dispensing authority to physician assistants and advanced practice nurses.

SF1806 (Finn); HF2072 (Neary) Allowing certified clinical specialists in psychiatric or mental health nursing to prescribe and administer drugs.

HF2327 (Simoneau) Permitting certain providers to request a state agency hearing; modifying certain requirements for prior authorization.

HF2120 (Kelley) Providing that health-related licensing boards may establish a program to protect the public from impaired regulated persons.

Judiciary Finance Division/JUDICIARY

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Capital investment recommendations.

HFXXXX (Murphy, Swenson) Omnibus criminal justice bonding bill.

HF2069 (Johnson, R.) Beltrami County Juvenile Facility.

HF1889 (Tompkins) Dakota County Juvenile Facility.

HF2413 (Murphy) Arrowhead Juvenile Facility.

HFXXXX (Lasley) Cambridge Medium Security Correction Facility.

HFXXXX Prevention projects.

12 Noon

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: Citizens panel from Exercise in Democracy mock sessions at Mini-Sessions (New Ulm, Sartell, and St. Paul) present their report.

12:30 p.m.

**COMMERCE &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Sarna

Agenda: HF2205 (Jefferson) Modifying requirements for the neighborhood revitalization program; establishing a resident advisory council.

HF1449 (Lasley) Requiring licensing of certain persons engaged in commercial practices related to new motor vehicles; providing for service of process for certain alleged violations; providing civil penalty.

HF1900 (Jaros) Establishing a coordinator of international affairs; establishing an advisory committee; providing for appointments; appropriating money; proposing coding for new law in *Minnesota Statutes*, Chapter 116J.
HF1961 (Kinkel) Removing the prohibition on use of state money for the Board of Invention.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

Agenda: HF2086 (Girard) Judicial ditch #37 in Redwood and Lyon counties.

HF2104 (Commers) City of Eagan providing for the establishment of a special service district.

HF2330 (Simoneau) Tax forfeited land; authorizing sale by sealed bid.

HF2375 (Jefferson) Local economic development; authorizing the city of Minneapolis to establish a jobs park.

4:30 p.m.

**Subcommittee on Data Privacy/
JUDICIARY**

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Jo McGuire

Agenda: HF1941 (Carruthers) Listing provisions codified outside the Government Data Practices Act that limit access to data.

HF2028 (McGuire) Proposing classifications of data as private, nonpublic, and protected nonpublic.

HF2294 (McGuire) Defining pending legal action for investigative data.

HF2081 (Wejman) Allowing probation and parole agencies and child support enforcement agencies access to vehicle registration information.

HFXXXX (Rhodes) Student photographs classified as directory information.

HF2024 (Jennings) Emergency telephone service data.

6:30 p.m.

**Legislative Commission on
Children, Youth & Their Families**

15 State Capitol

Chr. Sen. Jane Ranum

Agenda: 1994 commission priorities: information collection and sharing family impact statements.

WEDNESDAY, March 16

8 a.m.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
INFRASTRUCTURE &
REGULATION FINANCE**

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. James Rice

Agenda: To be announced.

**Higher Education Finance Division/
EDUCATION**

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Peter Rodosovich

Agenda: U2000 presentation, Nils Hasselmo, president, University of Minnesota. University of Minnesota supplemental budget presentation, Nils Hasselmo, president, and Dick Pflutzenreuter, associate vice president, Budget and Finance, University of Minnesota.

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

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Presentation of funding issues for Part H services for disabled children from the Minnesota Department of Education.

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

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Kathleen Vellenga

Agenda: HF2291 (Greiling, Seagren) Improving instruction and educational accountability.

Board of Teaching Amendments.

HFXXXX (Lasley) Secondary vocational funding formula changes.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. David Battaglia

Agenda: Capital budget allocations

10 a.m.

**FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
& INSURANCE**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Leo Reding

Agenda: To be announced.

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

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rick Krueger

Agenda: Capital investments (bonding).

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: Any bill not completed at 3/14 meeting. Other bills to be announced. For further information, call 296-5396.

12:30 p.m.

**International Trade, Technology &
Economic Development Division/
COMMERCE & ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros

Agenda: HF2218 (Lourey) Establishing a micro business loan pilot program.

HF2084 (Cooper) Establishing a regional technology pilot project in southwest Minnesota through Minnesota Technology, Inc.

HF2415 (Rhodes) Clarifying applications and criteria for Minnesota companies to participate in the international business partnership program.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: To be announced.

2 p.m.

**Legislative Commission on
Pensions & Retirement**

400N State Office Building

Chr. Sen. Phil Riveness

Agenda: SF2169 (Sams); HF2339 (Reding) Police state aid; use of portion of excess aid to fund ambulance longevity award plan.

SF2171 (Moe); HF2402 (Johnson, R.) Fire state aid; inclusion of Red Lake Indian Reservation in aid.

SF1771 (Finn); HF1887 (Solberg) Judges plan; optional annuity calculation subsidy.

SF1860 (Riveness); HF2124 (Kahn) IRAP; administrative bill.

SF1906 (Metzen); HF2192 (Johnson, R.) MSRS correctional plan membership expansion.

SF1908 (Morse); HF2013 (Johnson, R.) Various plans; correction of 1993 early retirement incentive program omissions.

Other items as may be added by the chair.

2:30 p.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: HFXXXX (McGuire) State park boundaries.

HFXXXX (Vellenga) State park permits.

HF2237 (Peterson) Canada giant geese informational meetings and open season required in the west central goose zone before the regular season opens.

HF1936 (Battaglia) Snagged fish in Lake Superior tributary returned to the water.

HF2046 (Wagenius) Dogs; killing of dogs wounding, killing, or pursuing big game restricted within the metropolitan area.

HFXXXX (Johnson, V.) Snowmobilers on public land.

HF2497 (Seagren) Licenses; unsold resident and nonresident 24-hour angling license not returned by a subagent prior to the end of the angling season.

HF2452 (Lourey) Kettle River wild and scenic river interpretive center and trail in Sandstone predesign and engineering work provided bond issuance and money appropriated.

**Subcommittee on Administrative Rules/
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS
& GAMBLING**

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mindy Greiling

Agenda: HF392 (Johnson, R.) Requiring certain buildings to be retrofitted with sprinkler systems.

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

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: HFXXXX (Olson, K.) Relating to facilities grant to C and C Districts.

Article 5 recommendations.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Pat Beard

Agenda: Continuation of 3/14 agenda.

HFXXXX (Farrell) Independent contractors.

Other bills to be added.

6 p.m.

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

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rick Krueger

Agenda: Capital investments (bonding).

THURSDAY, March 17

8 a.m.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
INFRASTRUCTURE &
REGULATION FINANCE**

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. James Rice

Agenda: To be announced.

EDUCATION

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: Education Services Delivery Task Force report.

HFXXXX (Olson, K.) Task Force recommendations.

Department of Education report on Federal Part H special education services.

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

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Anderson

Agenda: To be announced.

TAXES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ann Rest

Agenda: To be announced.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. David Battaglia

Agenda: Capital budget allocations.

10 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: Bills not heard on either March 15 or 16. Other bills may be added.

**GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS
& GAMBLING**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: SF103 (Kahn) Omnibus gambling bill.

Amendments and final action.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wayne Simoneau

Agenda: HF2055 (Farrell) Child support administration and enforcement provisions modified.

HF2391 (Olson, K.) Clarifying data relating to a physician license; modifying provisions relating to foreign medical school graduates.

HF2480 (Simoneau) Establishing a health insurance counseling and assistance program.

HF2329 (Neary) Authorizing the commissioner of the Department of Human Services to establish a program of staff retention and recruitment grants for child care facilities.

Judiciary Finance Division/JUDICIARY

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Capital investment recommendations. Continuation of 3/15 agenda.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: HF2600 (Rodosovich) Higher education bonding bill.

**COMMERCE &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Sarna

Agenda: HF1785 (Farrell) Prohibiting price discrimination between motor fuel retailers and wholesalers supplied by the same refiner.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

Agenda: HF2067 (Sekhon) Anoka County authorized to sell certain tax-forfeited lands bordering public water or natural wetlands. HF1882 (Macklin) Creating the public contractors performance and Payment Bond Act by amending existing provisions.

HF2429 (Anderson, I.) Koochiching County; permitting the appointment of the recorder. HF2487 (Davids) Authorizing towns in Olmsted County to adopt and enforce the state building code.

HF2439 (Mosel) Authorizing the city of Gaylord to establish special service districts. HF2475 (Brown, C.) Eliminating authority of county recorders to collect certain fees.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in Session.

After Session

Subcommittee on Data Privacy/ JUDICIARY

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Jo McGuire

Agenda: To be announced. For further information, call 296-5396.

6:30 p.m.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Kathleen Vellenga

Agenda: To be announced.

Legislative Commission on Pensions & Retirement

318 State Capital

Chr. Sen. Phil Riveness

Agenda: SF2251 (Solon); HF2478 (Reding) First class city teachers; administrative and other changes.

SF2288 (Stumpf); HF2405 (Reding) Major funds; administrative and other changes.

SF2316 (Metzen); HFXXXX SBI; various fund management modifications.

SF2276 (Pogemiller); HFXXXX PERA-P&F; addition of Hennepin County paramedics.

SF2060 (Solon); HF2299 (Huntley) Duluth Fire; definition of salary for service pension calculation purposes.

SF2250 (Metzen); HFXXXX PERA; modification of optional annuity for certain retiree.

SF2300 (Langseth); HFXXXX TRA; inclusion of additional person in 1993 early retirement incentive.

Study of first class city teacher retirement fund associations phase-out or consolidation options, Technical Advisory Group report, Ron Hackett, chair. Other items as may be added by the chair.

7 p.m.

Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: Discuss post peer review for 1991 funded research projects conducted Jan. 27 and 28, 1994, and staff recommendations for legislative changes, Susan Thornton. Consider quarterly report on administrative budget, David Flipp. Discuss review of 1991 final status reports and 1993 first quarter status reports, John Velin. Consider status report on DNR bonding work program. Consider proposed quarterly work program amendment approval for RIM critical habitat, Jay Rendall, DNR. Consider approval of work program for St. Louis River plan implementation and land acquisition, Steve Mueller, DNR. Consider recommendation to 1994 Legislature authorizing an extension of the time the appropriation is available for Land and Water Resource Management for the Lower St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. *Minnesota Laws 1991*, Ch. 254, Art. 1, Sec. 14, Subd. 3(e). Current status of the ISTEPA program, MnDOT.

FRIDAY, March 18

8 a.m.

Higher Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peter Rodosovich

Agenda: Higher Education Board working group presentation. Public testimony.

Human Services Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Health care reform in rural Minnesota. Public testimony. Continuation of agenda from 2/28.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Kathleen Vellenga

Agenda: School bus safety: discussion of Task Force report.

TAXES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ann Rest

Agenda: To be announced.

10 a.m.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: To be announced. For further information, call 296-5396.

Subcommittee on Higher Education Policy/ EDUCATION

200 State Office Building

Chrs. Reps. John Dorn, Gene Pelowski

Agenda: HF2479 (McCollum) Tech college licensing rules.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: To be announced.

1 p.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & GAMBLING

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: Completion of agenda from 3/17, if necessary. Re-referrals under Rule 5.10. Additional bills may be added to the agenda.

Subcommittee on DWI Prevention/ JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Linda Wejman

Agenda: To be announced. For further information, call 296-5396.

3 p.m.

Subcommittee on Civil Law/JUDICIARY

400S State Office Building

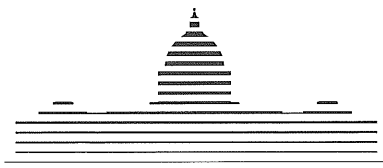
Chr. Rep. Tom Pugh

Agenda: HF262 (Pugh) Regulating S.L.A.P.P. lawsuits.

HF1757 (McGuire) Recreational trails.

HF628 (Stanis) Immunity from liability for volunteer athletic physicians and trainers.

Other bills to be announced. For further information, call 296-5396.



MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Speaker of the House: Irv Anderson
Majority Leader: Phil Carruthers
Minority Leader: Steven A. Sviggum

MINNESOTA INDEX

Juvenile justice

Percent of those arrested for serious crimes in Minnesota who were juveniles, 1991	43
Number of Minnesota juveniles arrested for crimes, 1991	22,002
Number of those juveniles arrested for violent crimes	1,383
Percent of surveyed Americans who believe the primary purpose of the juvenile court should be to "treat and rehabilitate juveniles," 1992	78
Percent who said the primary purpose should be "to punish" juveniles.	12
Nationwide, percent increase in the number of juveniles arrested, 1981-1991	29
Percent increase in the number of juveniles arrested for murder, nationwide, 1982-1991	93
Number of juvenile delinquency petitions filed in Minnesota, 1992	25,747
Number of those transferred to the adult criminal system for prosecution	101
Number of requests to transfer juveniles to adult court that were denied	59
Percent of surveyed Americans who don't believe juveniles should be sent to adult prison for serious violent crimes, 1992	58
Minimum age that a Minnesota juvenile may be certified as an adult	14
Average prison sentence for juvenile offenders sentenced in adult court, 1991, in months	53.4
Number of states which grant a jury trial to juveniles in delinquency proceedings (Minnesota not among them)	11
Maximum capacity of Department of Human Services licensed residential treatment and mental health facilities for juveniles	1,191
Group foster homes licensed by the Department of Corrections	55
Number of kids those homes can hold	331
Residential treatment centers licensed by the Department of Corrections	11
Number of juveniles they will hold	707
Juveniles placed out-of-state between Jan. 1, 1992, and Oct. 1, 1993	179
Percent of those from the Twin Cities metro area	90

Source: Minnesota Supreme Court Advisory Task Force on the Juvenile Justice System, January 1994.



For more information . . .

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